

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, December 15, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting president pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.J. Res. 59.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following message from the House, as follows:

Resolved, that the House recede from its amendment to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H.J. Res. 59) entitled, "A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes," and concur with a House amendment to the Senate amendment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion to concur.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I offer a cloture motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the Bipartisan Budget Act.

Harry Reid, Patty Murray, Max Baucus, Mark Begich, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Claire McCaskill, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

AMENDMENT NO. 2547

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, with an amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion. The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, with an amendment numbered 2547.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This joint resolution shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2548 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2547

Mr. REID. I have an amendment which is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2548 to the instructions to amendment No. 2547.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2549

Mr. REID. I move to refer the House message with respect to H.J. Res. 59 with instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message on H.J. Res. 59 to the Committee on the Budget with instructions to report back with the following amendment, No. 2549.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This joint resolution shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2550 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2549

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2550 to the instructions of the motion to refer of amendment No. 2549.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2551 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2550

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2551 to amendment No. 2550.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4 days" and insert "5 days".

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 3304.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following message from the House as follows:

Resolved, that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the title of the bill (H.R. 3304) entitled "An Act to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor," and be it further

Resolved, that the House concur in the first three Senate amendments to the text of the aforementioned bill, and be it further

Resolved, that the House concur in the fourth Senate amendment to the text of the aforementioned bill, with an amendment.

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3304.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3304.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the