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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, high and lifted up, hallowed be Your Name.

Lord, on yesterday we observed the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and thanked You for Your grace that continues to protect and sustain us. We give thanks at the remembrance of Your holy Name, for You are our hope for years to come. Today, empower our Senators to grow in grace and knowledge of You. With each passing day, may they find themselves more ethically and morally fit. Let Your word be a light for them and a lamp to illuminate the darkness. Lord, use them so effectively on Capitol Hill that justice will reign in our land and world.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 12, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS 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, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m. today. At that time, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 66. At 5:30, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66. At 5:50, Members will gather in the Rotunda and proceed to the 9/11 remembrance ceremony on the east front of the Capitol.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I remember Tuesday, September 11, very clearly.

Room 219 is where Senator Daschle held his Tuesday morning leadership meeting, which started at 9 o'clock. I was the first Senator in that room. John Breaux of Louisiana came in a short time later, and he said: Something is going on in New York. Flip on the TV. And we did, and there was a tower burning, and we were thinking, how could an airplane run into that tower?

We basically didn't pay any attention to that TV. We turned it off because there was a meeting there. We assembled for a meeting, Senator Daschle called it to order, and just a short time after the meeting was started, he got a note. Somebody came in and took him out, and he came in and said: We have

to vacate the building. There is an airplane headed toward the Capitol. So of course we all hurriedly left 219.

I remember that day so very clearly. Senator Nickles was my Republican counterpart, Senator Trent Lott was Senator Daschle's counterpart, and the four of us were taken off the west front of the Capitol to a secret location, where we spent most all the day. The Vice President was there and kept us informed as to what was going on. As we left 219, Mr. President, you could look out the window and see the smoke billowing out of the Pentagon.

It was a very difficult day for all of us. Yesterday, we observed the 10th anniversary of those attacks, but the truth is I remember that day as if it were only yesterday. That day, Osama bin Laden and his radical followers didn't just launch an attack on planes or buildings. They launched an attack on the American spirit. They launched an attack on our freedom and our democracy.

Rather than being crippled by the terrible acts of those madmen, rather than allowing uncertainty and fear to rule us, this Nation was again stronger than ever. And we really did it in one way, and that was by coming together. The darkness that day reminded us of our collective strength and power. It reminded us that there is nothing we cannot achieve together, as one Nation under God, indivisible, and, of course, with liberty and justice for all. So we pledged to bring justice to the perpetrators of those terrible acts, and we followed through on that pledge with an unfaltering campaign to dismantle al-Qaida and its supporters. This year, our brave Navy SEALs and others gave Osama bin Laden his due. We also pledged to rebuild, and I am very happy to see the proud towers of the new World Trade Center rising from the ashes of Ground Zero.

That doesn't mean the memory of that day is not painful, because it is, especially to those who lost loved ones.

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



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