



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

No. 147

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our rock and fortress, we trust the unfolding of Your loving providence. May our lawmakers find refuge in the shadow of Your citadel. Give our Senators eyes that are willing to see their own mistakes and to be patient with the faults of others. May our legislators walk with reverence and sensitivity through all the seasons of their lives. Lord, give them steadfast hearts as they strive to glorify You in all they think, say, and do. Open their minds to think Your thoughts and their hearts to do Your will.

We pray in Your merciful 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 5, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator

from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. ERNST thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

WELCOMING SENATOR KYL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, over the weekend, Senator McCain was laid to rest at Annapolis. Our dear friend left a towering legacy of service and sacrifice. As Senator GRAHAM reminded us last week, while none of us can hope to fill his shoes, we should all strive to follow in his footsteps. Today, the great State of Arizona has sent us a successor who is as well-equipped as you could imagine to do just that.

Our friend and former colleague, Senator JON KYL, is one of the most serious, most expert, and most effective legislators with whom I have had the pleasure of serving. In his 18 years of Senate service, he forcefully defended the interests of Arizonans on issues local, national, and international. He mastered the details of water and natural resource issues. He became a go-to point person on missile defense, nuclear modernization, strategy, and arms control. He built a reputation as a steady and energetic public servant who put his State and his country first.

On a point of personal privilege, I am glad we will have JON back with us. He has great judgment and an even keel. He is a team player, a true friend, and an inspiring example of what a Senator can and should be.

It is a good thing, too, because Congress has a lot to accomplish in the coming weeks—like finalizing appropriations bills, completing our consid-

eration of Judge Kavanaugh, and confirming more of the President's qualified nominees. It is going to be all hands on deck for the American people. I could not be happier that this new, not-so-junior Senator from Arizona will be here to help us through this period.

SENATOR INHOFE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, speaking of continuing John McCain's legacy, I am also happy that our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee have officially chosen Senator INHOFE to serve as their next chairman. JIM INHOFE filled in for Senator McCain during a difficult year. He rose to the occasion and helped lead the committee in passing crucial legislation that honored the example of his predecessor and the volunteers who defend our Nation. He possesses rich experience on the committee, including decades of work on behalf of American servicemembers, as well as his own military service. Congratulations and thanks to Senator INHOFE.

WORK OF THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, the Senate continues work on a number of important priorities. This morning, I joined a number of our colleagues in the first conference committee meeting for the farm bill, including the occupant of the Chair. Others of our colleagues are continuing to confer with the House on appropriations bills so we can stay on track with respect to funding the government.

On the floor this week, we will continue attending to personnel business. We voted yesterday to advance the nomination of Elad Roisman to serve on the Securities and Exchange Commission. After we confirm him, we will

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



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