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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

The Senate met at 11:04 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God our Father, we turn our hearts and minds toward You. Search us deeply and cleanse us from all insincerity. Give us a desire to do Your will, even when it means bearing a cross.

Bless our Senators. Strengthen them to resist temptation and to walk the narrow road that leads to life. Give them compassion for others that can be seen in courageous actions that liberate.

Help us all to strive to be faithful in order that one day, we can hear You say, "Well done."

We pray in the Name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GRAHAM thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we return to session today for a period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation and to make remarks. We will have a relatively short session today, I expect. When we finish, we will adjourn until Monday.

On Monday, we will begin debate on the constitutional amendment relating to antflag desecration. I will have more to say about the schedule for next week later in the day.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I congratulate the two managers of the Defense authorization bill who did a superb job over the last several weeks in overseeing the debate and marching through the amendments on this important legislation. We had some strong disagreements on both sides of the aisle, sometimes within each side of the aisle. We addressed a number of contentious issues. At the end of the day, after debate and amendment, we had overwhelming support for the bill itself.

The debate followed a healthy and productive debate on immigration and border security for the 2 to 3 weeks prior to that, a total of a month prior. We have seen in recent weeks that the Senate is working quite well in terms of having people's views expressed, debated in a dignified way, getting points across, helping become better educated ourselves and educating the American people in the process.

I thank Senators WARNER and LEVIN for their tremendous work in navigating through the challenging issues and bringing Defense authorization to a close in a cooperative manner.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

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



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