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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RELIEF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Members and staff from both parties are continuing their work on appropriations and on the tax relief measure. As we all know, they have made a lot of progress in recent days. I want to thank all who have been involved in this effort as it continues. We will continue to consult and engage with colleagues as we make further progress on these last two significant items we must complete this year.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS AND TAX EXTENDERS NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want to underscore what the Republican leader has said: Everyone is working hard toward a bipartisan compromise in the omnibus and the so-called tax extenders legislation. Many of us in the Senate and the House and our staffs worked through the weekend and have made a lot of progress. We are not there yet.

Keeping the Federal Government open and funded is a congressional responsibility. I am confident we will fulfill this most basic constitutional duty. It is just a question of when we do it. I hope it is sooner rather than later.

PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, this past weekend President Obama and the United States took yet another historic step in addressing climate change. The landmark agreement forged in Paris by the United States and about 200 other nations will go far in protecting our planet for future generations.

Climate change poses one of the greatest threats our world has ever known. Here in the United States, we are beginning to see the devastation caused by all kinds of things—in the Western part of the United States, raging wildfires that we have never, ever seen before; in arid places like Nevada and in very, very non-arid places like in the mountains of California, Washington, and Oregon, rising sea levels; our military bases, coastal bases—those in Virginia and Florida—are feeling this impact, changing operation of the bases, with extreme weather and droughts. Now is the time to act to stem the tide of climate change.

I applaud President Obama for his work on this issue. His leadership has inspired the international community to address climate change and its catastrophic effects.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT T. HERBERT

Mr. REID. Madam President, on a note that I feel important to make for my staff and me, it is important to recognize the accomplishments of everyone here in Washington, here on Capitol Hill, here in the Senate; it is important to recognize the accomplishments of our staff. We have such remarkably dedicated people. I am so proud of my staff. They have worked this past week tirelessly.

I want to talk today, though, about just one of those who has worked for me. His name is BG Robert T. Herbert. He came to me as a congressional fellow two decades ago, and he never left. He was so good. This month marks the 40th year of General Herbert's service in the United States Armed Forces. In 1975, he joined the Army and embarked on a remarkable military career. He grew up in a military family and always dreamed of becoming a military aviator. He made that dream a reality, logging over 7,000 flight hours in all different kinds of aircraft—fixed-wing and rotary—spending time in virtually every aircraft within the United States Army inventory.

As with all pilots, as they get a little older and have different assignments, they just can't stand the fact that they can't fly as they used to. So he no longer spends his days in the cockpit when he does his duties at the National Guard. He is Special Assistant to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau for National Security Policy here in Washington. He previously worked as Nevada's assistant adjunct general.

I am grateful for Bob's service to our Nation. A 40-year military career is an incredible achievement. But I am also thankful for his work here in the Senate. He has been a tireless worker for the people of Nevada and for the country.

Congratulations to BG Robert T. Herbert on this important milestone, and I look forward to his many other accomplishments as Bob's illustrious career continues.

Would the Presiding Officer announce to the Senate what we are going to be doing the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DANIEL CAPUANO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak about the loss of one of the bravest men in the Chicago Fire Department, Daniel Capuano.

Daniel went to work this morning—just as he has done every day for the past 15 years—ready to fight fires and risk his life to save the lives of others. Not many people can say they wake up each day ready to make that sacrifice, but this morning, Daniel Capuano did just that.

At 2:40 a.m. today, Daniel Capuano and his fellow firefighters were contacted about a warehouse fire in the 9200 block of South Baltimore Avenue on the South Side of Chicago. Daniel and the other firefighters were immediately dispatched to the scene. The warehouse was undergoing construction, and because of that, there were reports of holes in the floors. When they got there, they saw billowing smoke coming out of the vacant three-story warehouse. Firefighter Capuano and his team moved cautiously through the second floor of the warehouse in search of the cause of the fire, but the heavy, thick smoke made it nearly impossible to see, causing Capuano to fall through an elevator shaft from the second floor of the building to the basement. His fellow firefighters were able to find him quickly and get him on an ambulance and to a nearby hospital. Sadly, it was too late. By the time he arrived at the hospital, he was already in serious condition. At 4:25 a.m. this morning, Daniel Capuano was pronounced dead from trauma.

It is times like these when we are reminded of just how dangerous the job these men and women face every day really is. Daniel Capuano spent his entire career putting the safety of his community before his own. For 15 years he served the Chicago Fire Department fighting and eliminating fires while pulling others to safety. Before that, he was a firefighter in Evergreen Park, a Chicago suburb.

Daniel Capuano is a true hero who made the ultimate sacrifice to make the residents of his community and neighborhood safe. Daniel's death is a devastating loss and serves as a reminder of the risk our firefighters and