



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

No. 51

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Most holy and gracious God, who turns the shadow of night into morning, thank You for the gift of this new day. As we work for You and country, let the light of Your countenance shine upon our lawmakers, calming their troubled thoughts and guiding their feet in the way of peace. Lord, give them the ability to see the small things that need their attention and the courage to see the things that are not and ask "Why not"? Turn their minds and hands to the tasks that bring glory to Your Name, and may their words and thoughts be acceptable to You. May the knowledge of Your blessings to our Nation awaken in them a deeper commitment to You.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL 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, March 25, 2009.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL 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 leaders' remarks, we are going to have morning business for up to 1 hour. The first 30 minutes will be controlled by the Democrats and the Republicans will control the second 30 minutes. During that time, Senators will be allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Following morning business, we will proceed to, once again, take up the National Service Reauthorization Act, H.R. 1388. At noon, we are going to vote on the confirmation of David Kris to be Assistant Attorney General. We have a special Democratic caucus from 12:30 to 2 p.m. today. The President will be at that caucus. After the caucus, the Senate will resume consideration of the national service legislation. Rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the afternoon. We are not going to be in recess from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. 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.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will be in recess from 12:30 until 2 p.m. I said

that we would not be, but there is already an order to that effect. I wanted to explain that.

### RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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

### AMBASSADOR RYAN CROCKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is appropriate for us to honor, from time to time, outstanding public servants whose work on behalf of the American people might otherwise be overlooked.

Next week, Ambassador Ryan Crocker will return home to Washington State after a remarkable career promoting America's interests abroad. In a career spanning nearly 40 years, Ambassador Crocker has represented the United States in some of the most challenging environments. So it is fitting that we pause to honor him for a job well done.

A graduate of Whitman College in Washington, Ryan Crocker joined the Foreign Service in 1971, beginning a career that would take him to diplomatic posts in Iran, Qatar, Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq. Ambassador Crocker served as Ambassador to Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, and, most recently, Iraq. Clearly, he has not shied away from a challenge. And he has excelled at every one.

Earlier in his career, Ambassador Crocker served in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of 1982 and the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in 1983—experiences from which he would later draw important lessons while serving in Iraq, particularly in 2007, when Shia militias and Sunni insurgents fed sectarian tensions and tribal feuds.

Ambassador Crocker's career spanned the entire Middle East and recent U.S. history. But he will undoubtedly be remembered most for his service in Iraq.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3739