



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

No. 76

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARSHA BLACKBURN, a Senator from the State of Tennessee.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, make us instruments of Your love. Today, use our lawmakers as ambassadors of reconciliation. Direct them in their work as You surround them with Your gracious favor. Lord, let all their plans and purposes be guided by Your holy will. May their primary aim be to serve You and country with faithfulness as You enlighten them so they will find solutions to the problems that challenge our world. Make us all good stewards, striving to use our influence for Your glory.

We pray in Your gracious 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. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 8, 2019.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable MARSHA BLACKBURN, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph F. Bianco, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH SHOOTING

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I am saddened to have to begin my remarks this morning by acknowledging yet another senseless act of school violence in America.

Less than a month after the 20th anniversary of the tragic shooting at Columbine High School, another Colorado community was shattered yesterday afternoon. Just miles away, at the

STEM School Highlands Ranch, one student has been killed, eight others have been wounded, and many more young lives have been changed forever at the hands of two of their fellow students.

I know the entire Senate joins me in holding the victims of yesterday's shooting, their families, and their entire community in our prayers today.

Our gratitude is with the first responders of Douglas County, whose swift action to engage the shooters saved untold lives.

#### NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on a completely different matter, as I have been discussing, the Senate is continuing to make better progress in its filling of vacancies in the executive branch and the Federal judiciary. After last month's action to restore a more functional, straightforward system for considering lower level nominations, we have begun the process of clearing the executive calendar backlog that has been left by literally years of partisan obstruction.

This morning, we will vote to confirm three qualified individuals the President nominated for the Export-Import Bank: Kimberley Reed, of West Virginia, to serve as President and Spencer Bachus, of Alabama, and Judith Pryor, of Ohio, to serve on the Board of Directors. Combined, they have spent years waiting for confirmation. Now, thanks to last month's action, we will consider them on the floor this week.

We will also vote to confirm Joseph Bianco, of New York, as U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit. Mr. Bianco is a graduate of Georgetown University and of Columbia University School of Law. He has contributed years of distinguished service as an assistant U.S. attorney and now as a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of New York. The Senate confirmed him to that last role by a voice vote back in 2005. So I hope we can muster

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2707