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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our mighty fortress, the source of all that is good, hallowed be Your Name. Lord, empower Your Senators to accomplish Your good in our world, leading them on the path of humility. Give them courage to live their faith so that people will see their positive contributions and glorify Your Name. Enable our lawmakers to respect and love each other unconditionally, even as You have so loved us. May they set apart sacred time to be with You.

Thank You for the gifts of life, love, and laughter that You provide us throughout life's seasons. Lord, fill all our hearts to overflowing with Your transformative love.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOEHNER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, grace under pressure; country and institution before self. These are the things that come to mind when I think of JOHN BOEHNER. He is an ally, he is a friend, and he took over as Republican leader at a very difficult time for his party.

When some said Republicans could never recover, he never gave up. When some gave into defeatism, he kept up the fight. And because he did, Speaker BOEHNER was able to transform a broken and dispirited Republican minority into the largest Republican majority since the 1920s. That is a legacy few can match.

He flew across the country more times than he can count to support Members of his conference and to recruit new Members to the cause. As the leader of a new majority, he turned the tide in Congress and brought conservative reform in many areas. He worked tirelessly to provide hope to those who dreamed of a better life and to middle-class families who struggled under the weight of this administration.

JOHN knows what it is like to struggle and to dream of something better. He has lived it. That a young man from Reading, OH, wielding a bar towel could one day wield the gavel of the U.S. House of Representatives reminds us of the continuing promise of this country.

We all know yesterday was an incredibly important event for the Speaker. It was his aim to bring the same spirit of grace to others that has always guided his life. One only had to look

out onto the Capitol lawn to see what he achieved. And that he chose this moment to make this decision means he is willing to leave us in a similar spirit.

I know we will all have more to say then. But for now, thank you, my friend.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOEHNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I, like most of America, was stunned this morning to learn that JOHN BOEHNER is going to resign in the next few weeks. I have had a relationship with JOHN BOEHNER for a long time. His becoming Speaker, of course, made those relations much more close.

I have not always agreed, and I wasn't always happy with what JOHN told me, but he never ever misled me. He never told me something that wasn't true, and I accepted that. I got to where I understood JOHN BOEHNER very well. His word was always good.

JOHN and I had a lot of dealings—so-called back-channel meetings. Everyone knows that a lot of things we do are not in the public eye. And certainly some things we worked on together perhaps wouldn't have worked out very well in the public eye, but there were things we had to do to get things done.

I had a very good relationship with JOHN BOEHNER. My staff got along with his. He has had two chiefs of staff and they have both been terrific to work with. My staff has reached out to them on so many occasions in very difficult times, and they had a good relationship.

I have no doubt that everything JOHN BOEHNER has done has been done with the fact in mind that he was doing his best for the people of his district in

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



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