The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

Faithful Father, Your words to Joshua so long ago sound in our souls as Your encouragement to us today: "I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage."—Joshua 1:5-6. Thank You for Your faithfulness. Your love and guidance are not an on-again, off-again thing. We can depend on You for a steady flow of strength. Just to know that You are with us in all the ups and downs of political life is a great source of confidence. We can dare to be strong in the convictions You have honed in our hearts and courageous in the application of them in our work in government.

Grant the Senators a renewed sense of how much You have invested in them and how much You desire to do through them in the onward movement of this Nation. It is for Your name's sake, Your glory, and Your vision that You bless them. Guide and inspire them as leaders now in this time of crisis in our Nation. Your word for the day is, "Be not afraid, I am with you!" Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Harry Reid, a Senator from the State of Nevada, 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. Byrd).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. Senate, President pro tempore, Washington, DC, September 13, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair. This is what it means to be an American. This is our national identity. This is our national consciousness, we must never forget that each time our Nation is tested, each time we have survived—as we will again.

And while it seems impossible to believe today, barely days after this horrid attack upon our soil, we must draw strength from the knowledge that each test has failed to diminish our Nation. Just the opposite. America's history is written by a people who rise to every challenge, and history has shown we will prevail.

We are the greatest and most powerful nation today precisely because we have met and triumphed over adversity. This is our national identity. This is what it means to be an American. This is the strength of character that built this Nation over the last four centuries.

Americans do not face challenges. We surmount them. And we grow stronger as a result.

I am confident that we are already seeing this in the days after the disaster. We see it in the faces of the New York firemen and police officers, the dedicated men and women who fought to protect and recover and who have