



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

No. 154

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.  
Eternal Lord, thank You for the total access You have given us to approach Your throne in prayer.

Today, equip our Senators to do Your will, helping them to grasp the wonder of Your purposes. Lord, give them the ability, power, and resources to complete Your mission on Earth, thereby achieving the destiny You have for their lives. Help them to seek not what they can get from You but what Your power can enable them to do for You. Fill their hearts with Your unalterable, unconditional, and unending love.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 31, 2013.

To the Senate:

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ 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 my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Congressman WATT to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The time until noon will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. At noon, Senator-elect BOOKER will become a U.S. Senator. Following the swearing in, there will be a cloture vote on the Watt nomination.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, October 31 has always been a special day for me,

since it marks the admission of the great State of Nevada to the Union. There are always parades and celebrations at home, many of which I have sadly missed in recent years because of my responsibilities here.

But October 31 is special for another reason, and not just that it is Halloween. It is my brother's birthday—my youngest brother, 22 months younger than I. My brother Larry, who lives in Searchlight, celebrates another birthday today. It is my pleasure to wish both my brother and the Silver State of Nevada a very happy birthday.

Nevada Day is particularly special as it marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of our 150th anniversary of the Battle Born State's entrance into the Union.

For thousands of years Nevada was the home to Nevada American peoples. I have in my office across the hall a wonderful painting by a Nevadan which shows the first non-Indian to see the Las Vegas Valley. You can see there the Sunrise Mountain and glimpses of the oases that were there. There were a number of them in that valley. He was the first non-Indian to see the valley a long time ago. He is in the picture mounted on his beautiful horse with all his fancy regalia. But the fact is the picture doesn't begin to show what Rafael Rivera looked on that day, because he had been lost. He was with the Spanish Expedition and he was lost. He was there by accident. It is a wonderful picture, and we honor Rafael Rivera in Nevada. So it is a special day for us in Nevada.

On October 31, 1864, right in the middle of the Civil War, Nevada became

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



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