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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 17, 2018, at 9 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018

The Senate met at 12 noon 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.

Glorious God, the source of our strength, fill us with life anew. Strengthen and guide our lawmakers by the light of Your counsels, directing their steps. Lord, open their eyes so that they may discern Your truth and courageously obey Your precepts. Give them reverence for You in all their thoughts, words, and actions. Think Your thoughts through them, providing them with the peace, power, and patience needed to do Your will on Earth.

Eternal God, we give You all praise, glory, blessings, and honor.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF AUSTIN TICE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday marked the sixth anniversary of the kidnapping of a brave young man named Austin Tice.

Back in 2012, Austin decided to put his law school studies on hold and

spend the summer in Syria as a freelance journalist. He was frustrated with the lack of good information on Syria's civil war—a war that, by some estimates, has claimed more than one-half million lives and displaced millions more, having created a refugee crisis affecting neighboring countries, like Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon, and having destabilized the entire region.

In spite of the violence and political turmoil and as a strong believer in the freedom of the press, Austin wanted to let his fellow Americans know what was going on in that terrible civil war, which continues to this day. So he didn't wait around for someone else to act; he went to Syria himself, and he reported on the civil war.

As with most things he tried, Austin proved to be a very successful journalist. But then, in August of 2012, just days before he was planning to leave Syria, he was taken hostage, and little has been heard from him since. That is why I am again today renewing my call for Austin Tice's immediate release by his captors.

Over the last several years, I have had the privilege of meeting with Austin's parents a number of times, Mark and Debra Tice, who have worked tirelessly to locate him and bring him home safely. In fact, I plan to meet with them again this afternoon to bring them up to speed on my most recent conversations with National Security Adviser John Bolton, whom I have asked to meet with the Tices and maintain the continuity between the Obama administration and now the Trump administration when it comes to efforts

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



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