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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 4 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, teach us to live in and for Your peace. As our Senators permit Your peace to govern their hearts, may they make decisions that honor You. Remind them that true spirituality is more than believing the right things or performing good deeds. Help them to see that true religion consists of having a relationship with You characterized by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Lord, help us this day to receive from You the gift of Your love, permitting You to fill our lives with joy. Inspired by Your Spirit, help us to refrain from evil and to have a deep longing to do Your will on Earth even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your mighty 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Democratic leader is recognized.

ANTI-MUSLIM RHETORIC AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at this great cemetery we call Arlington, there is a white headstone, which, like so many others, marks the final resting place of a courageous servicemember who gave his life in combat. The grave belongs to a man by the name of Kareem Khan. He was from New Jersey. He was only 20 years old. He was a Muslim.

Kareem's rank was that of a specialist in the Stryker Brigade of the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division. By all accounts, this young man was a terrific soldier. He had a Purple Heart and was awarded the Bronze Star and a medal for good conduct. Remember, he was barely 20 years of age. His career in the Army would have been much more significant, but he gave the ultimate, his life.

Here is what happened. This tragedy struck on August 6, 2007, as Kareem and three other soldiers were checking abandoned Iraqi houses for explosives. In one house they went into, there was a hidden bomb that exploded that killed all four of them. Like thousands of other soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kareem sacrificed everything for his country. He gave, as President Abraham Lincoln said, "the last full measure of devotion" for the United States.

But yesterday I watched on "Meet the Press" as a Republican candidate for President of the United States denigrated Kareem Khan and all Muslim Americans. Ben Carson questioned Muslim Americans' devotion to the United States. He questioned their integrity, and then Ben Carson unilaterally disqualified every Muslim in America from becoming the President of the United States.

Shame on Dr. Carson. Shame on any person that spews such hateful rhetoric. In America today, there are more than 3 million Muslims. They are part of the fabric of America. They teach in our schools, and they fight for our military. They serve in Congress. Congressmen KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota and ANDRÉ CARSON of Indiana, both Muslim, represent their districts in States with distinction.

I was proud to have both of these young men come and campaign for me throughout Nevada. Sadly, though, Dr. Carson's remarks are just another example of Republican candidates refusing to speak for 3 million Muslim Americans. We saw it last week with Donald Trump, as he refused to denounce bigotry at his own campaign rally. If these Republican candidates are incapable of going to bat for America's Muslim community, then they should not be running for President of the United States. I call upon every Republican to denounce Dr. Carson's disgusting remarks. That shameful intolerance and bigotry have no place in America today. Sadly, it seems to have a lasting place in the Republican Party.

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



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