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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1998

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer this morning will be given by the Reverend Neal Jones, the former pastor for Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Virginia. We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Neal Jones, Falls Church, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Great God and Controller of the uncharted seas of tomorrow, grant us discernible signals for our voyage.

Save us from floods of arrogance that drown our better judgement. Raise us above the undertows of cowardice that postpone justice. Remove us from the cross currents of double motivations that destroy character. Scrape away the accumulating barnacles from our long season in strange waters. Guide us between the glaciers that threaten an icy grave. Keep us from the fickle waves of indecision causing stagnation. Rescue us from pirate patrols and their carefully planted mines that destroy our passengers.

Above all else, Great God and Controller of our uncharted seas of tomorrow, we gladly trust You. You are the Way where we sail. You are the truth by which we navigate. You are the Life that makes the voyage joyful, purposeful, and helpful. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Indiana is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, we were privileged to be led in our opening prayer today by Reverend Dr. Neal Jones, a fancy title for some of us who know him as "Pastor Jones." I think "pastor" is probably the most affectionate and endearing term that anyone can come up with in terms of someone that they feel close to and have had a relationship with. People know the Reverend Dr. Neal Jones as Pastor Jones because of his dedicated service as pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia, for many, many years. He has been pastor to me and my family, the majority leader and his family, the President pro tempore and his family, and others of our colleagues in both the Senate and the House.

"Pastor" is the appropriate word because of his love and his affection and his endearment that he has displayed toward us and our families. And we feel exactly the same way about him.

Dr. Jones is a graduate of Texas Christian University, and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, but the primary focus of his ministry has been with Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia going back as far as March of 1969.

He is currently retired. It is a loss to the people who have attended faithfully over the years Columbia Baptist Church.

But, again, to his dear wife, Betty, and his family and his grandchildren, and the many organizations that he has been associated with and continues to be associated with—I will just name

two of those: He is a member of the University Board of Regents at Baylor University in Texas, and has been on the Executive Board of Prison Fellowship from its very inception.

Reverend Jones has a gift of prayer, and, as we heard this morning, an eloquence in prayer. I hope someday, if he has not already, that he will publish those prayers because they are exceptional.

And he also has the gift of remembering those with whom he has come in contact with. Every once in a while I will receive a note with a prayer attached to it personalized to me and to our family, "Just thinking of you, wanted to share this thought, your friend, Neal." I think that speaks as much about Neal Jones as anything else that I can say.

I think the Senate is privileged and the Nation is privileged this morning to have had him lead us in our opening prayer.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Under the previous order, leader time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I, too, would like to join in extending my

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



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