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Senate

The Senate met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEB FISCHER, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Pastor Bill Ewing of Christian Life Ministries in Rapid City, SD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Please join me.

As we bow our knees before You, Father, grant us thankful hearts and let our eyes see the many blessings we have been given living in this great land.

Put a protective hedge around these leaders, their marriages, and their families, and let peace dwell in their homes. O Lord, strengthen these that You have placed with this authority so Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith; and that they would be rooted and grounded in loving kindness and truth. May they be able to comprehend the knowledge of Your will and to know the love of Christ so they make decisions that protect and preserve the lives You have entrusted to them.

Lord, teach us to listen. The times are noisy and our ears are weary with the thousands of sounds that continuously assault us. Give us the spirit of young Samuel when he said to You, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." Let us hear You speaking in our hearts so that we get used to the sound of Your voice; that its tones may be familiar to us, and we would lead this great Nation accordingly.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEB FISCHER, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. FISCHER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from South Dakota.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity to welcome to the U.S. Senate Pastor Bill Ewing.

Pastor Bill Ewing started a ministry called Christian Life Ministries in the early 1980s in Rapid City, SD, along with his wife Nancy. It is a ministry that has impacted thousands of people across this country, my wife Kimberly and I being among those, and our family. We have benefited enormously from Pastor Ewing's spiritual mentorship, his always wise and godly council, and his example of faithfulness.

In addition to those in my State of South Dakota and across the country, the ministry has been involved through the years in ministering to people who have been through very difficult circumstances. They were there after 9/11 in New York and after Hurricane Katrina. There have been countless examples of things that happened not only here at home but also around the world—all the things that have gone on in the country of Haiti—Christian Life Ministries has been on the scene and has been very ably ministering to people who have been impacted by these horrific events.

Bill Ewing is a lifelong South Dakotan, although he did venture over to Wyoming to go to college, where he was a two-time All American baseball player and actually was in the California Angels farm system for a number of years before an injury ended his career, but that loss to the California Angels and Major League Baseball was an enormous win for people all over South Dakota and all across this country who have benefited from the work he and his team in Christian Life Ministries have done.

So it is my honor to be able to welcome Pastor Bill Ewing to the U.S. Senate. I thank Chaplain Black for his hospitality and generosity for allowing my friend and pastor, Bill Ewing, to be the visiting Chaplain here in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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



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