



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

No. 96

House of Representatives

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

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

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.

Almighty God, You are the Author and Finisher of all things. Your authority is from the beginning and remains to the ending.

Today, inspire our lawmakers to do Your will. Make their minds sensitive to Your truth and their hearts willing to obey Your commands. Lord, give them the liberty of Your wisdom so that they will embrace the fullness of life You desire for us all.

God of mercy and truth, we are pilgrims in this world. Through the saving power of Your redeeming love, empower us to live for Your glory.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5515, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later this afternoon, the Senate will move to begin considering the John S. McCain 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

Our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee have spent months engaged in thorough work and in bipartisan collaboration. Now the whole Senate will take up their legislation and vote on a plan to deliver on the most pressing needs of our Armed Forces.

Congress has passed Defense Authorization Acts for 57 consecutive years—57 consecutive years. In doing so, we have taken steps to fulfill one of our

most fundamental constitutional responsibilities: authorizing the funds that our men and women in uniform require to keep us safe.

This year's NDAA arrives as our Nation faces significant challenges—challenges like an emboldened Iranian regime and its continued support of destabilizing forces in the Middle East and a new era of great power competition as Russia and China expand their capabilities.

Building on a time-honored process, this year's Defense authorization will help our Nation rise to meet these challenges with cutting-edge tools, top-notch training, and revitalized readiness. It is one of our most important jobs here in Congress. The 2019 Defense authorization is the top item on our to-do list, and we will tackle it this week.

APPROPRIATIONS

Meanwhile, other important work is underway at the committee level. Chairman SHELBY and our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee are laying the foundation for a productive summer. Last week, they reported out appropriations bills to fund the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Veterans Affairs, as well as important military construction projects. This week, they will proceed to finalize measures for Interior and Environment, Commerce-Justice-Science, and the legislative branch. I look forward to taking up these appropriations bills right out here on the Senate floor.

TAX AND REGULATORY REFORM

Now, on another matter, Mr. President, today marks another important

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3395