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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, accept our thanks and praise for all You have done for us. Thank You for the splendor of creation, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. Thank You for family and friends and for the love that surrounds us on every side. Lord, thank You for work that demands our best efforts and for the satisfaction of a job well done. Thank You also for disappointments and failures that teach us to depend on You. Thank You for our lawmakers; endue them with courage and loyalty, inspiring them to glorify You in every action, both large and small.

And, Lord, thank You for the influential life and legacy of former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

We pray in Your Holy Name. 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### REMEMBERING NANCY REAGAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, Nancy Reagan was one of the most powerful First Ladies in recent memory. For instance, sometimes she spoke

out on issues like substance abuse, but more often Nancy wielded her power with calm confidence and quiet steel. It was an attitude that helped guide Nancy through so many challenges in her own life: getting an acting career off the ground, leaving it to raise a family, riding the ups and downs of a life in politics, watching her husband brave the bullet of a would-be assassin or face the threat of cancer, and then confront the same reality herself.

Nancy Reagan may have been a star in Hollywood and a force in the rough-and-tumble of Washington, but it was the challenges to come that would reveal her true strength.

In 1994, former President Reagan addressed a letter to his fellow Americans. He said: "I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life."

Nancy shared her very personal experience with that cold and cruel disease, telling Americans of the "terrible pain and loneliness" that accompanied Alzheimer's "very long goodbye," but she never gave in or gave up. Nancy was strong for her husband, she was a rock for her family, and she was an example for a nation that looked to her for inspiration.

One day, after many long and difficult years, Ronald Reagan opened his eyes and looked at Nancy. "He hadn't done that in well over a month," she recalled. "But he looked at me and closed his eyes. And went. And that was a wonderful gift."

We felt Nancy's immense pain when she leaned over his casket, kissed it, and mouthed her tearful farewell.

From "Morning in America" to a sunset in Simi Valley, the Reagan love story was classic Hollywood, but it was also unmistakably human. Nancy said her life had only really begun after she met Ronald Reagan. Now she joins her best friend to dance together once more.

We in the Senate join our Nation in mourning the loss of Nancy Reagan.

We offer every condolence to the family members left behind.

Let us remember the rest of what President Reagan wrote to the Nation in 1994. "I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life," is what he wrote then, but—but—"I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

### COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, as I noted earlier, combating substance abuse was an issue close to Nancy Reagan's heart. It is fitting that we will have an important opportunity this afternoon to address the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic sweeping our Nation. We can do so by advancing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

Just a few months ago, we appropriated \$400 million to opioid-specific programs. We are glad that all of those funds remain available to be spent today, and now we can pass comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that will help build upon the progress being made in this fight.

This CARA bill would expand education and prevention. It would bolster law enforcement efforts. It would improve treatment initiatives. This bill has also received broad bipartisan backing and the support of nearly 130 groups dedicated to ending this crisis.

We appreciate the work of the senior Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, who worked to move this bill swiftly out of the Judiciary Committee. We thank Senator PORTMAN, Senator AYOTTE, along with the junior Senator from Rhode Island and the senior Senator from Minnesota, for all the work they have done to advance CARA. We recognize the continuing efforts of Senators on both sides of the aisle who have put party labels aside to build support for this much needed legislation.

So let's continue that work by voting for cloture on CARA so we can take an

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



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