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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

Almighty God, we rejoice that You still answer prayers. When we cry to You, You continue to be an ever-present help during seasons of trouble.

Lord, we marvel at Your power as we rest confident in Your ability to accomplish Your purposes. Today, inspire our Senators to put their total trust in You. May they not fear anything that may assail them on every side. Help them to remember that there is none holy like You, and nothing can compare to Your majesty and might.

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 (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Iowa has had 14 presumptive positive cases of COVID-19. My staff and I remain in constant communication with Federal agencies to ensure that the Federal Government is properly managing emergency threats to the public health. I am also in regular touch with the Iowa Department of Public Health, which is meeting daily with its part-

ners to share information with all Iowans.

While each day brings updates regarding COVID-19, what remains constant are the prevention efforts that we have all heard about, and just to name a couple: washing your hands often and covering your cough.

To find further updates and guidance about the COVID-19, please visit my website at grassley.senate.gov.

REMEMBERING BIJAN GHAI SAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on another matter, in November of 2017, Bijan Ghaisar was shot and killed by two U.S. Park Police officers. That person was unarmed and in his vehicle.

The National Park Service oversees the U.S. Park Police and still hasn't responded to a letter that Senator WARNER of Virginia and I wrote to the Park Service last November.

Now, we all know that Park Service officials are very concerned about the cherry blossom season. They just had a press conference to announce the peak dates of this year's cherry blossom season. Acting Director Vela needs to take his agency's obligations to respond to Senator WARNER's and my letter and other inquiries from Congress as seriously as he takes the weather updates.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate and House Sergeants at Arms announced the suspension of public tours and nonofficial access to the Capitol Complex beginning at the close of business today and running through the end of March. Their decision was made in close consulta-

tion with the Attending Physician of the U.S. Congress, Dr. Brian Monahan.

I support the decision of these non-partisan officers. It follows new guidance from the Washington, DC, Department of Health encouraging that all nonessential mass gatherings of more than 1,000 people be postponed. The Capitol Complex welcomes many times that many visitors on a typical day, particularly at this time of year.

Congress will continue to do our work. Offices will be able to welcome constituents and visitors for meetings and official business by appointment, but in deference to the experts and to protect the health of many Americans who travel to our Nation's Capital, tourism and nonofficial access to the Capitol and the complex will be put on pause.

This virus is challenging our Nation in ways that feel unfamiliar to us, but our great country is strong, we are equipped, and we have overcome far greater challenges before. I know the entire Congress will look forward to welcoming all Americans back to visit their beautiful Capitol as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage everyone to follow the facts, listen to the experts, and take smart and calm precautions as appropriate. Every American can access up-to-date recommendations for their own personal circumstances at www.coronavirus.gov.

Last night, President Trump addressed the Nation on the broader, ongoing effort to slow and mitigate the spread of the virus here on American soil. As I have noted before, the administration's early proactive measures to repatriate U.S. citizens and restrict travel from China bought more time for public health professionals to prepare our response, and the funding measure that Congress passed last week is sending an infusion of new funding into laboratory research, frontline medical care, and everything in between.

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



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