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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Pastor Andrew Brunson of Chapel Hill, NC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Before I pray, I want to thank the Senate. I am standing here today because so many of you fought for me, and I am deeply grateful, in a time of many divides, to those who were unified in fighting for my release. Thank you.

Let us pray.

Our Heavenly Father, may Your Holy Name be honored. May Your Name be held in high regard in this Senate.

We give thanks to You, for You are good, and Your steadfast love endures forever. You have watched over this Nation through various times of peace, prosperity, turmoil, and war. May we continue to look to You and be a people who seek Your face. Draw us near, and may we draw near to You. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Reveal to us our sins, and forgive us. Reveal to us also Your love, and enable each of us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Today, I pray that You grant to the Senators of the United States the spirit of wisdom, the fear of the Lord, and the courage to act by the counsel of the Lord in all matters great and small. May they have Your perspective on all things. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done here in our Nation as it is in Heaven in and through these Senators. Bless their families and their health. Give them Your peace.

O God, fill this place with Your presence, and unite us as one nation under Your leadership, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I pray in the Name of Jesus. 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TILLIS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES NAVY'S 244TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on October 13, the U.S. Navy celebrated its 244th birthday. The U.S. Navy was founded by the Continental Congress in 1775 to disrupt British shipping and naval power in the Revolutionary War. At the time, the Navy was just a simple, ragtag band of converted merchant ships. The U.S. Navy today is the most powerful naval force anywhere in the world. It provides the military with the

ability to project power to every corner of the globe. America's Navy works tirelessly to protect the freedom of navigation, of commerce, and travel around the world.

TRIBUTE TO KEN QUINN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on another point, for the last three decades, Des Moines has hosted something every year this week called the World Food Prize. As the World Food Prize kicks off this week in Des Moines, I pay tribute to an outstanding Iowan and the president of that foundation.

In his Foreign Service career, Ken Quinn was the Ambassador to Cambodia, but earlier in that career, Ken Quinn's life of service took him from a small town in Iowa to Southeast Asia and back. Decades ago, he identified an avenue to peace and prosperity. As a young Foreign Service officer, he saw that roads secured economic freedom and food security for the impoverished people of Southeast Asia.

For the last 20 years, Ambassador Quinn—now not in the Foreign Service—has cultivated the World Food Prize into the Nobel Prize for Agriculture. Thanks to his stewardship of the seeds first planted by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate of 1970, Dr. Norman Borlaug, the World Food Prize will yield humanitarian goods for generations to come.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for a period of 5 minutes as in morning business.

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



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