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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, who orders our steps and directs our paths, use our Senators today as instruments of Your will. Commission them to meet the perils and possibilities of our times, humbly and courageously. Lord, deliver them from insulating privilege that obscures humanity's needs, as You keep them from pride that scorns to do the servant's task. Make them Your agents to restore those who are broken in body and spirit. Empower them to be messengers of hope to those from whom hope is gone. Use our lawmakers to bring a new day of justice and peace to our Nation and world.

We pray in Your omnipotent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR 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, May 15, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader time, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act, H.R. 2419. There will be 90 minutes for debate on the conference report.

I might add in passing that Senators worked until about 11 o'clock last night on this important piece of legislation.

The Senate will vote on any motions relating to the conference report prior to a vote on its adoption. Senators should expect the first vote of the day to begin about 11:05, 11:10, depending on how long Senator MCCONNELL and I take. Upon disposition of the conference report, we expect to begin the process of appointing conferees to the budget resolution conference. Senators should expect rollcall votes to occur throughout the day.

I would note that there is a 1 p.m. filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the collective bargaining legislation, H.R. 980.

As I mentioned last night, when we finish adoption of the conference report, it will be up to Senators JUDD GREGG and KENT CONRAD to determine how many motions will be filed to instruct conferees. Other Senators can do that, of course, but it would have to be through the two managers. There is a

total of 10 hours on that. We would hope that time could be shortened significantly. We are going to finish that tonight, the appointing of conferees.

I have spoken to Senator DORGAN. We have the media cross-ownership matter that he has proceeded forward with under a statute Senator Nickles and I passed in the early 1990s. The statutory time limit on that is 10 hours. Senator DORGAN told me last night that he would take 1 hour. I would hope others wouldn't take much more time than that. That being the case, there is an opportunity to finish that tonight. I hope that is the case. Otherwise, we would finish that tomorrow.

Tomorrow, we have scheduled now a cloture vote on the collective bargaining matter we worked on this week. As I indicated last night, we are going to see if Senators KENNEDY and GREGG can work something out on that, along with the comanager of the bill, Senator ENZI. If they can give us some way to proceed to complete that, maybe we can work out a unanimous consent that we wouldn't have to do the cloture vote. I think the ability to do that is somewhat slim, but I never give up hope. It might be possible.

The point being, we have a lot to do. We are going to work late tonight unless there is some agreement that shortens the time significantly on the appointing of conferees and the cross-ownership issue dealing with the Dorgan proposal. I think that is what we have ahead of us.

The reason I am making sure we complete everything this week, the House is going to pass, sometime today, the supplemental. We have no votes on Monday. I would hope we could start maybe on that issue on Monday because we would like to do some other things next week. But that is a big issue to deal with. The House can jam things through, as we all know, because they have different rules than we do. But over here we have to follow our rules, which are not the

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House rules. So one of the first things we will do when we see what the House finally does, because we don't know yet, is I will sit down and talk to the Republican leader and find out if there is a way we can proceed to allow people to do what they think is necessary on the bill but at least make it so it is more understandable and we are not here this coming Friday, a week from tomorrow, 8, 9 o'clock at night, still trying to figure out what we are going to do on that. As contentious as this matter is, I would like to have an orderly process on which to move forward.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I think most of the items the majority leader mentioned we should be able to move to completion on. There remains a good deal of concern on this side about the way in which procedurally we are going to go forward on supplemental appropriations. But having said that, it certainly is an important piece of legislation. I am sure we will get to the end of the process at some point next week.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL JOSEPH H. CANTRELL IV

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the undaunted courage and fighting spirit of one soldier from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. CPL Joseph H. Cantrell IV was lost on April 4, 2007, in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. The Westwood, KY, native was 23 years old.

For his valor in uniform, Corporal Cantrell received several awards, medals and decorations, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart.

After Corporal Cantrell was gone, his mother, Sondra Adkins, met a woman at a hospital who said that her nephew was also a soldier. He had been wounded and then saved by an Army medic, and now was going to name his son after the medic who had treated him. That medic's name was Joey.

