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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, March 13, 2008)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. WEBB).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Elliot Foss, the national chaplain of the American Legion.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, bless America. You have shined Your face on us before, and we need Your guidance and protection, now more than ever.

God, bless America. Bless our President, our leaders in Congress, and our State and local leaders, as they all seek to serve those who have entrusted them to their offices. May Your light shine in their hearts always.

God, bless America. And for these men and women here today, I ask You to give them wisdom, courage, and hope for the future. Give them Your grace and Your peace; that as they seek Your face, You would impart to them Your wisdom, Your courage, and Your hope, that they will do Your will at all times.

Please, God, bless America and our citizens who seek to live in peace and harmony with one another in this country of ''One nation under God.'' Encourage them to ''Do unto others'' that we all might be prosperous in all we do, by helping those in need and less fortunate.

May Your love surround our citizen soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, Coast Guard personnel, and their families each and every day throughout this world, and please, God, bless America and bring our troops safely home when all is done. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if he chooses to make remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for our normal weekly caucus luncheons. Following the recess, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3221, which is the housing bill. At approximately 2:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to this legislation. The last 15 minutes is set aside for the two leaders, and if we choose to use that time, that is equally divided. The vote will occur, as I have indicated, at 2:30 this afternoon.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize the Reverend Elliot Foss, who is our guest Chaplain this morning. Reverend Foss is quite a unique individual. He is currently the national chaplain of the American Legion. He was appointed by Commander Martin Conaster on August 30, 2007, to that position.

Reverend Foss is a retired U.S. Navy command master chief and hospital corpsman, having served in the Submarine Service. He served in the Navy during Vietnam and through the Persian Gulf war.

He attended Candler Seminary and School of Ministry at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He served as a pastor in the States of Maine, Virginia, Connecticut, Florida, and Georgia.

He currently resides in Kingsland, GA, with his wife Arlene. He is an ordained Southern Baptist minister. He is a member of American Legion Post 317 in the coastal area of Georgia, where he serves as post commander. He also has served as the Eighth District vice commander and as Post 9 commander in Brunswick, GA. He has served as the American Legion Department of Georgia chaplain for the past 7 years.

I think in this difficult time our country is faced with right now, where we all are very cognizant of the fact that we have a number of men and women in harm's way as well as a number of veterans who have served our country so valiantly in the past, it is

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

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