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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.

Eternal God, sovereign source of wisdom, hear our prayers. Listen as we lift our hearts to You. In our times of distress, answer us quickly.

Strengthen our lawmakers. Keep them restless until they find rest in You. Keep them dissatisfied until they find their satisfaction in You.

Lord, give them the wisdom to make wise choices that will glorify Your Name. Help them to keep their hearts and minds responsive to You, enabling them to help make a better Nation and world.

Remind them that You keep a protective eye on the godly so that they may be surrounded with the shield of Your divine favor. May our Senators, with faith, expect You to provide them with strength for each task.

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. BOOZMAN). 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.

BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS MEMORIAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have been working for decades to es-

tablish a memorial on the National Mall to those Black Revolutionary War patriots who fought for the founding of our country. We are close to achieving that goal, which is needed now more than ever.

The rationale for the memorial was summarized in congressional testimony in 1985 by its founder, Maurice Barboza:

The Patriots Memorial would serve an educational purpose in that it would remind Americans of the rich and meaningful contributions of Blacks to the birth of America. It would illuminate the past so that the present generation would better understand the Nation's history. In that sense, it would serve a retrospective purpose.

The Patriots Memorial would serve a prospective purpose by helping future generations of Americans understand what it is that binds us . . . as a [nation].

He then quoted then-Representative Nancy L. Johnson, the memorial's chief proponent in the House of Representatives. I quote her and will end with this quote:

An American cannot be identified by simple physical, ethnic, racial, or religious characteristics. Even our cultural heritage is best defined by its rich diversity. What ties us together as a nation is our commitment to individual freedom and maintaining the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution to assure the perpetuation of our freedom.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on Saturday evening, President Trump announced his nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

I had the opportunity to meet with Judge Barrett earlier today. I left our discussion even more convinced that President Trump has nominated exactly the kind of outstanding person whom the American people deserve to have on their highest Court.

Americans deserve brilliant judges with first-rate legal minds. Judge Barrett is that and then some. She attended Notre Dame Law School on full scholarship, graduated No. 1 in her class, and was executive editor of the Law Review.

She secured top-flight clerkships on the DC Circuit and the Supreme Court. After a few years in private practice, she returned to academia and built a national reputation as an award-winning professor and legal scholar. Judge Barrett is brilliant.

Americans also deserve judges who are committed to fairness and impartiality, to following the facts in every case. They deserve judges who understand that their job is to interpret the text of our laws and Constitution as they are written, not as the judge might personally wish they had been written differently.

Again, Judge Barrett passes with flying colors. Her 3 years of rulings on the Seventh Circuit are the record of a judge who sets out to do impartial justice under law—nothing more and nothing less. This nominee could not be more fully qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

Harvard Law Professor Noah Feldman is a fierce critic of President Trump. He was one of the House Democrats' star witnesses in their impeachment. He has known Judge Barrett professionally for more than 20 years. Despite some philosophical differences, he went out of his way this past weekend to write that she is "highly qualified to serve on the Supreme Court."

Here is what Professor Feldman wrote:

I know her to be a brilliant and conscientious lawyer who will analyze and decide

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



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