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Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, You are the source and strength of our lives. Great is Your faithfulness. We thank You today for our lawmakers, who have embraced the calling to serve You by serving our Nation. Lord, provide them with the wisdom and courage they need for the living of these challenging times. Bless them with Divine insights as they grapple with complexity that requires difficult choices. May they make it their ultimate goal to serve You by striving to do what is best for our Nation and world.

Guide us, Eternal Father, for we are pilgrims in this land.

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 (Ms. ERNST). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 200.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, John Thune, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

REMEMBERING FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate mourns a part of our institution's history who passed away over the weekend. Until Saturday, Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina was the oldest living former Senator. He is

also the longest tenured junior Senator in history, since 36 of his 38 years in this body came alongside Senator Strom Thurmond.

But there was nothing "junior" about Fritz's career, his impact, or his larger-than-life personality. By the time I arrived in the Senate, Fritz had already built a reputation as a war veteran, State legislator, Governor, Senator, and as a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. He had raised a family between his hometown of Charleston and the State capital, Columbia.

At every turn, he was a square-jawed southern gentleman. In every case, he was someone who would call things exactly how he saw them. Fritz spoke his mind with cutting wit and undeniable sincerity on causes that captured his attention. As a result of his passion and skill, his name will be forever linked with a long list of important achievements here in the Senate. He called attention to a growing Federal budget deficit, advocated for the needs of our Nation's men and women in uniform, and confronted the tragic poverty in America's own backyard, especially child hunger.

So today the Senate mourns not just a friend and former colleague but a true example of what it means to live a life of service. We mourn with Fritz's family and the people of South Carolina, and we join them in celebrating a life so fully lived.

RESIGNATION OF KIRSTJEN NIELSEN

Madam President, on a completely different matter, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen announced that she is concluding her 2-plus years of service to the administration and to the American people.

The men and women of DHS keep America safe on a dizzying array of fronts. They confront natural disasters, guard our coasts, defend our critical infrastructure, and maintain many of our Nation's cyber security defenses.

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



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