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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RON JOHNSON, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, thank You for the gift of Yourself and for teaching us how to live and serve. Forgive us when we take Your grace for granted. Forgive us also when we fail to treat others as we ourselves desire to be treated.

Lord, transform our lawmakers into instruments of Your glory, enabling them to strengthen our Nation and world. Remind them that fierce winds bring no anxiety to those who keep their eyes on You. Imbue them with Your wisdom, that they may know the road to take. Sustain them in all of their endeavors, keeping them from stumbling or slipping. Carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair, and let Your peace reside in their hearts.

We pray in Your mighty 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, September 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 RON JOHNSON, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. JOHNSON 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.

The Senator from Iowa.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a dear friend of the Senate and a dear friend to me. This weekend many of us had the honor of joining the family of John Sidney McCain III as we walked through his life and shared memories of such a wonderful man, a true patriot, an American hero, a wonderful Senator, a father, and a wonderful friend.

The first time I met Senator McCain was in 2014, and he was larger than life. I was engaged in my primary for the Senate, and I had the opportunity to visit Washington, DC, and sit down with Senator McCain in his office and visited and talked with him about what it was like to be a U.S. Senator.

Immediately, I felt that bond with John McCain as a fellow veteran. It was one thing that he was truly interested in. He had been through the political stuff with a lot of other folks running for the Senate—what it is like to engage in a campaign. That is all good and fine, but what he really took an interest in was my experience in the war in Iraq. He asked me about my service. I talked to him about the Na-

tional Guard—all of those things he truly understood and connected with. He really enjoyed that aspect of our discussion.

It was that first meeting—again, meeting with somebody that to me was larger than life, someone who truly had served his country—and we felt that connection.

The months progressed, and I got through the primary campaign and moved on into the general election cycle. During that time, a number of Senators came to Iowa. They would hop on my bus, which we fondly called the “squeal mobile,” and we would travel around the State of Iowa.

John McCain is so well known for his codels, or his congressional delegation visits to other countries. I have heard many of my colleagues refer to those codels as the “McCain death marches” because he is going from sunup to sundown—no resting, no stopping. He was visiting with world leaders all over, furthering our American interests.

My bus tour was a lot like that in the fall of 2014. John graciously agreed to come out and spend a day on the road with me in the “squeal mobile.” That day we were doing eight different events in eight different counties in Iowa. We were going from sunup, literally, to sundown, and we were traveling in this big RV.

I remember having a conversation with him. We were sitting at a little table. I was facing the rear of the bus. He was facing the front. It was late at night. It was dark. The sun had already gone down. We were approaching Bloomfield, IA, which was the last stop for the day. All of a sudden and out of nowhere, as we were having this conversation, boom, and we hit something. The bus did. John McCain, in true John McCainism, said: What the “fill in the blank” was that?

I didn’t even have to turn around. I knew immediately. Again, it is Iowa. It is the fall. It is after dark. I said: John, we hit a deer.

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



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