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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 29, 2007, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Eternal Lord God, Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Judge, strengthen our Senators for their work today. Provide them with the resiliency needed to handle challenges and pressures.

As You illuminate their path with the light of Your wisdom, infuse them with patience to persevere in their efforts to solve complex problems. In the storms and strains of leadership, may they not deplete their faith by majoring in minors, but instead trust You in the face of perplexities. Empower them to practice the golden rule of treating others the way they themselves desire to be treated. Radiate Your hope through their lives so they can face an uncertain future unafraid.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 26, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under an order entered last night, this morning we will immediately proceed to executive session to consider the Petraeus nomination. We will have 45 minutes of debate on that nomination. Senator LEVIN will control half of the time, and the other half of the time is under the control of the Republican leader or his designee. A vote on the confirmation will occur around 9:45 this morning. The vote on the nomination will be the only vote today.

As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes Monday, January 29. There will be no votes the following

Friday, a week from today, because the Republicans are having a retreat. We had ours earlier this year.

After we dispose of the nomination, we will return to H.R. 2. A lot of work was done yesterday. We voted on eight amendments.

### HONORING THE SENATE PAGES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before we get to the nomination, I want to say a couple things. Today is the graduation of the pages. There will be a ceremony at 10 o'clock honoring them in remembrance of their stay in the Capitol. The pages do invaluable work, and they have for many years. I depend upon them personally all the time. They do a lot of things that are unnoticed. In fact, almost everything they do goes almost unnoticed, but they are vitally important. They do many things, and over the decades we have come to rely upon them. I will speak later this morning at the graduation.

I want them to know, as well as the people watching today, how the pages are an integral part of this great institution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list reflecting the names of the Senate pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE PAGES—FALL 2006

Samuel Aronowitz, Garrett Bauman, Ashton Braun, Sari Carter, Abigail Chandler, Emily Davis, Katharine Gallogly, Lily George, Albert Gilbert IV, Ian Gray, Errick Gulley, Wilson Hansen, Courtney Hoffses,

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



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Jeremy Jacobson, Jessica Leuthold, Brooke Littlewood, Hannah McMeekin, Tori Miyagi, Cally Musland, Evelyn Poole, Emily Scarborough, Megan Schipp, Andrew Sennett, Grant Sui, Matthew Sutton, Kathryn Tull, Thomas Turner, Aunna Wilson.

#### LIFE-SAVING SURGERY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, prior to the nomination being taken up, let me say that I met General Petraeus in Iraq. At that time, the Republican leader was Senator Frist, who is a doctor, as we all know. General Petraeus said, "I want you to take this back to Dr. Frist and remind him that he saved my life." There was a training exercise going on with live ammunition, and somebody tripped and fell with live ammunition and General Petraeus was shot in the heart. Dr. Frist saved his life. The surgery was complicated and important.

So I wish Senator/Dr. Frist were here today to be able to express his appreciation for General Petraeus. I brought that medal back from Iraq to give to Leader Frist and he remembered the surgery. He saved the life of a great man.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS TO BE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David H. Petraeus to be General, United States Army.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 45 minutes of debate, with the time to be equally divided between the Senator from Michigan and the Republican leader or his designee.

The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to express my support for the nomination of LTG David H. Petraeus, U.S. Army, for appointment to the grade of General and assignment as Commander, Multinational Force—Iraq.

General Petraeus is presently serving as Commanding General, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the Army's leader development, professional military education, doctrine development, and lessons learned center. This is the place where the Army focuses its attention and its greatest professional capabilities on developing leaders, on military

education, on developing doctrine, and on learning the lessons from previous conflicts and challenges. As a matter of fact, the Army and Marine Corps' newly issued counterinsurgency manual was written under the command and guidance of General Petraeus at Leavenworth.

