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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 12 noon.

## Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

The Senate met at 3 p.m. 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.

O Lord, our God, how excellent is Your Name in all the Earth. We continue to be astonished that You have chosen us to work for Your Kingdom. Give us the wisdom to strive to ensure that Your will is done on Earth even as it is done in Heaven.

Lord, we are grateful that You have surrounded us with the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies. We praise You for the opportunities to spend our lives for causes greater than ourselves.

Today, direct the steps of our Senators, opening doors that no one can shut and closing doors that no one can open, according to the wisdom of Your loving providence.

We pray in Your great 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Members of Congress are making their way back to the Nation's Capital after celebrating Thanksgiving with folks at home, with their friends and their families. To me, this holiday offered a little bit of respite and time for reflection—a time to pause with our families and to think about what we have to be grateful for.

This year, I am particularly thankful for the organizations I met with when I was home in Texas that donated a lot of their most valuable resource—their time. Thousands took time out of their family celebrations to provide meals and assistance to those less fortunate. I had the opportunity to join the ranks of some of my other volunteers, like

Mayor Steve Adler of Austin, with whom I served meals at the H-E-B Feast of Sharing in Austin. I also donned an apron and gloves to help prepare turkey for the annual Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner in San Antonio, where more than 50 companies and 4,000 volunteers partnered to cook and serve meals. In 1979, Raul Jimenez, who is famous in San Antonio for his contributions there and has now left us, started this dinner with the goal of feeding 100 of San Antonio's elderly families and those less fortunate. Thirty-nine years later, his daughter and grandson, Raul Jimenez III, carry on this tradition and serve meals to feed 25,000 hungry San Antonians.

During the holiday season, we all have a chance to express our gratitude by extending a helping hand, providing a meal, or maybe simply offering words of encouragement. I was grateful I was able to join with some of the remarkable and selfless volunteers doing just that when I was back home. I want to make sure we bring that same attitude back to Congress, where I have the privilege of representing 28 million of my fellow Texans—not only the attitude of gratitude for the great privilege of living in a country such as ours but also feeling the weight of responsibility to actually produce results for them.

My discussions with my constituents when I was back home ran the gamut of possible topics, but what I keep hearing is that they feel as if they are doing much better economically. They see an economy that has been invigorated, and, yes, they have a little bit

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



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