

## SENATE—Monday, April 4, 2005

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD M. BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God, the fountain of every blessing, we thank You for the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. You blessed our world with his intellectual strength and compassionate heart. You challenged our spirits with his advocacy of justice and his pursuit of peace.

God of all mercies, comfort those who mourn. Be particularly near to the family of Doug Fertig, Director of Human Resources for our Senate family, who died on Friday. Remind us that nothing can separate us from Your love.

Bless today the work of our Senators. Empower them with increasing awareness and openness of heart. Give them wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We pray in Your eternal Name.

Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD M. BURR 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. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 4, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD M. BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate returns to session today and joins the world in mourning the death of Pope John Paul II. I know many of my colleagues will want to pay tribute to one of our greatest spiritual leaders. Therefore, we will have a period of morning business throughout the day to accommodate those speeches. I also alert my colleagues that we are working on a Senate resolution which would pay the appropriate respect and tribute to Pope John Paul.

We have also returned to the sad news of the passing of one of our former colleagues, Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

With regard to the schedule this week, we have a busy legislative schedule with a number of scheduling challenges over the next several days. We hope to begin consideration of the State Department authorization bill tomorrow, on Tuesday. Chairman LUGAR is preparing to bring that bill to the floor, and we hope to complete work on that over the course of the next couple of days. I hope we can reach an agreement that will allow that bill to come forward, with amendments relevant to the underlying legislation.

In addition, on Wednesday, there will be a joint meeting of the House and Senate to receive an address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. That is scheduled for 11 a.m. We ask that Members be in the Senate Chamber at approximately 10:30 so we may proceed together to the Hall of the House of Representatives for that address.

Also this week, we have a couple of district judges who are available for consideration, and we will want to schedule those for floor action.

On behalf of the Republican and Democratic Policy Committees, I remind everybody that on Tuesday we will have a floor debate on the issue of Social Security. Senators SANTORUM, DEMINT, DURBIN, and STABENOW will participate in the scheduled debate. I encourage all Members to listen to this constructive conversation. I applaud both policy committees for preparing this format. I was pleased to work with the Democratic leader in securing a time for this debate tomorrow. This week, Senator COCHRAN will be marking up the supplemental appropriations bill. We hope to have that available next week.

Again, we have much on the plate for this week both in terms of floor scheduled and other important Senate events.

I look forward to a busy legislative period this spring, and trust all of my colleagues are rested and ready to proceed.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the distinguished Republican leader is going to make a statement regarding the Pope. I think that is timely. I will do so at a later time today.

I wanted to pay tribute to Howell Heflin. He was a wonderful man who served in the Senate for 18 years. He actually revolutionized the court system in Alabama. The first amendment they ever had to their Constitution was a result of his reorganization of the court when he was chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Howell Heflin holds the record here, serving as a member of the Ethics Committee for 13 years. He did that with dignity during some of the most difficult times we have seen in the Senate with some of the problems Senators had.

I had the good fortune of traveling to Alabama yesterday to be with his widow Mike at that funeral in the rural community of Tusculumbia, AL. That is where he had his home and law practice and where he died. He had very little suffering. He was 83 years old. He got sick one afternoon and died within an hour or two after that.

The Senate will always be a better place as a result of Senator Heflin having been a Member. Death comes at inopportune times. I want his widow to know that even though there were only a few Senators there, including Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator SHELBY, who had another funeral he had to go to, Senator SESSIONS was there, it came at such an inopportune time. It was the end of the recess period. People didn't know about it, and it was hard for people to be there, but it doesn't take away from the dignity of that proceeding. It was a wonderful funeral. I received a number of phone calls yesterday and today of people wanting to be there. For example, the wind was so heavy yesterday that they had to change the place of takeoff from Andrews to Dulles. As a result of that, Senator BIDEN, driving down from