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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, who desires truth in our inward parts, strengthen us to live with integrity. Remind us that only the pure in heart will see You. Give us the discipline of introspection that strips the soul to its bare essence. Remove from us every mask of pretense and clothe us with Your righteousness.

Bless the Members of this legislative body. Teach them that truth is not merely academic but commands commitment. Grant that they will not only speak the truth but do it as well. Give them the courage to follow truth wherever it leads them. Empower them to advocate for right, even though unpopular. Make them champions for justice even when they must stand alone.

Lord, show each of us the path that leads to life. We pray this in Your righteous 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today we will resume debate on the motion to proceed to highway legislation. On Friday, a cloture motion was filed to the motion to proceed. Under the order, that cloture vote will occur at 11:45 tomorrow morning.

On behalf of the leadership, we hope that cloture will be invoked and that we will be able to begin consideration of the underlying bill. If the Senate can proceed to the highway bill tomorrow, Senators should expect another rollcall vote as the Senate considers amendments to the bill. Finally, I would like to announce the Senate will this week also consider any conference report that may become available.

NATIONAL KINDERGARTEN RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 119, submitted today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 119) designating April 21, 2005, as "National Kindergarten Recognition Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution that nationally recognizes the critical role the kindergarten year plays in the lives of our Nation's children. This resolution designates April 21, 2005 as National Kindergarten Recognition Day.

I have chosen this day because exactly 168 years ago the first kindergarten classroom was opened. In 1837, many believed that young children did not have the ability to focus or to develop cognitive and emotional skills. However, Friedrich Froebel, a German school teacher and private tutor, held a

different opinion and opened the first kindergarten classroom with the goal of shaping young children in a nurturing, educational, and protected environment.

Since then, Mr. Froebel's idea has been confirmed time and again by research—early years are learning years and kindergarten has a long history of enhancing children's cognitive, physical, and social development.

In the United States, kindergarten was first introduced to American communities in 1856. Now, close to four million children participate in kindergarten programs throughout the country. With attention now focused on increasing access to high-quality child care and pre-school programs, kindergarten is frequently overlooked.

While I support both of these laudable goals, I believe we cannot ignore the impact of the kindergarten year on the development of our Nation's children. And as policy makers, we must ensure that the kindergarten programs are using developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate curricula and have teachers who have specialized knowledge and skills to address their unique needs.

On a personal note, I fondly remember my kindergarten year with my teacher, Mrs. Espinoza, who encouraged my curiosity and creativity. As a parent, I recall taking my daughters to their first day of kindergarten—they came home excited to tell my wife and me what they learned and to showcase their art and science projects in our home. Kindergarten prepared my girls for their later school success and cultivated their life-long love of learning. I will be just as proud to see my daughter Melinda graduate from high school next month as I was the day of her first school graduation, her kindergarten graduation.

It is a pleasure to introduce this resolution that honors kindergarten. It is my hope that we can use this day now, and in the future, to call attention to

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



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