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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BARACK OBAMA, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain, Pastor Linda Arey, New Harvest Church, Waynesboro, VA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father God, we acknowledge You as the Ruler of all nations and we pray for peace and justice in our world.

We pray First Timothy 2:1-4:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings; and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Father, I pray for our President and First Lady. Bless them this day and give them the wisdom to do all that is set before them.

I pray for the Senate, to have Your wisdom to accomplish all that is set before them. Bless them for their commitment to serve the people of our Nation and to carry out their duties.

Father, in Jesus' name I call this United States of America blessed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BARACK OBAMA 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. OBAMA 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.

PRESIDENTIAL VETOES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator ENSIGN and I hold, every Thursday, in a room right off the Chamber, in the Johnson Room, the LBJ Room, a breakfast where we have Nevadans come and visit with us.

Today it was a larger crowd than we usually have because school is out. Even if it were not a larger crowd, there were a lot more kids there.

One of the young people who was there is Anna Ressel. Anna is from Sparks, NV. She came to see me the day before yesterday with some other Nevada girls because she is a diabetic. She was there today with all of her family—a wonderful child. She is 13 years old.

During her lifetime, this young lady has had 20,000 finger pokes, 35,000 injec-

tions. She is a diabetic, I repeat. Think about that. When we go to the doctor and they draw blood or give you a shot, we always wince because it hurts. We try to have a backbone of steel, but it hurts. This young lady has had 20,000 finger pokes to determine what her blood sugar levels are and 35,000 injections.

That is why it is so sad, when we see this young girl with her family, that that hope has been taken away. She came here with these other girls to talk about the need for stem cell research.

The President, yesterday, in his message to the Senate, snuffed out hope for tens of thousands of people in Nevada, people such as Anna and many others suffering from Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injuries—millions of Americans. Their hope was snuffed out with the President vetoing this bill. It is too bad.

I also think it is so important that I mention to everyone, as I said on the floor—I get up every morning and do my exercises and listen to public radio. I get the news at the top of the hour and the middle of the hour. I try to be up to date on what is going on in the world today that is not in the morning newspaper.

It was not on the morning news this morning, the tragic, sad news from Iraq, that 14 more of our soldiers were killed in the last 36 hours—14. I don't know if any are from Nevada.

Meanwhile, we see further evidence that the Iraqi leaders are frozen in an increasingly dangerous stalemate. The Vice President resigned. The fact is, our troops are caught in the middle of this civil war in faraway Iraq, trying to give Iraqi leaders the space and security to bring their country together. We have 160,000 to 180,000 troops there now, protecting the Shias, protecting the Sunnis, protecting the Kurds. They are all after our soldiers.

Unfortunately, Iraq's leaders continue to drag their feet, while our

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



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