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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

Eternal Spirit, refuge of all who flee to You, send Your power among us, bringing comfort and direction for our lives. Be with our lawmakers. If their eyes have been closed to Your graces, open them. Make them so aware of Your providential movements in their lives that in the quietness of this moment of prayer, they will feel true gratitude. Lord, strengthen them to do Your will on Earth, causing justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. May they measure their attitudes and responses by the standard of Divine love.

We pray in Your strong 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3326

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3326) to give States the authority to provide temporary access to affordable private health insurance options outside of Obamacare exchanges.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

### WELCOMING THE BURMESE STATE COUNSELLOR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of welcoming my dear friend, Burmese State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as she visits the Capitol.

Daw Suu is an incredible woman with an incredible life story. She has endured much since prodemocracy protests first swept her country many years ago. What followed was a story made for Hollywood. In fact, it is a story that Hollywood has made. The story of Aung San Suu Kyi—of the longtime political prisoner who had become the voice of her people, then de facto leader of her country—is about more than “The Lady” herself; it is about the journey of a country and a people.

I first learned of that journey decades ago as I read of Daw Suu’s heroic support for democratic reform, peaceful reconciliation, and human rights in her country. It may not have been the most popular political call back then, but it was important. I decided then to make this cause my own whenever possible. Over the years, that has meant sponsoring needed sanctions on the previous Burmese regime, it has meant promoting political and constitutional reforms and meeting with Burmese leaders, and it has meant keeping in close contact with Daw Suu. Whatever the task, it has been an honor to do my own small part to advocate for change in Burma and support my friend.

It has been truly remarkable to see the changes that have taken hold in Burma in recent years—changes that once seemed literally unattainable. Last year the world looked on as Daw Suu led her National League for Democracy to victory in Burma’s general election. For those keeping score, this was actually the second time she had done this, but, unlike the election in 1990, these results were actually accepted by the regime. It was a moment many of us had eagerly awaited for decades, and in many ways it reaffirmed the purpose behind Daw Suu’s life’s work, her great sacrifice, and her indestructible resolve. It was also a reminder of the many challenges that still face the Burmese people, such as addressing much needed constitutional reform and the military’s disproportionate power in Parliament, ending decades-long conflicts and promoting peaceful reconciliation among ethnic groups, and encouraging economic development.

As Daw Suu knows best of all, Burma is still a country with many challenges to hurdle as it strives to achieve a more representational government. The Burmese people are not alone. They, and she, have many friends here in Washington as they work toward reform and reconciliation.

It has been 4 years since Daw Suu last visited us. It was a privilege then to help bestow her with the Congressional Gold Medal she had earned many years before. It is a privilege to welcome her back now in this new capacity. I look forward to meeting with her later today and again wishing her all the best and reaffirming my own commitment to support her and her country on their path ahead.

### WRDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another important matter, from the Gulf of Mexico and the Chesapeake Bay to the inland waterways that are so

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



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important to Kentucky's maritime jobs, America's waterways play a crucial role in supporting the economy, transporting goods and people from point A to point B, and supplying communities with drinking water.

As the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator INHOFE understands just how critical our waterways are and the importance of maintaining them. That is why he has been working with Ranking Member BARBARA BOXER to craft the bipartisan 2016 Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA.

This responsible water resources bill authorizes more than two dozen Army Corps projects from the east coast to the west, and it is expected to save taxpayers \$6 million over the next decade. It is also completely paid for. The projects authorized in this bill range from strengthening our waterways' infrastructure to helping support safe and reliable drinking water sources. They also invest in priorities each of us cares about, such as improving public health and safety, enhancing commerce, and supporting America's ecosystems. Here is what I mean: By investing in flood control projects, dam maintenance, and drinking water infrastructure, this bill will enhance public health and safety. By investing in ports, harbors, locks, and dams, it will strengthen commerce. By investing in restoration and revitalization projects, from the Florida Everglades to the Los Angeles River, it will support America's natural ecosystems.

I am also pleased the bill supports several projects in Kentucky that are important to me, to my constituents, and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One will transfer aging infrastructure along the Green and Barren Rivers in Kentucky over to State and local entities so they can determine the best use of this infrastructure. Another will help my constituents in Paducah better protect themselves from flooding from the Ohio River by helping complete repairs to the city's flood protection infrastructure.

The bill also includes an important coal ash provision that will give States the authority to create their own coal ash permitting requirements and systems to ensure that coal ash is recycled and reused in a safe and effective way in accordance with current EPA guidelines.

