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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.

Come, mighty King, robed in majesty. Your throne stands firm, even in the midst of chaos. You speak, and it is done.

Lord, You are our strength and shield. Our protection comes from You. Today, guide our Senators as a shepherd would lead the lambs. May our lawmakers find in You green pastures and still waters.

Lord, support us with Your powerful hands until the shadows flee away. Forgive all our sins and rebellion, empowering us to glorify Your Name in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

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.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

REMEMBERING HAROLD KELLER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, recent research by historians has identified a person participating in the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima.

That iconic photograph of marines raising the American flag at Iwo Jima is a testament to American strength and sacrifice.

The Marine Corps has identified another one of the marines pictured in this photograph as Cpl Harold Keller of Brooklyn, IA.

Keller never sought recognition or fame. He never mentioned to his children that he had helped raise that flag. He died in 1979, so he doesn't know we now know it is he in the photograph.

Seventy-four years later, I am proud that this Iowan is finally recognized for his role in making history.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, later today, the Senate will vote on finally getting the appropriations process moving. We will vote on considering a package of domestic funding bills, and if we take up the legislation, I intend to stay on it until we complete it.

On both sides of the Capitol, our Democratic colleagues have spent recent weeks insisting over and over that their 3-year-old quest to impeach the President will not prevent them from the substantive work American families need us to tackle. So far, the early returns haven't been too encouraging.

A few weeks ago, we saw the unusual spectacle of Senate Democrats voting to filibuster defense funding due to political fights with the White House.

Democrats blocked a pay raise for our servicemembers because they would rather fight with the President.

We know that across the Capitol, for months now, Speaker PELOSI has been blocking the USMCA and blocking the 176,000 new American jobs it would create.

This week offers another test. Soon we will be voting on appropriations, and we will see whether our Democratic friends really can put aside their impeachment obsession long enough to get some real work done on the side. Actions speak louder than words.

First, I hope we will tackle a package of domestic funding bills. After that, we will turn to a defense vehicle. I urge our Democratic colleagues to drop the stall tactics that have left funding for our Armed Forces in limbo and join with Republicans to deliver the funding our military commanders need to keep us safe.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, I opposed President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria so I am encouraged by press reports that his administration is considering retaining a military presence in that country to keep the pressure on ISIS.

Since September 11, our Nation has learned several key lessons about the fight against radical Islamic terrorism.

The terrorist threat cannot be wished away. The terrorists mean us harm, and we cannot allow them to establish safe havens and solidify their networks. When they do, the bloodshed ends up right here on our shores.

American leadership is essential. We have seen our partners and allies step up and take on important roles. In fact, as we speak, France is playing a leading role in the African Sahel, but just about every place President Obama tried to "lead from behind" provides tragic reminders that there are

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



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