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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TODD YOUNG, a Senator from the State of Indiana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, Your never failing providence sets in order all things both in Heaven and Earth. Thank You for providing comfort to all who seek You. We are grateful for Your promises to supply all our needs and to keep us from stumbling or slipping.

Lord, bless our lawmakers, inspiring them to trust in Your mighty power. Remind them that righteousness is the only true national defense and that those who walk in integrity travel securely.

Eternal God, we place our future in Your hands. Help us to live by faith so that our actions will receive Your approval. And, Lord, we ask You to comfort those who mourn Aretha Franklin's death. We are also grateful to You for the life and legacy of Kofi Annan.

We pray in Your gracious 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, August 20, 2018.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. YOUNG thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week the Senate turned to a critically important pair of appropriations bills—those which encompass the Departments of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. And we proceeded to this legislation by unanimous consent. That may seem like a small detail in the scheme of things, but it underscores a fact that should be a real source of pride for this Senate: Bill by bill, we are rebuilding a

regular process for responsibly appropriating taxpayers' money. We are achieving what we set out to do, and we are doing it together.

Because of the leadership of Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and our subcommittee chairs and ranking members, all 12 appropriations bills for this fiscal year were reported out prior to the July 4th recess. The process was so bipartisan that, cumulatively across all 12 bills, the committee votes were 363 to 9.

Here on the floor, we have already approved—with bipartisan support—measures to fund Energy and Water Development, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Environment, Agriculture, and other priorities.

We have had a normal committee process. We have had amendment votes here on the floor of the Senate. We have considered these bills thoroughly but efficiently and then passed each of them with bipartisan majorities. That is exactly the momentum we need to keep up right now.

The legislation now before us will be a major milestone. It addresses vital priorities: a pay raise for our troops, plus funding for their missions and work to restore combat readiness, training programs for American workers, and new tools for combating the opioid epidemic. These bills will bring billions of dollars and resources and relief to the families and communities that are fighting every day against the crisis of drug abuse and addiction that has inflicted so much pain on our country. I will have more to say this week

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



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