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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God eternal, we are but transient creatures longing for permanence in the midst of mortality. Yet You made yourself known to us in countless ways. Give us faith to see beyond this life and embrace the hope of immortality.

Make each of us instruments of Your great providence as we strive to bring peace to those in conflict. So move that the work done by our Nation's lawmakers brings the breaking of arrows, the shattering of spears, and the cessation of conflict. God of the ages, slow our hectic lives so we may hear Your still small voice.

And now Lord, as we prepare to honor Presidents Washington and Lincoln this coming weekend, we give You thanks for blessing this Nation with such faithful leaders. President Washington's sacrificial service in a time of great need and President Lincoln's courage in facing tragic obstacles reflect the wisdom that comes from an unwavering faith in Your sovereign grace. God bless this land. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON 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. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 18, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR, is designated to read Washington's Farewell Address.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I am honored today to take part in the Senate's annual tradition of reading George Washington's farewell address to the Nation. I am truly humbled to add my name to the list of Senators who have been privileged to read the address.

The address, delivered by Washington in the form of an open letter to his fel-

low countrymen, appeared in newspapers across our young Nation over 200 years ago. Then, as now, we struggle sometimes with Washington's words. We debate meaning and we debate intent, but perhaps our discourse is what Washington himself intended. Our independence and our freedom is, in fact, the source of our strength.

I believe that the address is President Washington's call for Americans to look beyond divisions and to gain strength in our unity of purpose.

Washington's Farewell Address to the people of the United States of America:

To the people of the United States:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect

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



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