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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Peter Milner, chaplain of the North Carolina Senate in Raleigh, NC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have been our dwelling place for all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, You were God. So we bow our heads and our hearts before You, and we seek Your guidance as a nation. We are crippled without Your help and helpless without Your steadfast love. Come to our assistance. Make haste to help us. Forgive us of our sin, O Lord, and wipe away the tears from our eyes.

We are so grateful for this day. We come boldly to Your throne of grace, and we bring our weaknesses, we bring our doubts and our requests, and we submit our pleas before You, a holy and a good God. Have compassion on the lonely, and grant peace to the brokenhearted.

Hear all these prayers, O Lord, and bless all of those Members assembled here. Pour out the oil of Your gladness down upon this Nation, upon these proceedings, upon this government, and towards every one of these hard-working representatives of Your people.

It is in Jesus's Name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Senator from North Carolina.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome to this body a friend and a fellow North Carolinian, Peter Milner. Chaplain Milner serves the North Carolina General Assembly as the State's senate chaplain.

A fellow Demon Deacon and an alumna of Wake Forest, he received his undergraduate degree in sociology and religion. While at Wake Forest, Chaplain Milner was instrumental in the creation of the Wake Forest Volunteer Service Corps, which engages hundreds of students, faculty, and staff to participate in community-based organizations.

After completing his undergraduate work at Wake Forest, he went on to earn his master's in secondary social studies education to become a high school teacher. Called to the ministry after his first year of teaching, he attended Duke Divinity School, where he thrived in his role as resident coordinator of Emmaus House in Raleigh, which provides safe, affordable housing for working homeless men recovering from substance dependency. Chaplain Milner's devotion to and passion for helping the homeless is unwavering and very clear. I saw it for myself when I first met Peter a few years ago at a homeless center in Raleigh, NC.

Besides his tireless work on behalf of the homeless, Chaplain Milner has been instrumental in improving the lives of students, medical patients, and—a cause very important to North Carolinians, including me—our Nation's veterans. Because of his work as an outreach specialist for veterans at StepUp Ministry, Chaplain Milner established an important link between veterans in need and the business community. His hard work continues to help struggling veterans achieve stable lives through employment counseling and life skills training.

The North Carolina General Assembly is blessed to have a man who has

devoted his life to causes much larger than himself. But of all that he has accomplished in life so far, he says his greatest accomplishment is being a husband to his bride of 13 years, Anna, and a father to their two beautiful children, Silas and Josie, who are all with us today.

Chaplain Milner, I thank you for leading our Chamber in prayer today, and I welcome you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I thank Chaplain Milner for being here.

I want to talk about a friend. He is somebody who blessed our legislature during the time I was speaker of the house.

I will not repeat all of the things Peter has done for the community. I want to speak specifically about what he has done for the State chamber and the general assembly, the part where I was speaker. He was a calm presence in an otherwise chaotic environment called the legislative body—not unlike the one we have here. He is always somebody you can look to for guidance, support, and for inspiration, and for that, I thank him.

I will also say—you notice he is a little bit tall. He played basketball at Wake.

We have this rivalry with South Carolina. We play basketball every year. We get together and we either travel down to South Carolina or the legislature comes here. I played on that basketball team for 4 years. In each of those 4 years, we were hopeful that Peter would play with us, but for some reason he didn't. Now, the only thing that I see differently—he is playing this year, since my departure.

I hope your decision to play isn't because of my exit, Peter.

I thank you for being here and for your contribution to the community. I welcome your family, who I believe is in the Chamber today. I hope you enjoy today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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