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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN BARRASSO, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Shepherd of Love, help our lawmakers to live in such magnanimity and restraint that they will be salt and light to their generation. May they make the world more palatable as they bring the illumination of Your Word to the problems they seek to solve. Guided by Your love, lead them to live to glorify Your Name. Lord, give them the wisdom to consistently strive to live in conformity to Your Will.

We praise You, mighty God, for You are slow to anger, abounding in love and mercy. In accordance with Your great love, continue to bless America.

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, July 16, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BARRASSO, a

Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BARRASSO 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Stump, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Texas.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week I had the chance to reconnect with Judge Brett Kavanaugh, the President's choice to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, succeeding Anthony Kennedy, who has announced his retirement effective at the

end of this month. I say reconnect because I actually met Judge Kavanaugh back in 2000, when, as attorney general of Texas, I had the great privilege to represent my State in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in an oral argument.

As part of my preparation for that argument—something that is sort of like the Super Bowl for lawyers—I had a chance to practice that argument in a moot court, as it is called, in front of three distinguished Supreme Court advocates, including Brett Kavanaugh, who at that time was a private lawyer. I am sure I benefitted from his help, as I did from the help of the other two.

I have followed Judge Kavanaugh's career closely in the 18 years since I met him. Of course, in the last 12 years, he has served with distinction on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, which some have called the second most powerful court in the Nation, since most of the controversial litigation involving the Federal Government tends to come up through that appellate court from the district courts here in the District of Columbia.

Based on what I know of Brett Kavanaugh, I am pleased with the nominee the President has chosen. After talking to him again, I look forward to supporting his nomination and doing everything I can to ensure his bipartisan confirmation.

On the issue of bipartisanship, let me just point out that Justice Gorsuch was confirmed by 54 votes, a bipartisan vote of confirmation. I would expect, based upon his similar qualifications in many ways—outstanding academic record, outstanding experience, and demonstrated ability on a circuit court of appeals—that I would think and expect that Justice Kavanaugh would get a bipartisan confirmation vote, much as Justice Gorsuch has. Obviously, they are two different individuals, but in terms of their experience, education, preparation, and judicial philosophy, I think it would be difficult to explain why one would vote for Justice

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



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