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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Marvelous Redeemer, You alone are God, keeping Your covenant with humanity throughout the generations.

Bless our Senators. Enable them to find shelter in the shadow of Your wings. Lord, bless their plans as they seek to do Your will on Earth, and empower them to succeed. Use them to bring comfort and healing to a troubled nation and world. Keep them aware of the constancy of Your presence, inspiring them to give primacy to prayer and praise as they work for Your glory.

We pray in Your majestic 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. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the pandemic has disrupted just about everything Americans take for granted in life, including our food supply. Empty grocery store shelves have greeted U.S. consumers, perhaps for the first time in their lifetimes. The pandemic shines a national spotlight on the “farm to fork” supply chain. Market disruptions are forcing farmers to make tough choices—milk being dumped, eggs destroyed, and market-ready hogs may have nowhere to go. Farmers are shouldering a heavy burden, with profound impact to their livelihood and mental health.

As a champion for American agriculture, I am leading efforts to help our farmers get through these tough times. There is a lot of help coming from other people as well.

As always, Iowa pork producers want to do what they do best, which is put food on our tables. They are teaming up with local meat lockers and food banks to do what is called Pass the Pork, a statewide initiative launched by Iowa Governor Reynolds. The Pass the Pork Program aims to stock food pantries with hogs donated by local farmers and from financial contributions to cover the costs of processing and distribution. Where there is a will, there is a way. We all know it.

I salute Iowans pulling together the Iowa Way.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate is back for its second week in session, and we have more important work to do for the American people.

While our Nation fights the coronavirus pandemic, many of our fellow Americans have been taking new safety precautions but continue to show up to perform essential work. Because of delivery drivers and grocery clerks, families can keep food on their shelves. Because of utility workers, people hunkered down at home have power. Because of pharmacists manning their counters, Americans have been able to keep getting the medicines they need so this health crisis does not compound itself. Then, of course, there has been the selfless work of so many doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

Frankly, even the word “essential” does not do full justice to all the new American heroes we have met these past weeks.

In my home State of Kentucky, we met people like Leilani Krause. She is a 30-year nursing veteran who now oversees care at a senior living facility in Louisville. A few weeks ago, she herself contracted the coronavirus. Even as she stayed home to recover, she never stopped working. She still did all she could to coordinate her patients’ care over video calls. As soon as she

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



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