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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord of our pilgrim years, this day brings us its concerns and duties. As our Senators serve You and country, make them aware that their attitudes, words, and actions influence the structure of events around our Nation and world.

Lord, help these representatives of freedom to master themselves, that they may be the servants of others. In these times of strain, keep them from magnifying the slights and stings that are a part of the legislative process. Lord, give them pure hearts and a passion to serve the American people with integrity, truth, and honor.

And, Lord, we thank You for the life and legacy of Representative Sheila Jackson Lee.

We pray in Your strong 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 (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that the Chair has an announcement to make.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication regarding the resignation of Senator MENENDEZ.

Without objection, the letter will be printed in the RECORD and spread upon the Journal.

The letter follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2024.

Hon. PHIL MURPHY,
Governor of New Jersey, Office of the Governor,
Trenton, NJ.

DEAR GOVERNOR MURPHY: This is to advise you that I will be resigning from my office as the United States Senator from New Jersey, effective on the close of business on August 20, 2024.

This will give time for my staff to transition to other possibilities, transfer constituent files that are pending, allow for an orderly process to choose an interim replacement,

and for me to close out my Senate affairs.

While I fully intend to appeal the jury's verdict, all the way and including to the Supreme Court, I do not want the Senate to be involved in a lengthy process that will detract from its important work. Furthermore, I cannot preserve my rights upon a successful appeal, because factual matters before the ethics committee are not privileged. This is evidenced by the Committee's Staff Director and Chief Counsel being called to testify at my trial.

I am proud of the many accomplishments I've had on behalf of New Jersey, such as leading the federal effort for Superstorm Sandy recovery, preserving and funding Gateway and leading the federal efforts to help save our hospitals, State and municipalities, as well as New Jersey families through a once in a century COVID pandemic. These successes led you, Governor, to call me the "Indispensable Senator."

I thank the citizens of New Jersey for the extraordinary privilege of representing them in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ,
United States Senator, New Jersey.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—S. 4727 AND H.R. 8281

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4727) to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions.

A bill (H.R. 8281) to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

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



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