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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for the gift of fruitful labor. Forgive us for the help we might have given someone in need and did not give.

Use our lawmakers for Your glory. May they not thoughtlessly think, speak, or act in ways that wound or harm. Grant that they will do nothing that would bring shame to themselves, grief to their families, or sorrow to You.

Lord, thank You for the strategic role of the U.S. Senate and Your unfolding providence for our beloved Nation. Help us all to be faithful to the destiny You intend for our lives.

We pray in Your great 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, November 14, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Mississippi.

COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I wish to say a word or two about the Coast Guard bill, which is coming up soon. I assure my colleagues that when the leader comes to the Chamber to make leadership remarks, I will certainly defer to him.

I cannot tell you how pleased I am that we are finally getting to the point of passing a Coast Guard Reauthorization Act. We have worked on this for some time—intensely, actually, for 3 years—and I wish to commend Senator SULLIVAN of Alaska and Senator THUNE, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, for doing such great work on this.

The Coast Guard reauthorization bill will allow us to let the Coast Guard continue to do all of the vital things they do to help the people of this Nation. It will allow us to rebuild the fleet, strengthen facilities on shore, and refurbish the aircraft of the Coast Guard, all while ensuring support for the highly trained 40,000 Active-Duty members of the Coast Guard and some 46,000 people who serve in either the Reserve, civilian, or auxiliary force of the Coast Guard.

A lot of Americans really don't have a complete understanding of the 11 statutory functions of the U.S. Coast Guard. I will not go through all of those, except to say that these are vital to the safety and security of the United States. I will just mention that in my own State of Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina, one of the first

groups to come in and respond was the Coast Guard, living up to their motto of Semper Paratus—"Always Ready." There were an estimated 60,000 people who needed to be saved from flooded homes, buildings, and rooftops by the Coast Guard, and they did their job. The lifesaving work continued in 2017 and in 2018 with historic rescue and recovery efforts for such disasters as Irma, Florence, Maria, Michael, and the list goes on and on. Simply put, the Coast Guard is there when coastal communities are at risk.

They are also there when it comes to organized crime and drug interdiction—another very important aspect of the Coast Guard. Last week the Coast Guard made news. The cutter *Dauntless* returned to Pensacola, FL, following a \$27 million cocaine bust in the eastern Pacific.

Americans may see the Coast Guard on the news only because of big drug busts or in the aftermath of a hurricane, but these men and women also are in every corner of the globe, protecting our natural resources and our national interests, coordinating search and rescue missions, and saving lives—saving lives every day.

So our hat is off to the Coast Guard, and my hat is off to the leaders of this body who have given us an excellent reauthorization bill.

In a single day, we might see the Coast Guard handling some 45 search and rescue missions in a single day or saving 10 lives in a single day or saving more than \$1.2 million in property in a single day or ensuring the proper transport of \$8.7 billion in goods and commodities.

As I assured Members when I began these remarks, it is my honor to yield to the distinguished majority leader for whatever leadership remarks he might want to make.

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



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