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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank You that although we plan our course, You determine the success of our journey. We praise You for the many amazing gifts You provide for our pilgrimage.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers to commit their plans to You, trusting the unfolding of Your loving providence. May they not depend only on persistent self-reliance, but draw upon the supernatural strength and wisdom You desire to give them. Today, fill this Chamber with Your presence and power.

We pray in Your strong 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, June 4, 2018.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate will begin this week by voting on three more of the President's well-qualified nominees for the Federal judiciary.

First on the slate is Magistrate Judge Robert Wier, selected by President Trump to serve as a district judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Judge Wier's sterling credentials and the support he enjoys from the legal community suggest that he will excel on the Federal bench. He graduated at the top of his class at the University of Kentucky, followed by a successful career in private practice. In 2006, he became a magistrate judge. In 2014, his colleagues unanimously reappointed him to a second term.

Judge Wier has the intellect, skill, and experience to take on this role. I will proudly vote to advance his nomination later today.

Following Judge Wier, we will consider Fernando Rodriguez for the Southern District of Texas and Annemarie Axon for the Northern District of Alabama.

In each case, the Senate's work will be upholding one of our most central constitutional responsibilities—to consider and confirm high-quality candidates.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, last week brought another set of encouraging headlines about our growing economy. In the month of May, the U.S. economy generated 223,000 new jobs. Unemployment has fallen to 3.8 percent, its lowest level since April of 2000. The proportion of American adults who are employed is as high as it has been at any point since the financial crisis.

We know these economic indicators can sometimes be noisy, but consider them alongside all of the other signs we have seen over the past year. Since President Trump was elected alongside a Republican Congress, the number of Americans who say they are optimistic about finding a good job has jumped 25 percentage points, and small business owners report in record numbers that they are optimistic about the prospects of hiring new employees.

The bottom line is clear: Under the policies of this unified Republican government, American workers, families,

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



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