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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 2 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

The Senate met at 10 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.

Eternal Master, continue to be our shelter from life's storms and winds. You have provided us with Your presence and a reminder in Hebrews 13:5 that You will never leave or forsake us.

May this knowledge of Your watch-care sustain our Senators through this challenging season. Grant that their work will become more meaningful and effective as they cultivate a greater awareness of Your divine companionship.

We pray in Your loving 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MORTON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, each 52 weeks of the year, I do four

telephone news conferences with different groups of journalists. Most of the journalists are Iowans.

Each week, without failure, a familiar voice opens one of my press calls with a very thoughtful question on some matter of interest to folks in the heartland of America. For more than two decades at the Omaha World-Herald, Joe Morton has cut through the beltway noise to deliver real news to my constituents in Iowa and those in Nebraska.

Sadly, his tenure at the paper ended just before Thanksgiving. So I want to take this opportunity to thank Joe for his decades of keeping Americans informed about the work of their elected leaders. So I say: Best of luck to Joe, wherever the future takes him. And if anybody in this area is looking for a dedicated journalist, you ought to consider Joe.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the latest results of vaccine trials continue to suggest that our victory over the coronavirus is on the horizon. But here in Washington, the additional relief that would help families, workers, schools, and small businesses cross the finish line has been held up for months while Democratic leaders pursued an all-or-nothing approach.

When the Speaker of the House put forward the so-called Heroes Act back in May, multiple—multiple—House Democrats called it out for the political stunt that it clearly was. One Democrat said it was “not focused,” “rushed to a vote too fast,” and it “doesn’t help us accomplish [the] core mission” of helping struggling people.

Well, after several months with no progress, this same Democrat just said a few days ago that Senate Republicans’ proposal is “a bill we can pass” and “we should negotiate that to the finish.” Even Speaker PELOSI’s own Members think our Senate Republican bill is better than hers.

Well, let’s hope our Democratic colleagues will finally let us make law in all the enormously important areas where we do not even disagree.

In the meantime, the Senate will proceed with pressing business on the Executive Calendar. We will vote to confirm several more well-qualified nominees, beginning today with Taylor McNeel, the President’s choice to serve as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

I hope each of my colleagues will join me in supporting this impressive nominee and those who will follow.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, as the 116th Congress draws to a close, I once again face a task that is among my favorite and least favorite jobs at this particular time: bidding farewell to some of the people we proudly call colleagues and friends. But I will take

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



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