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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Father of all mercy, let Your presence be felt today by all on Capitol Hill and beyond. May the awareness of Your nearness make a positive impact upon our thoughts, speech, and actions. As we learn to cultivate companionship with You, may it improve our decisions, our relationships, and our aspirations. Teach us Your ways and lead us in Your truth.

Lord, as millions react to the death of Osama bin Laden, may we remember Your mercies to our Nation and our accountability to You. Bless the many who have sacrificed so much to keep us free. We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS 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 any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m. today. Following that morning business, the Senate will be in executive session to consider Calendar No. 74, Roy Bale Dalton, of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Calendar No. 76, Kevin Hunter Sharp, of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

There will be an hour of debate, equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY or their designees.

At 5:30 this evening, there will be a rollcall vote on the Sharp nomination. The Dalton nomination will be confirmed by unanimous consent.

OSAMA BIN LADEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, late last night, we learned the news we have been longing to hear since the worst morning in our memory: an American operation brought Osama bin Laden to justice. This was an American mission ordered by President Obama and accomplished by America's brave and brilliant military and intelligence professionals.

Last night's news stunned the world. But this operation's success should surprise no one. America's special forces

and intelligence operatives are the best—the best trained, the best equipped, the best led.

Every day of every year they risk their lives for our sake, for our safety. They are the most professional and proficient forces on the planet. Yesterday, they brought down the most wanted mass murderer on Earth. Their success is the most significant victory yet in the fight against al-Qaida and terrorism and sends a strong and unmistakable message to terrorists who threaten our country, our people, and our interests.

This success is a direct result of President Obama's leadership and the national security priorities he outlined when he took office and the green light he gave our forces this weekend. President Obama insisted that we refocus on Afghanistan and Pakistan as the central battlefields in our fight against terrorism.

Those tremendous military, diplomatic, intelligence, and economic efforts are the reason we woke up this morning in a world that is no longer home to Osama bin Laden. But the end of his life is not the end of the fight. Yesterday's operation is indeed a measure of justice, but it is only one measure of justice. Absolutely it is a definitive victory, but it does not define absolute victory. America welcomes the success of our fellow citizens' extraordinary mission.

Even as we breathe a sigh of relief, though, we are not relieved of our duty to be vigilant, to be persistent and defeat our enemy and to make our Nation stronger. The leader of al-Qaida is gone, but his organization is not. We know our enemy is widespread and motivated. The truth is, it may be more motivated today than it was yesterday.

Our troops continue to fight. Our intelligence professionals continue to work. Their families continue to sacrifice. We continue to support all of them and support each other.

We also pause today to, once again, lend a shoulder to those whose grief

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



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never ends, not with time, not with bin Laden's demise, not ever. This significant measure of justice is but a small measure of comfort for those who lost loved ones in America and around the world, in New York and Virginia and Pennsylvania, aboard the USS *Cole*, and in American Embassies in Africa, on trains in London and Madrid, and in so many other places.

Bin Laden's death does not bring back the thousands of innocent people his thugs killed or make whole families who will be forever incomplete. But it is an important milestone that reminds the world America does not suffer the wicked and will not submit to evil. Our resolve is strengthened when it is challenged and our unity, though it too is often tested, is unbreakable.

Because of the hard work of courageous Americans and our military, intelligence, diplomatic, and law enforcement communities, a long evil chapter in our Nation's history closed yesterday. Today, we welcome the spring of a new optimism and renewed patriotism. The chapter now behind us ended with justice. We hope the chapter ahead of us will bring security and peace.

WORK CONTINUES

While the Nation and the world absorb this crucial development, the work of the Senate continues. Today, we begin a new month and a new work period and a new opportunity to come together to create jobs. I hope this month will be a productive month. There are several important and time-sensitive items on our plate. One, I hope to wrap up the small business jobs bill. This has been on the floor for weeks and weeks and weeks—far too long—and we need to resolve it so we can move on to other matters.

Two, we will have the same debate in the Senate that the American people are having at home; that is, the question of whether we should keep giving away money to oil companies that clearly do not need taxpayer handouts. That will be part of a larger debate we will continue having about how best to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and invest better and smarter in clean energy.

Three, we will vote on the House-passed budget. A majority of the House has embraced it, a majority of the American people have rejected it, and the Senate will soon have its say.

