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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are from eternity past and future, the same yesterday, today, and forever. We are Your children seeking to understand the destinies You have choreographed for our lives. Lord, we stand weak and mortal, surrounded by the immensities of Your power and the unfolding of Your loving providence.

Today use our lawmakers as servants for Your purposes. May they remember that life is a dress rehearsal for eternity and a time of training and testing. May their world be centered not in themselves but in You as they better comprehend the vanity of the temporal and the glory of the eternal. As many recover from burning the midnight oil, lift their minds beyond all time and space to You, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We pray in Your mighty Name. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Democratic leader is recognized.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for 14 hours and 50 minutes, beginning late Wednes-

day morning and ending early Thursday morning, the entire Nation watched as the junior Senator from Connecticut gave our Republican colleagues a lesson in a number of things, not the least of which was courage.

Senator MURPHY stood here for 14 hours. We talk a lot about filibusters in the Senate. They don't happen very often. I have been in Congress for 34 years. I have probably been involved in two more filibusters than anyone else. We have talked about them and there are fake filibusters, but this one was real.

I admire and appreciate the junior Senator from Connecticut very much. Four days after 49 innocent Americans were gunned down in cold blood, Senator MURPHY stood here on the Senate floor, as I have already indicated, for 14 hours, pleading with Republicans to join us in doing something to help stop our Nation's scourge of gun violence—and it is a scourge. Thirty-eight other Democrats joined him on the floor, all of whom, without exception, echoed Senator MURPHY's call to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

All 46 of us were united together, led by Senator MURPHY in support of what he was doing. We all believe that he echoed the words that we wish to speak—to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. It was an inspiring reminder to Americans that the Senate Democrats will not cave in to the National Rifle Association or Gun Owners of America. We will not cave in to them, and the people of this Nation responded to Senator MURPHY's stand against gun violence in an overwhelming way.

Throughout the course of Senator MURPHY's filibuster, hundreds of our constituents came and watched from the Senate gallery. There were nearly 100 people still sitting in the gallery at 2:12 a.m. this morning as Senator MURPHY brought his filibuster to a close. Thousands and thousands and thou-

sands of constituents called Senate offices demanding that Congress do something to address this gun violence.

Senator MURPHY's filibuster took over social media. "Hold the floor" was the top-trending topic nationally and globally. Senator MURPHY got the world's attention and certainly America's attention, and I hope the attention of the Senate Republicans.

In the early morning hours, the Republican leader and I spoke. He indicated that he would commit to a vote on the Murphy-Booker-Feinstein legislation to expand background checks and the Feinstein measure to close the terror loophole, preventing terrorists from walking into a gun store and buying all the firearms and explosives they want.

Why the passion by Senator MURPHY? Why? Could it have been the deaths of these little babies by some madman walking into Sandy Hook Elementary School? Of course it was. He has indicated that he can't get that out of his mind. He thinks about that every day—not 24 hours a day, but every day.

Why was CORY BOOKER here every minute of the time with Senator MURPHY? He was here because he lives in an area where people are killed—several a week. He gave one of the most passionate speeches on Tuesday in our caucus about holding a little boy who was shot in the head and died in his arms.

Senator SCHUMER, the third sponsor of this legislation, has been involved in gun issues since his early days in the House of Representatives. DIANNE FEINSTEIN—doing something about guns has been on her portfolio since she was a member of the board of supervisors of San Francisco. She became mayor as a result of the mayor being murdered. DIANNE FEINSTEIN led the charge a number of years ago to pass legislation on this floor when filibusters were not the way we did things around here, stopping every piece of legislation from going through. She persevered and

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



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