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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are our light and salvation, and we are not afraid. You protect us from danger so we do not tremble.

Mighty God, You are not intimidated by the challenges that confront our Nation and world.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers with the knowledge of Your holiness that will give them reverential awe. Remind them of the many prayers they have prayed that You have already answered.

Lord, You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for the years to come. We magnify Your Holy Name. Don't stay far off. Show Yourself strong to this generation and fill us with Your peace.

We pray in Your powerful 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 19, 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.

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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to H.R. 1865, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House Message to accompany H.R. 1865, an act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 1258 (to the

House amendment to the Senate amendment), to change the enactment date.

McConnell Amendment No. 1259 (to Amendment No. 1258), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 1260, to change the enactment date.

McConnell Amendment No. 1261 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1260) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell Amendment No. 1262 (to Amendment No. 1261), of a perfecting nature.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night the House Democrats finally did what they had decided to do a long time ago. They voted to impeach President Trump.

Over the last 12 weeks, House Democrats have conducted the most rushed, least thorough, and most unfair impeachment inquiry in modern history. Now their slapdash process has concluded in the first purely partisan Presidential impeachment since the wake of the Civil War.

The opposition to impeachment was bipartisan. Only one part of one faction wanted this outcome. The House's conduct risks deeply damaging the institutions of American government. This particular House of Representatives has let its partisan rage at this particular President create a toxic new precedent that will echo well into the future.

That is what I want to discuss right now—the historic degree to which House Democrats have failed to do their duty and what it will mean for the Senate to do ours. So let's start at the beginning. Let's start with the fact

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



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