To quote Senator INHOFE, the top Republican on the committee, this bill will "support our communities and expand our economy."

To quote Senator BOXER, the top Democrat on the committee, it will provide "a perfect vehicle to upgrade our water infrastructure."

I appreciate their work across the aisle to move this important water resources bill forward. Its passage will represent another bipartisan win for American transportation infrastructure. It is another example of what has been possible with a Senate that is back to work for the American people.

I look forward to its passage later today, and I would encourage our House colleagues to take action soon so we can send the bill to the President.

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#### TRIBUTE TO TIM MITCHELL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one final matter. I would like to say a few words about Tim Mitchell, who has hit a significant milestone in his Senate career this week: 25 years of service.

As the Democratic leader has noted on several occasions, Tim's love for baseball—and the Red Sox in particular—is hard to miss. How big a fan is Tim? Well, a few years back when the Sox won the World Series, the Democratic leader gave a shout-out to Tim when he offered the resolution honoring the team. "[I]f it were in order," he said then—which it wasn't, as Tim would be quick to note—"I would ask that . . . this resolution be passed with the name of 'Tim Mitchell' on it. . . . I consider myself a fan of baseball," the Democratic leader continued, "but I have never known a more rabid fan of a baseball team than Tim Mitchell, whom we depend on so very, very much to help us work through all we do in the Senate."

I have to say that this is an area where the Democratic leader and I absolutely agree. Tim has been a staple around here for a quarter of a century, working his way through some of the most difficult jobs in the Senate as part of the floor staff. To paraphrase Laura Dove, the Secretary for the majority, the work of Tim and his floor staff colleagues could be compared to that of a duck gliding through a pond. Above water, the duck appears to be moving through the pond effortlessly, but if you take a look below the surface, you will see its feet working—putting in difficult and often unrecognized efforts—to keep it afloat.

Tim certainly does so to keep this place afloat—coordinating with his majority counterpart Robert Duncan, sifting through heaps of paperwork, and putting in long hours that turn into late nights. Even on those late nights, Tim makes it a priority to not only make it home for family dinner but to prepare it too.

Tim, from what I hear, it is takeout night at your house. I would imagine tonight's dinner will be a little more special than usual, and I know your wife Alicia and your son Ben couldn't be prouder. Your Senate family is proud of you, too, and we thank you for these 25 years of dedication and service.

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO TIM MITCHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate those remarks of the Republican leader regarding Tim.

People have heard me talk about baseball and how I fell in love with baseball as a little boy, listening on the radio and the game of the day. I so wanted to be a baseball player. As time went on, as a young man in college, I realized I wasn't big enough, fast enough, or good enough to be the baseball player of my dreams, but that didn't take away my love for baseball. Living in Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, we had a team, the Dodgers. We listened to the games and watched the games. In the Reno area, Northern Nevada, the team was the Giants. We in Southern Nevada didn't like the Giants. The days of Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Claude Osteen—those were the days of real baseball. Games were 2 to 1, 3 to 0, not these slugfests. We didn't have those then.

In coming back to Washington, in the many years I have been here, we had the Baltimore Orioles. I love their owner—a wonderful man—Peter Angelos. I have been disappointed that they haven't done better, but they are doing pretty well this year. I have followed them very closely. Of course, when the Nationals team came here, our attention was focused not entirely on Baltimore—because it was the only team around here—but also on the Nationals, and we divided our attention. Of course, I have been to the Nationals games, and it has been great. As the Republican leader and I have said many times, we bicker and fight on some things but never on baseball. We both watch the Nationals and follow what they do.

As everyone knows, Greg Maddux from Las Vegas is the best athlete ever to come out of Nevada. We have had some in Northern Nevada, and I recognized them also. Some of them played professional football. No one was as good as Greg Maddux, winning more than 350 games, which is unheard of today, a man of, as he would admit, average talent—average talent but a mind and such dedication and such composure and such confidence that he became one of the best of all time.

Tim and I have talked about all these things I have talked about regarding baseball. We have talked about Bryce Harper. We recognize he is not having a great year this year. They are afraid of him still. He has walked 104 times, which is unheard of in baseball, but his batting average is not as good as it was. But he was still the Most Valuable Player in baseball at age 22. He has been on the all-star team four or five times already in his young career.

Tim and I have talked about all of this, and as he knows, I like the Boston Red Sox, but I am not in the same league as Tim Mitchell. Tim is the Assistant Secretary for the minority and was for the majority, of course, during my many years as the Democratic leader. We have such a nice relationship. We can do our business when we