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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.

Eternal God, You look down from Heaven upon humanity's children, seeking for those to use for Your glory. May our lawmakers live with such faithfulness that they will be Your redemptive instruments at a time when truth seems a rare commodity.

May You find delight in those who by faith trust You to make the crooked places straight and the rough places smooth. Lead our Senators to a fresh dedication in their service to You and humanity. Grant that justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

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 as in morning business for 30 seconds.

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

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, veterans, meaning our veterans of war or veterans in uniform who have not been in a war environment, have a big impact on the American economy. There are 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses in the United States that

account for more than \$1.1 trillion in revenue. In Iowa, there are 26,119 veteran-owned businesses that employ 51,801 people and bring in \$10.9 million.

Iowa is working hard to attract veterans and help them start and expand their businesses. I honor these hard-working entrepreneurs who have served our country by joining my colleagues in recognizing this week, the week of November 4, as National Veterans Small Business Week.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this week, the Senate will continue its work in the personnel business and confirm more of the President's outstanding nominees to the Federal judiciary.

Since our Democratic colleagues chose last week to filibuster defense funding and block the Senate from even considering legislation to fund our Armed Forces, we will turn our focus to confirmations while we wait for progress from them on appropriations.

Leading off the week, the Senate will have the opportunity to confirm another standout Kentuckian to the Federal bench, this time to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Judge David Tapp has just about done it all since he first became a State judge nearly 15 years ago. He has heard cases at multiple levels of the State's judiciary, ruling on a wide

range of issues. As a volunteer drug court judge, Judge Tapp has earned national praise for promoting long-term recovery in the courtroom. He has also developed a sterling reputation for fairness throughout Kentucky and around the country.

Now David will bring a lifetime of public service and achievement to the Court of Federal Claims, where I am confident he will continue making us all proud. I look forward to voting to confirm him later today and hope our colleagues will join me.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, last week the Nation saw several pivotal moments that shed light on the current state of the Democratic Party. Here in the Senate, as I mentioned, Democrats chose to filibuster funding for our national defense for the second time in 2 months. This funding was agreed to in the bipartisan, bicameral deal that Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader signed onto just a few months ago, but now they have walked away from the agreement they signed and filibustered funding for our military commanders.

Yesterday, we saw the Iranian regime celebrate—celebrate—the 40th anniversary of the taking of the American Embassy and the beginning of the Iranian hostage crisis. The familiar slogan, “Death to America,” was on full display. It was especially sobering to watch this display and remember that our own U.S. military commanders do not have the certainty they need for strategic planning because Democrats here in Washington found it politically advantageous to block it.

Over in the House, Speaker PELOSI continues to stall the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. USMCA would bring tens of billions in new commerce and create 176,000 new American jobs, but House Democrats would rather pursue

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



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