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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Our Father, enable us to fill swift hours with mighty deeds, bearing the fret of care, the sting of criticism, and the challenge of unapplauded toil.

Lord, empower our lawmakers to think clearly, act kindly, and labor to preserve the freedoms we enjoy.

Thank You for crowning us with glory and honor because we belong to You and trust in Your steadfast love. Lord, teach us to walk blamelessly, speaking the truth from our hearts and living with integrity.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, I ask my colleagues to join me in marking a special day. Exactly 70 years ago today, the State of Israel was established. On the same day, the United States was the first country to recognize Israel's statehood. I applaud President Trump's decision to commemorate this historic anniversary with the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

In the 70 years since its founding, Israel has shared an unbreakable bond with the United States. I am pleased to be a friend of Israel's and to have played an integral role in strengthening relations between our two countries.

It is difficult for me to express the profound reverence I have for the Jewish people. As a symbol of my respect, I wear a mezuzah around my neck and have done so every day for almost four decades—I think, actually, for more

than four decades. The mezuzah reminds me of the affinity I, as a member of the Mormon faith, hold for the Jewish people and their history. Both Israel and Utah were settled by religious minorities who sought refuge from persecution—a shared history that deepens our devotion to democracy and our love of freedom.

Although my schedule does not allow me to be in Israel today, perhaps it is even more appropriate that I make these remarks here rather than in Jerusalem, where I would like to be. After all, today should be seen as an American holiday just as it is an Israeli one. America's interests, prosperity, and security have benefited immeasurably from our deep friendship with the State of Israel. Indeed, the world is a much better place because of Israel, and it is high time the country received its fair treatment on the world stage. That is why, last week, I joined Senator BOOKER in introducing legislation that calls for the fair treatment of Israel and urges other nations to foster diplomatic ties with the country and recognize its sovereignty.

Israel desperately needs allies. Indeed, the events of last week are a stark reminder that Israel has many enemies that seek its destruction. The Iranian Government directed missile strikes into the Golan Heights in the early hours of the morning last Thursday. Just hours before, the Iranian Government announced it may explore enriching uranium toward acquiring nuclear weapons. I know the Golan Heights. I have been there. I have looked over the Golan Heights.

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



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