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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 5, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAN SULLIVAN, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, giver of every good and perfect gift, we magnify Your Holy Name. Your righteousness endures forever.

Today, empower our lawmakers to do Your will. Give them insight that will make justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. May they remember that unless You build the house, they labor in vain who attempt to erect it. Provide our Senators with the wisdom to ask You for Your guidance and to follow Your counsel. Lord, incline them to so labor that Your will will be done on Earth even as it is done in Heaven. Subdue freedom's enemies, and provide a shield for liberty.

We pray in Your great 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.

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. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN SULLIVAN, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brett M.

Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate is considering the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

When the noise fades, when the uncorroborated mud washes away, what is left is the distinguished nominee who stands before us—an acclaimed judge whom peers and colleagues praise in the very strongest terms, a jurist whom the American Bar Association awarded its very highest rating unanimously—"well qualified."

Here is what the ABA says it takes to earn that distinction:

To merit a rating of "Well Qualified," the nominee must be at the top of the legal profession in his or her legal community; have outstanding legal ability, breadth of experience and the highest reputation for integrity; and demonstrate the capacity for sound judicial temperament.

This is the nonpartisan test that my friend the Democratic leader, among others, used to call the gold standard. Judge Kavanaugh passed that with flying colors.

To be clear, this seal of approval comes from the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary—an independent entity within the organization. Even after the ABA's President

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



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