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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. David D. Swanson, First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, FL.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we bow before You as we open these proceedings asking for the provision of Your wisdom and counsel. You have blessed us in marvelous ways, and we thank You for this great country—for the privilege of living and serving in this land. As a result, may we be mindful that "to those who have been given much, much will be required."

I also ask Your blessings today upon these men and women who serve as our Senators. It is lonely and often windy where they live. The expectations are impossible to meet, problems too vast to completely overcome, requests for action endless, and opportunities to be loved far too infrequent. No one knows what it is like to walk the road which they walk. No one knows the personal sacrifices they have made. No one knows the burdens they carry. But You do, and I ask that You might come up underneath them on that road and carry those burdens with them. Let them know of Your enduring presence and the counsel of Your great wisdom. May these men and women—those viewed by many as the powerful of the Earth—yield to Your great power that they might serve humbly, faithfully, and effectively on behalf of the people of this Nation.

Bless us, we pray, in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KEN SALAZAR 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 8, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to turn to the distinguished Senator from Florida for just a minute. I ask unanimous consent that we not go to morning business until he completes his brief statement and I am recognized again.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I turn to the Senator from Florida, I

wish to say that I sit through these prayers every day. It is really good for me to do that. But the words that were uttered by Dr. Swanson this morning, as Johnny Cash says in that song, "you've been reading my mail" were really important to me, and I am sure every Senator listening to this prayer felt the same way I did. I am going to get a copy of that prayer and read it once in a while because he was talking about me when he gave that prayer and talking about Senator NELSON, Senator BAUCUS, and all of us.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, he was talking about all of us in lifting the burdens and the burdens we gladly bear. The pastor's prayer reminded us of our need to have a servant heart, to serve the Nation.

Dr. Swanson is very much a part of our Orlando community. He is my personal pastor, as Grace and I are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. He is illustrative of the great pastoral leadership we have had in Orlando.

A few weeks ago, we had my 30-year friend, the just-retired pastor of the First Baptist Church of Orlando, Jim Henry, here. He is one of the great leaders of the faith. We have had in this Chamber Rev. Sam Green of St. Mark A.M.E. Church, now Bishop Sam Green in a district in South Africa, another one of the great pastors of our region in central Florida. We will be having another one of the great pastors, Rev. Willie Barnes of the Baptist Church in Eatonville, FL, another one of my personal friends and one of the great pastors we have been blessed to have in our region. What they talk about, as Dr. Swanson said so eloquently in his prayer, is the unity of what was taught in the ancient Scriptures and the New Testament; that is, servant leadership. That was so well expressed in the life of Jesus, who was a role model as a leader but as a servant leader.

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



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