



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

No. 191

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

The Senate met at 2:30 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.

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, help us to be grateful for Your favor and eager to do Your will. Bless our citizens with honorable work, sound learning, exemplary conduct, and faithful service. Keep our Senators true to You. Use them to defend our liberties and to unify our Nation for the good of humanity.

Lord, give our lawmakers the spirit of wisdom that they may work for justice, as they strive to approve what is excellent. Inspire them to glorify You in all they think, say, and do.

We pray in Your merciful 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. HOEVEN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate is in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each for debate only.

The Senator from Ohio.

### REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I want to talk about the loss of a great American. I want to talk about George H.W. Bush. On C-SPAN, I was watching the coverage of what is going on in the Rotunda now, and there are hundreds of people crowded around his casket, paying tribute to this great man. They have been there all day. They will be there all night. Friends of mine from Ohio are in town who never met him but knew of him and were inspired by him. We were all inspired by him.

George Bush did it all. He was a war hero—youngest naval pilot at age 18, shot down over the Pacific. He was the last President, by the way, to serve in combat. He was also a Member of the U.S. Congress and proud of that. Prior to that, he was a successful business leader in Texas. He was an ambassador to the United Nations. He was CIA Director. He was Envoy to China—the first one. He was Vice President of the United States, and he was President, of course, during one of the most momentous times in our Nation's history. What a life.

In his absence, our country is losing a lifelong patriot, a guiding voice, and the embodiment of the very best of America. For me, President Bush was

also my mentor. I was very blessed early in my career to have been able to work for him. He brought me into his White House when I was a young man trying to figure out my way in life. I would not be in this crazy business of politics but for him—not just because he gave me opportunities to work for him but because he showed me you could do this work of public service and politics with honor and dignity and respect.

He showed that nice guys can finish first. He showed that his approach—kinder and gentler, as he would call it in 1988—was something that indeed you could achieve here, even in the Halls of Congress.

I have a special reason to be so grateful; also, so sad about his departure because I relied on him for advice and counsel. He rarely gave it proactively, but when asked, he always had the wisdom of years and the judgment that so many of us will miss so badly.

He took a chance on me as a young lawyer from Cincinnati, OH, to come into his White House as his Associate Counsel to the President. He then took a chance on me to join his legislative affairs team, to be Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

To be frank, I was not particularly qualified for either job. I had only worked on the Hill briefly as an intern. I was not nearly as distinguished as the other members of the legal team who had been mostly Supreme Court clerks, but it made me work all the harder to try to earn his trust and his respect.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S7259