

**SENATE—Monday, May 15, 2000**

The Senate met at 1:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON KYL, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Holy Father, we join with Americans across this land in the celebration of National Police Week. We thank You for police officers who serve in sheriff and police forces in cities and counties across this land. They serve in harm's way, facing constant danger, so that we may live with security and safety. We gratefully remember the law enforcement officers, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, who lost their lives in the line of duty here in the Capitol 2 years ago. Thank You for their valor and heroism. Continue to bless their families as they endure the loss of these fine men. Today, our prayer is that our gratitude and affirmation for the Capitol Police officers will encourage them as they encourage us by their strong presence. May they know that we cheer them for being willing to stand in harm's way so we can keep Government moving in Your way.

Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable JON KYL 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 THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 15, 2000

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON KYL, a Senator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. KYL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

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

**MORNING BUSINESS**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 3 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA, is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

The Senator from Hawaii.

**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today with deep admiration and praise for an integral presence within America's diverse society—Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Every May, during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we commemorate the major contributions made by this small, but by no means insignificant part of the U.S. population.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, both in the aggregate and in groups of distinct and unique ethnic origin, comprise a growing force in our citizenry. Whether their ancestry is Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Laotian, Hmong, or other Asian American, or Native Hawaiian, Chamorro, Samoan, Micronesian, Tongan, Fijian, or other Pacific Islander American, they are a vibrant part of our society. If one could see numbers about each of the distinct peoples in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, they would observe that we make up one of the fastest growing segments of the population. Our reach in communities across America is increasing. Asian Pacific Americans should not be thought of as located only in a few select states such as Hawaii or California. We have migrated over time from various points of origin in the U.S. to all parts of the country and have come to contribute to local business, education, and politics in every state.

Nearly 11 million Asian and Pacific Islanders lived in the U.S. in about 2.5 million families, according to last year's estimates. About four-fifths of these families were headed by married couples. Furthermore, the Census Bureau projects that the Asian and Pacific Islander population will more than triple to nearly 38 million by the middle of this new century, climbing from four to nine percent of the American population. This growth in the number of Asian Pacific Americans will be felt across the country, and more light will be shed on the multi-

faceted strengths and varied needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

President Clinton recognized the importance of increasing awareness about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders when he signed Executive Order 13125 in June, 1999. The Executive Order established the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with the goal of improving the quality of life for this population by increasing their participation in Federal programs. Such programs include those related to health, human services, housing, education, labor, transportation, economic development, and community development programs—encompassing those which currently serve this population and those which may not have served this population in the past.

I am happy to say that the Initiative is marching onward through high-level, interagency meetings involving all major agencies in the Executive Branch, and the establishment of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Commission will be sworn in later this week and includes 15 members representing various interests and diverse segments of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. It will be chaired by an esteemed colleague, former Congressman Norman Mineta, and will include representatives such as Haunani Apoliona from my State of Hawaii. I hope that now and in the next Administration, the Initiative and the Commission will continue to work hand-in-hand toward: increased research and data collection; private sector, public sector and community involvement; and, development, monitoring, and coordination of Federal efforts toward improved quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

There is clear evidence to show that this type of Federal attention is needed. As stated in the Presidential Proclamation for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2000, despite many successes, the needs in the community still continue to be great:

While many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders today are thriving, others are still struggling to overcome obstacles. Because of oppression in their countries of origin, some new immigrants have arrived without having completed their education; once here, some have encountered language and cultural barriers and discrimination. Pacific Islanders, too, must overcome barriers to opportunity caused by their geographic isolation and the consequences of Western influences on their unique culture. For these and other reasons, too many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face low-paying jobs, inadequate health care, and lack of educational opportunity.