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No. 1

Senate

The 3d day of January being prescribed by the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of the Congress, the 2d session of the 115th Congress commenced this day at 12 noon.

The Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol.

The Senate was called to order by the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, our light and our salvation, You are the strength and shield of our Nation and world. Lord, as we receive the gift of this new year, we thank You for fresh starts and new mercies.

May our lawmakers seize the seeds of opportunity that reside in the soil of their tomorrows, laboring diligently to ensure an abundant harvest. Teach them to number their days as they remember that they pass this way but once. Lord, remind them that Your hand is on the helm of human affairs and that You still guide Your world. Give our legislators the integrity to strive to do all the good they can, for as many as they can, for as long as they can. Bless our Senators who are leaving and those who are coming.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. 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 Republic 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 3, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TILLIS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION AND CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of election to fill the unexpired term for the State of Alabama and the certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term for the State of Minnesota. The certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all the essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificates were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF ALABAMA CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR UNEXPIRED TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 12th day of December, 2017, Doug Jones was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Alabama a Senator for the unexpired term ending at noon on the 3rd day of January, 2021, to fill the vacancy in the representation from said State in the Senate of the United States caused by the appointment of the Honorable Jeff Sessions to the position of United States Attorney General.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor Kay Ivey, and our seal hereto affixed at 1:10 PM

this 28th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2017.

By the Governor:

KAY IVEY,
Governor.

Attest:

JOHN H. MERRILL,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MINNESOTA Executive Department

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT OF UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Minnesota, I, Mark B. Dayton, the Governor of said State, do hereby appoint Tina Smith a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein, caused by the resignation of Al Franken, is filled by election as provided by law.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol, in Saint Paul, Minnesota this 2nd day of January, 2018.

MARK DAYTON,
Governor.

STEVE SIMON,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-elect and the Senator-designate to be sworn in will now present themselves at the desk, the Chair will administer their oaths of office.

The Senator-elect, DOUG JONES, and the Senator-designate, TINA SMITH, escorted by Mr. Biden, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. Mondale, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senators.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

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



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