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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KELLY LOEFFLER, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, continue to be our strength and shield. Extend Your powerful hands to aid and deliver us.

Lord, inspire our Senators to believe that You continue to work for the good of those who love You. Let Your favor shine upon our lawmakers and sustain them with Your unfailing love.

Lord, release to them the blessings You have stored for those who honor You. You are our God, and our future is in Your hands.

Remind us all to seek first to understand before we strive to be understood.

We pray in Your Sacred 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, November 18, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KELLY LOEFFLER, a

Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LOEFFLER 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday something extremely rare happened here in this Chamber, something so unusual that only a few of us current Senators had ever seen it before—a rollcall vote that did not include the name of our President pro tempore and distinguished colleague from Iowa, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY.

Before yesterday, the senior Senator from Iowa had not missed a single vote

in this body since 1993, when he was in Iowa helping with historic flooding.

Since then, across 27 years and 8,927 votes, Senator GRASSLEY had shown up for every single one. It is by far the longest such streak in Senate history.

Senator GRASSLEY broke the previous record back in January of 2016 and obviously continued to extend it for almost 5 years.

This show of diligence and dedication is remarkable by any measure. But because of who Senator GRASSLEY is, it hasn't seemed remarkable at all. That incredible commitment to serving Iowans and working around the clock is just who our colleague is. That devotion is just his daily routine.

This is the Senator who manages to visit all 99 counties in Iowa every single year. We call it the "full GRASSLEY." Nearly 9,000 consecutive Senate votes must have seemed like a cakewalk by comparison.

But yesterday, our colleague's streak had to be temporarily placed on hold. On the advice of doctors, after close contact with someone who had later tested positive for the coronavirus, Senator GRASSLEY began self-quarantining yesterday morning.

Later in the day, our colleague let us know he had tested positive himself, underscoring why his good judgment to follow doctor's orders while awaiting his test result was the right decision.

So our colleague's historic run has been put on pause for the same reason that it was compiled in the first place—leadership, service to others, and a determination to set the right example.

On Monday, in his floor remarks, our colleague reminded all Americans of our duties in this moment:

Although promising vaccines for the coronavirus are on the horizon, it is more important than ever to stop the surge. . . . Wash your hands; limit your activity outside your household; social distance; wear a mask. We are going to get through this together, but we need everyone to do their part.

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



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