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Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BERNARD SANDERS, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Lord of life, as Senators deal with today's challenges, purge their hearts of anything that does not honor You. Remove from them the things that divide, uniting them in the common tasks of doing what is best for our Nation and world. When they are tempted to doubt, steady their faith. When they feel despair, infuse them with Your hope. When they do not know what to do, open their minds to a wisdom that can change and shape our times according to Your plan. Lord, empower them to trust You more fully, live for You more completely, and serve You more willingly. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BERNARD SANDERS 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. INOUYE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2012.

To the Senate:

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

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SANDERS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 419, S. 3254, the Defense Department authorization bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (S. 3254) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the next hour will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans the second half.

The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the Sportsmen's bill is 4 o'clock today. We are trying to work on an agreement with the Republicans to vote on the Sportsmen's bill and cyber security and have a path forward on the Defense authorization bill. We hope to have an agreement in the next couple of hours.

SENATOR GRASSLEY'S 11,000TH VOTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague CHUCK GRASSLEY on the occasion of his 11,000th vote. Senator GRASSLEY has cast more than 6,400 consecutive votes—more consecutive votes than any Senators currently holding office in the Senate. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment that speaks to his dedication.

I know he considers it a sign of respect for his constituents and for the Senate. Senator GRASSLEY is a farmer, assembly line worker, who served in the Iowa State legislature and was elected to the House of Representatives here in Washington in 1974 and to the Senate in 1980.

Senator GRASSLEY learned the value of hard work early on the family farm. Today his son runs that farm but CHUCK still dedicates himself to working on the farm on many occasions, and then after that comes back to Washington.

As ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and past chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY also takes his constitutional oversight responsibilities very seriously. He has long worked to make the judicial branch more open and transparent. To that end he has sponsored a bill to allow cameras in the courtroom and proposed creating the post of inspector general. He has been one of the most ardent protectors of whistleblowers. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, Senator GRASSLEY brings real-world experience from his Iowa farm to be an advocate for American farmers in Washington.

Even when Senator GRASSLEY and I do not agree on issues, I believe we always have the greatest respect for each other. I know I do for him and I feel confident he does of me. He is a principled, dedicated lawmaker and a genuine person.

One little side note. I came to the Senate and was elected in 1986, so early in 1987 I gave my maiden speech here in the Senate. It was on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, something I tried to accomplish in the House but, frankly, I did not get to first base. That is an understatement. They paid no attention to

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

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