General Petraeus had two previous tours of duty in Iraq. The first was in 2003 when he was Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division, which was headquartered in Mosul, Iraq. General Petraeus' second tour in Iraq was from May 2004 to September 2005, when he was Commander, Multinational Security Transition Command—Iraq/Commander, NATO Training Mission—Iraq. In that capacity, he was responsible for the organizing, training, and equipping of Iraqi security forces.

General Petraeus' nomination to become the Commander of Multinational Forces—Iraq may be the single most important command in the Nation's defense establishment. The Nation will entrust him with the operational command and the welfare of over 130,000 American service members who are presently in Iraq, and of those who may be deployed to Baghdad as part of the President's planned increase in the middle of a protracted and bloody sectarian battle over the future of Iraq.

General Petraeus is professionally qualified for this command. He is widely recognized for the depth and breadth of his education, training, and operational experience. Noteworthy is his recent leadership of the new Army/Marine Corps manual. He testified that he believes the new military strategy for Iraq will work, and that the U.S. military forces under his command will be able to successfully accomplish their mission. We would not want a commander who did not believe in his mission and in the troops under his command. I pray he is correct.

I am obviously very concerned over a strategy that relies on the Iraqis meeting their commitments when they have repeatedly failed to do so in the past. I am obviously concerned about a strategy which is based on an increased military presence, when expert after expert, including military commander after military commander, has told us there is no military solution in Iraq; that the only way to end the violence in Iraq is for the Iraqis to reach a political settlement.

I am deeply concerned that this new strategy, I believe, is based on the wrong assumption—that there is a military solution to a sectarian war—when in fact the only solution to a sectarian conflict is for those groups to finally share power, share resources, including resolving the differences over autonomy that can end the violence. That is not just me saying that; that is also what the Iraqi President has said repeatedly—that it is the Iraqi political leaders' failure to reach a political settlement that is the cause of the continuing violence.

That being the case, I don't believe—and I don't think a majority of this

body believes—that an increase in troops going into the middle of the neighborhoods of Baghdad and staying there—"holding," as we say—is going to contribute to a successful conclusion of our presence in Iraq. It is not going to help the Iraqis succeed, to put our troops in their neighborhoods in the middle of the sectarian strife. We are going to add targets without adding to the essential need of the Iraqis to face a reality—to stare at their options, to look into an abyss—civil war or one nation? That has to be their choice. We cannot make it for them. We can make it easier or harder for them to do it.

The question is whether adding troops into that sectarian cauldron is going to contribute to their reaching a political solution or indeed will delay the day, as some of our commanders have said, when they will reach a political settlement. As a matter of fact, General Casey, the current commander, emphasized this point on January 2:

The longer we in the U.S. continue to bear the main burden of Iraq's security, it lengthens the time that the government of Iraq has to make the hard decisions about reconciliation and dealing with the militias.

General Abizaid said the following:

It's easy for the Iraqis to rely upon us to do the work.

Then he said this:

I believe that more American forces prevents the Iraqis from doing more, from taking responsibility for their own future.

That is what General Abizaid said in November.

So those are the expressions of our top military commanders who are there now. I believe they are right. But we need a commander in Iraq. General Casey is retiring. The question is not whether we agree with a particular strategy—and we will have an opportunity, hopefully next week, to vote on whether we agree with the increase of the American military presence as a way of pressuring the Iraqis or taking the heat off of their political leaders to reach a political solution. We will debate that issue.

But we need a commander. We have a qualified commander who has been nominated. There are other issues General Petraeus is going to have to face. General Keane, yesterday, pointed this out. We had a hearing in front of the Armed Services Committee yesterday. General Keane was there, along with former Secretary of Defense Perry and Ambassador Ross. General Keane pointed out yesterday that we have a significant problem which is going to face General Petraeus in Baghdad other than the violence, other than inserting American forces into neighborhoods and trying to hold them with American forces, with an American face, with an American uniform. That is a big enough problem. But the command arrangements are such that U.S. and Iraqi forces are going to be operating side by side in those neighborhoods under two separate chains of