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Senate

The third day of January being the day prescribed by House Concurrent Resolution 446 for the meeting of the 1st session of the 107th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol at 12:01 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Your glory fills this hallowed Senate Chamber. We exalt You as Sovereign of our beloved Nation, and we are profoundly moved as we prepare to witness the divine encounter between You and the Senators-elect as they are sworn in. You have destined them for greatness as leaders of our Nation. They are here by Your choice and are accountable to You for how they lead this Nation under Your guidance. May the awesome vows they take and the immense responsibilities they assume bring them to true humility and to an unprecedented openness to You. Save them from the seduction of power, the addiction of popularity, and the aggrandizement of pride. Lord, keep their priorities straight: You and their families first; the good of the Nation second; consensus around truth third; party loyalties fourth; and personal success last of all.

In the 107th Senate, equally divided between Republicans and Democrats, grant them unity and effectiveness to work together to solve problems and grasp the opportunities for our Republic at this propitious time.

May they never forget that they are here to serve and not to be served. Consistently replenish the reserves of their strength and their courage so often drained by pressure and stress. Anoint their minds with Your Spirit and guide them as they seek to know and do Your will in the crucial issues before our Nation. We believe that this can be America's finest hour awaiting leaders imbued with Your power. God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Lord

Jesus Christ, You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader, Senator DASCHLE, is recognized. (Applause, Senators rising.)

A HISTORIC DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on behalf of the entire Senate, but especially this Senator, I welcome you back to the Senate. This is a historic day. Never before in the history of our Nation have we had a 50-50 Senate. I welcome and congratulate all 11 of our newly elected Senators and the family members and friends who are here to share this important day with them.

Years after he left the White House, Harry Truman wrote that the decade he spent in the Senate were the happiest years of his life. As our new colleagues begin their Senate careers, we hope that they, too, are beginning what will be the happiest years of their lives.

Several of our departing colleagues are also here with us today. To them we say thank you: Thank you for sharing with us and with our Nation some of the best years of your lives, thank you for the contributions you have made to our Nation during your years of public life, and thank you for the important contributions you will continue to make in the coming years. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with each of you.

The writer Thomas Wolfe said that America is a place where miracles not only happen, they happen all the time. Today we are experiencing one of those miracles: The peaceful transition of power from one Congress to the other. Some people say it will take another miracle for this Congress and administration to find a way to work together. As we begin this historic Congress, let us resolve that we will work in good faith with each other to do the people's business. That is our pledge from this side of the aisle. We know our colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel as we do.

Finally, on a personal note, it is a high honor to have the privilege of officially opening this Senate. When I first ran for Democratic leader 6 years ago, I thought if I won, I would be majority leader. I must confess that in 6 years as minority leader, I had a moment or two when I wondered if that day would ever arrive, but I assure you, I intend to savor every one of the next 17 days.

I know we are all looking forward to a bipartisan and a productive 107th Congress that will serve our country well. It is an honor to be a part of this Congress and to be able to work, once again, with my friend and my colleague, Senator LOTT.

I now ask unanimous consent that the Republican leader be permitted to speak.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered. The minority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

THANKING THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. LOTT. I appreciate the courtesy of the distinguished majority leader for this opportunity to speak.

I want to extend also the appreciation of the Senate and a grateful Nation to the Presiding Officer, the Vice President of the United States, for the service he has given to our country.

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



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