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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Thank You for Your love and mercy that comes fresh daily. You keep us from dwelling in darkness, illuminating our path with the light of Your wisdom. Today, open the eyes of our lawmakers to the wonders of Your grace. May they see the majesty of Your inclusive love for people everywhere. Inspire our Senators to behold the works You are already doing to heal our Nation.

Lord, deliver us from all of the destructive forces that hinder us from doing Your will, for we find our shelter in You. Teach us to fulfill Your purposes on Earth as we strive to bring honor to Your Name.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN THREATS TO TAXPAYER-FUNDED RESEARCH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, last week, I held a hearing on foreign threats to taxpayer-funded research, and a classified briefing was held on

the very same subject. We learned a great deal of information regarding the very real and ongoing threat from foreign governments to U.S. research.

Congress must continue its oversight to ensure that the Federal Government has the right mix of authorities as well as focus to protect our research and intellectual property. The government spends billions and billions of dollars a year on research. Congress and the executive branch have a responsibility to the taxpayers to get the job done.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. This week, the Senate is making more progress in the personnel business. Since returning to more prompt consideration for unobjectionable, lower level nominees, we are continuing to fill important vacancies around the executive branch and on the Federal bench.

Yesterday we confirmed several more well-qualified nominees to important seats on the Federal judiciary—Ryan Holte of Ohio and Richard Hertling of Maryland to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and Rossie David Alston, of Virginia, to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. These brandnew judges possess impressive legal and academic credentials.

In the case of Mr. Holte, who taught law school for several years, 125 former students wrote our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to say their former professor would “provide impartial, unbiased, and principled decisions, and will apply the law faithfully no matter the litigants.”

That is exactly what this body should look for in every nominee we consider for the Federal bench. So I am

glad we will have the opportunity this week to consider six more distinguished judicial nominees.

First up today will be Sarah Daggett Morrison, tapped by the President to serve the Southern District of Ohio. Ms. Morrison is a graduate of Ohio State University and Capital University Law School. Earlier this year, the Judiciary Committee reported her nomination favorably on a voice vote.

After Ms. Morrison’s nomination is confirmed, we will turn to consider Pamela Barker for the Northern Virginia District of Ohio, Corey Maze for the Northern District of Alabama, Rodney Smith for the Southern District of Florida, Thomas Barber for the Middle District of Florida, and Jean-Paul Boulee for the Northern District of Georgia.

Following them, we will fill two more executive branch vacancies, one each at the State Department and in the diplomatic corps. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to confirm each of these nominees with strong bipartisan support on the floor.

HONG KONG

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, like many of my colleagues, I watched images from Hong Kong this weekend and could not help but be moved by the residents of that metropolis. They are mounting a bold stand to preserve Hong Kong’s autonomy from China and, by extension, defend their liberties.

Over the weekend, more than 1 million residents, a staggering proportion of the population—about one in seven—took to the streets to protest a draft law that would allow the people of Hong Kong to be extradited to mainland China. Hong Kong residents rightly view this measure as another erosion of the rule of law and tightening of Beijing’s grip on their imperiled autonomy.

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



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