"My son saved her nephew's life," Sondra reveals.

Those who knew Joey growing up in Boyd County, in northeastern Kentucky, were not surprised at the impact the young man could have on others. Sondra remembers when an excited Joey called her to say "there is nothing more beautiful than bringing a baby into the world."

"By chance, he got to deliver a baby during his Army training," Sondra says. "He was high on life that day. That wasn't a planned event. He called and said, 'You're not going to believe this . . . I got to deliver a baby.'"

Joey was an Army medic who saved lives in Iraq. He brought the same enthusiasm to his job that he once had as a child who would dress up in camouflage and green paint on Halloween and go out as "G.I. Joey."

At Westwood's Fairview High School, Joey was a member of Who's Who and the National Honors Society, and played football and ran track.

"I didn't want him to run track because he was so short," Sondra recalls. "The hurdles came up to his hipbone. But he could clear those hurdles and come out . . . as the best hurdle jumper. . . . Track was his calling. He could flat-out fly."

Joey's dad, Joe Cantrell, remembers eating lunch with his son just before a big hurdle race. "We went to eat and Joey told me, 'Dad, I'm going to win this because they don't think I can,'" Joe says. "When the gun went off, all they saw was his back end. When he'd get his confidence built up, he was fun to watch in sports."

"Joey had the perfect life in high school," Sondra adds. "Dating the head cheerleader, excelling on the football team. He was very outgoing."

Joey graduated from Fairview in 2002, and attended Ashland Community College. One day he came to his mother and said, "Mom, I have something to prove."

"I said, 'You don't have anything to prove to anybody,'" Sondra says. "He replied, 'You're right. I have to prove this to myself.' I was prepared for my son to move out, but I wasn't prepared for my son to live halfway around the world."

Joey enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 31, 2005. "He joined the Army to see how high he could fly without someone to catch him," his father, Joe, says. "There was no quit in him."

Joey was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, TX, and in October 2006, he was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

One day he called his mom from Iraq after saving a fellow soldier's life. "Mama, the only thing the soldier was worried about was if he would be able to walk again and continue serving his country," he told her.

"He loved his job," Sondra adds. "They're out there to do a job just like all of us—but theirs is the most dangerous of all."

Joe says that Joey eventually wanted to study sports medicine. Sondra recalls Joey wanting to be a doctor, perhaps an obstetrician.

On the day of Joey's funeral, students from the local schools lined up alongside the road holding flags to watch the procession drive by. "I couldn't believe the turnout from the

community," Sondra says. The city of Westwood dedicated Main Street in Joey's memory.

Mr. President, our prayers are with the Cantrell family after their tragic loss. We are thinking of Joey's mother, Sondra Adkins; his father, Joe Cantrell; his brother, Chase Adkins; his stepfather, Bryan Adkins; his grandmother, Pehylien Mullins; his aunts Anita Hollo, Jeannie Mullins, Elisa Lambert, and Janie Hill; and other beloved family members and friends. Joey was predeceased by his grandfather, Claude Mullins.

At Boyd County High School in Ashland, a teacher named Mary Beth Leadingham Patton started "Project Joey." Mary Beth is an old friend of Joey's mother, Sondra.

"She was one of the first visitors to come to my house to see my Joey when he was born," Sondra recalls.

Project Joey is simple: When Mary Beth's kids pass someone in uniform, they stop and say thank you.

"Those young men and those young women—we truly do not know what they've had to see in their lives," Sondra says. "We should always be thankful that we have someone who's gone that extra mile for all of us."

Sondra, of course, does know some of what our men and women in uniform have seen, as she watched her little Joey grow into a man, a patriot and a dedicated soldier.

And although he is gone, it is not too late to thank CPL Joseph H. Cantrell IV. This United States Senate is honored to pay tribute to his life of service, and we pause with reverence for the sacrifice he made on his Nation's behalf.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2419, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2419, a bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.