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Senate

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.

God of grace and mercy, in these divisive and polarized times, remind us that words have consequences. Help us to remember that we are accountable to You for every idle and careless word we speak.

Lord, teach our Senators to be obedient to Your commands, doing Your will as Your presence fills them with joy.

Today, surround our lawmakers with the shield of Your favor as they labor to keep our Nation strong. May they be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Manifest Your power through their labors so that this Nation will be exalted by righteousness.

We pray in Your mighty 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. CASSIDY). 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, in June of last year, I held an Oversight Committee hearing about foreign threats to taxpayer-funded research. My goal is to ensure that government

is doing its job to detect and deter these threats.

Since COVID, America's greatest minds have been working hard to develop a vaccine. Their research will impact the health of Americans and the world.

According to the FBI, China has targeted our COVID research to potentially steal our work product. Our government and private sector must guard and fight back against these malicious attacks by the Chinese Communist Government. The health of our people and the world depend on it.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING TYLER GERTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, first, my hometown of Louisville, KY, is mourning a young man who was shot and killed on Saturday at a protest in Jefferson Square Park.

Tyler Gerth was just 27 years old. He was a graduate of Trinity High School and the University of Kentucky. He was an up-and-coming photojournalist with a lot of talent.

He had been attending demonstrations, both to speak up for Breonna Taylor as well as to document history. Instead, he lost his life.

The investigation is still proceeding, but it appears the suspect in custody had been a frequent participant in these protests. He had already been arrested once. It seems he had gotten into some dispute and fired indiscriminately—the definition of “senseless violence.”

My sympathies and the sympathies of all Kentuckians go out to the Gerth family.

We are 30 days into these protests. Kentuckians and all Americans deserve

safe streets, safe communities, and peace.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, each time I have returned home over the last several weeks, I have had the opportunity to travel to different Kentucky hospitals to safely meet with healthcare professionals and thank them for their incredible work, as well as to listen to what is on their minds.

For more than 3 months now, our Nation's doctors, nurses, and health professionals have been fighting day and night to heal strangers and protect our Nation. I said in mid-March that our country was about to meet a lot of new heroes and that among them would be many people who wear scrubs, who rush toward the sick, and who wash their hands until they bleed.

Well, Americans and families from coast to coast have met just such heroes. The frontline professionals I am meeting are proud to do their work, and you had better believe they are appreciative that the sacrifices and smart precautions taken by the American people stopped health systems from being overrun in the springtime, allowed them to continue giving each patient the care they deserved, and bought our country time to plan a smart, safe, and gradual reopening.

So until we have a safe and effective vaccine, it will remain all of our jobs as American citizens to help our Nation settle into a middle ground between unsustainable emergency lockdowns and our ordinary life from before all this. In short, we cannot go back to April, and we cannot go right back to normal. We need new routines, new rhythms, and new strategies for this new middle ground in between.

It is the task of each family, each small business, each employer, and all levels of government to apply common sense and make this happen. To name

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



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