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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Trevor Barton, Pastor of Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London, KY.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Gracious Lord, as the most high God who alone is sovereign over the Kingdoms of this world, we stand in awe of You. We stand in awe of Your faithfulness to this great Nation, whose history itself gives witness to Your gracious providence.

We are grateful to know that You are the author of our storied past, and we are confidently optimistic to know that You are the architect of our blessed future. So as we move toward that which You have prepared for us, we pray for all of those who will lead us toward that better tomorrow.

We pray that this Senate and our national leaders would have unparalleled wisdom as they navigate the complexities ever before them. Enable them to know what is best and to do what is best.

May they serve always with the most noble of intentions and be forever found to be the epitome and essence of heroic statesmen as they exchange and debate the most important ideas of their day.

Give our leaders a compelling vision for America's future—a future that is full of what could be and, more importantly, a future of what should be. May the authority entrusted to them always be leveraged for the good of others.

May all of our leaders and every individual who calls this Republic their home live their lives by the most profound but simplistic of ethics: To love our neighbors as ourselves. Continue to preserve and protect this great democracy. And may the motives and meth-

ods of this United States Senate and the United States of America always be to please thee.

In Your holy, loving Name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 332, H.R. 3474.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 332, H.R. 3474, to amend the Internal Revenue

Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate time until 11:15 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled.

There will be a series of votes beginning at 11:15 today and another series of votes at 1:45. This is to confirm a number of nominations. There could be as many as nine votes. We will see what happens as the day goes on.

Yesterday I filed cloture on S. 2262, the energy efficiency bill. As a result, the filing deadline for all first degree amendments is today at 1 p.m.

OBSTRUCTIONISM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, anyone who watches the Senate on C-SPAN knows that the desks in the Senate Chamber are split between Democrats and Republicans. But when I come to the Senate Chamber anymore, we shouldn't have just Democrats and Republicans; we should have obstructionists.

With the Democrats, there are 55 of us. With the Republicans, anymore, there are six or seven on a good day. There are obstructionists of about 40, for sure, on any day.

The legislators—Republicans who, like Senate Democrats, are tired of all the useless obstruction, who want to get things done for Americans, and the obstructionists—the guardians of gridlock, as the Republican leader has proudly called himself—are playing politics and constantly grinding the wheels of the Senate to a standstill, a stop.

Over the last few months, I have spoken with Republicans who are fed up with obstructionism in this body. I

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



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