Finally, we will confirm judicial nominees, many of whom we have waited a long time for in the Senate. If the minority forces us to file cloture on those nominees in order to get a final vote, I will file cloture. I think it is too bad if we get involved in this with trial court judges. We cannot waste any more time or play these games for a longer period of time. The country needs these empty benches filled.

We also have other nominations to confirm, including the Attorney General's top Deputy, No. 1 Deputy, Jim Cole. The Deputy Attorney General runs the day-to-day operations of the Department of Justice. He is also the

person who signs the critical warrants to permit our intelligence officials to conduct surveillance on suspected terrorists. But he cannot do that unless the Senate confirms him. So we must do that soon.

Especially given last night's developments, it is unthinkable that partisanship and legislative ploys would keep a well-qualified nominee out of this important national security role.

A moment ago we began this remarkable new day in the Senate the same way we begin every day in session. We begin it with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Its closing words were the powerful closing words of President Obama's address to the Nation last night. Their meaning is even more profound today, the first day of this new era.

The words "liberty and justice for all" represent America's purpose. This weekend, in the name and pursuit of liberty, heroic Americans halfway around the world secured justice for an evil man's victims, for the survivors of his terror, for Americans, their allies, and the entire world. "Liberty and justice for all."

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

OSAMA BIN LADEN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, Americans and all who long for justice woke to the good news: nearly 10 years after the United States set out to kill or capture Osama bin Laden, justice has been done. The man who orchestrated the 9/11 attacks and who reveled in the horror of that day is dead. And those who follow his twisted vision are again on notice: America is in pursuit.

This was a long time coming. For two decades, Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida network he created, sustained, and led has been at war with the United States.

The path of terror extended from the first World Trade Center bombing to the bombing of the Khobar Towers and the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, to the bombing of the USS *Cole*, to the horrors of 9/11, and through two long and difficult wars that followed. 9/11 may have been the day that this pattern of violence became suddenly and undeniably clear. But bin Laden's destructive path was already long by then, and for the past 10 years, America has been determined to bring this monster to justice.

From the beginning of this fight, the mission has been clear: to deny al-Qaida and any of its affiliates around the world a sanctuary from which they could plan, prepare, or launch another attack on U.S. soil. And the effort to prevent that long-feared attack has been an undeniable success under two

administrations in the ongoing war on terror.

Yet despite this success, and our early success in Afghanistan, al-Qaida's senior leadership was able to find a safe-haven in Afghanistan. A few short years after 9/11 al-Qaida had regained enough strength to once again pose a serious threat to the United States. Meanwhile, the Taliban had re-established its headquarters in Pakistan and had gained enough strength to return to Afghanistan and to risk the success of our mission there.

And as the years went by, Osama bin Laden's ability to elude capture had become a greater source of frustration to us, and a source of propaganda to his followers.

Over the years, Americans had become all too familiar with bin Laden's dark pronouncements, from his perverse declaration 3 years before 9/11 that it was the obligation of every Muslim "to kill and fight Americans and their allies, whether civilian or military in any country" . . . to his declaration after 9/11 that he had calculated the number of innocents he could kill that morning, and that he was the most optimistic planner of them all.

Last night, those proud pronouncements ended at the barrel of a gun. The last thing Osama bin Laden saw on this earth was the small team of Americans who shot him.

So Americans can be proud of the efforts of our military and intelligence communities, and the focused efforts of two administrations in fighting al-Qaida, and now, in capturing, its self-appointed leader.

This is indeed a signal achievement, a huge victory in the war against terrorism, and a day of great pride for our country. The President made the right call, and we thank him for it.

We can never bring back those who died on 9/11 or those who have given their lives in this long and difficult war, but all Americans can say with renewed confidence today that we have kept our pledge, and that this is a war we will win.

Some will recall that Osama bin Laden launched this war many years ago on the false assumption that America didn't have the stomach for the fight. While it may have taken longer than we hoped, last night he and his followers learned just how wrong he was. We take great satisfaction in knowing that Osama bin Laden will no longer be able to carry out his evil plans, that he has made his last video, and that whenever someone suggests the United States has grown weary, complacent in this war, we have shown how determined we are to fight it to the end.

History is full of fallen despots and madmen who underestimated the resolve of the United States. Last night, we added one more to their ranks. But we don't rest, because we know al-Qaida's determination to attack the United States didn't end on September