

SENATE—Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we pause this morning to fix our hearts upon You. Let our trust in Your sovereignty produce a love that will order our system of values. Create in us a desire to serve Your purposes and increase the treasure of Your kingdom.

Bless the Members of this body as they face today's challenges. Make them gentle, yet brave; confident, yet humble; wise, yet uncomplicated. May they meet life with calmness, trouble with fortitude, hate with forgiveness, disloyalty with kindness, and persecution with faith.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2006.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON 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, this morning we have a period of morning busi-

ness for up to 60 minutes. At the conclusion of morning business, we will return to consideration of the Defense authorization bill. Last night, the chairman called up an amendment that I sponsored along with the Democratic leader, the chairman, and the ranking member. The amendment commends our Armed Forces for the recent events around the Zarqawi death. A vote will occur on that amendment at 12:15 today.

Following that vote, we will recess for our weekly policy luncheons. At 2:15, following the policy meetings, Senators should be seated at their desks for the official photograph of the 109th Congress. Immediately following the picture, there will be a briefing for all Senators, beginning at 2:30, and that briefing will be by Secretary Rice and Secretary Rumsfeld. We will remain in session during that briefing to allow debate on the Mine Safety and Health nomination that we filed cloture on last week. That cloture vote is expected to occur around 3:30 if all debate time is used.

Senators should also be aware that the House is expected to complete their work on the emergency supplemental conference report today. We expect to turn to the supplemental this afternoon when that measure arrives.

DEATH OF ZARQAWI

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, later this morning, as I mentioned, the Senate will be voting on an amendment to commend the men and women of our Armed Forces for their bravery and skill which led to the death of Zarqawi, who was anointed by Osama bin Laden as the Prince of al-Qaida in Iraq.

Al-Zarqawi was a brutal terrorist and, as we all know, the operational commander of al-Qaida in Iraq. His vicious campaigns of suicide attacks, car bombings, beheadings, assassinations, and abductions was directly responsible for the deaths of many American and coalition troops and thousands of Iraqi security forces and innocent citizens.

He was violently opposed to the new Iraqi democracy and sought to turn Iraq into a safe haven for al-Qaida terrorists.

To achieve this goal, he murdered thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians. He sought to divide the Iraqi people by fomenting sectarian violence and inciting a civil war. His goal was destruction, and he brought only violence and despair. But, finally, after 3 years of eluding capture, justice was brought to Zarqawi.

At approximately 6:15 Baghdad time last Wednesday evening, American forces, acting on intelligence tips from the Iraqi people, attacked Zarqawi's safe house near the city of Baqouba, northeast of Baghdad.

Zarqawi's spiritual adviser and several of their associates were also inside. Less than an hour later, the leading terrorist and No. 1 enemy of freedom in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was dead.

This is a severe blow for al-Qaida and the terrorist enemy in Iraq. And it marks yet another victory in the global war on terror.

The amendment I offered yesterday, along with a number of my colleagues, commends the courageous men and women of the U.S. military for their extraordinary efforts to eliminate this brutal terrorist, and for their commitment to helping secure a free, prosperous, and secure future for the Iraqi people.

It also applauds the efforts of our coalition partners and the Iraqi Security Forces who contributed to this achievement.

Iraqi security recruits had long been one of Zarqawi's primary targets. Despite repeated attacks against hopeful, young recruits, these brave Iraqis kept coming back. They have shown time and time again they are eager to assume their responsibilities and do what it takes to defend their democracy.

The Iraqi public is also deserving of recognition. They defied Zarqawi's threats and streamed to the polls in three national elections. Against the threat of violence, they formed a permanent democratic government.

In recent months, coalition forces have also received a tremendous increase in intelligence tips on the activities and whereabouts of terrorists directly from the Iraqi people. The number of actionable intelligence tips from the Iraqi population numbered only 483 in March of 2005. Since November of that year, the number of tips has skyrocketed to over 4,000 a month.

The Iraqi people want peace. They want to defeat the terrorist enemy that uses them as human shields. They want to defend their country from chaos and terror.

And so, Zarqawi has met his fate. But the fight to secure a free and democratic Iraq continues. The terrorists in Iraq will continue to wreak havoc and destruction. But they will not succeed. They cannot succeed. American forces, alongside our coalition partners and the Iraqi security forces, will remain on the offensive until the terrorist enemy is defeated.

My Senate colleagues and I are filled with pride at the bravery, skill, and valor of our soldiers on the front line. We are grateful for their service, and we congratulate them for last week's successful mission to rid Iraq of its No. 1 terrorist.

Our resolution also commends our Nation's civilian and military leadership, which includes President Bush and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, for their continuing efforts to eliminate the leadership of al-Qaida in Iraq.

Prime Minister Maliki and the new democratically elected Government deserve our gratitude and commendation.

Here in the Senate, we will continue to support our men and women in uniform, the democratically elected Government of Iraq, and the Iraqi people as they strive for a free, prosperous, and democratic future.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT DOLE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of Senator Robert Dole's retirement from the U.S. Senate. From humble beginnings on the plains of western Kansas, Bob Dole has risen to become one of our most accomplished and respected public figures of the 20th century.

Bob Dole arrived in Congress in 1960 as a representative of the Sixth District of Kansas. He was immediately chosen by his fellow freshman colleagues to lead the freshman class. His ability to lead and inspire, his dry wit and savvy, would characterize his ascent to the peaks of political life.

Bob Dole was reelected for three more terms before being elected to the Senate in 1968.

In 1971, Senator Dole was chosen to lead the Republican National Committee, a position he held for 2 years.

It was a tumultuous time for America. His steady hand earned him the Vice Presidential nomination alongside Gerald Ford in the 1976 election. Jimmy Carter won. But that didn't hinder Senator Dole's steady climb.

Over the next decade, Senator Dole moved up through the leadership ranks, and in 1984, he was elected to succeed Senator Howard Baker as majority leader. While Democrats regained control of the Senate in 1986, Senator Dole continued to lead his party as minority leader. In 1994, Republicans swept Congress, and Senator Dole was once again elected majority leader. His 12 years as the leader of his party in the Senate set a record, and made him the longest serving Senate leader of the Republican Party since its founding in 1854.

I learned a lot from Leader Dole during my first few years here. We saw eye to eye on most issues, but when we didn't, he always encouraged me to vote my conscience.

He respected my commitment to family, and with three young sons, he

was always careful to ensure that the schedule wouldn't run over my time with my wife and children.

And he took the time to listen to all colleagues. While many remember his famous admonition, in meeting after meeting, to "work it out," what fewer recall is that he would pursue votes, and ideas, and solutions over and over and over to lead to the point where, indeed, we could "work it out."

Our Senate party was in good hands under his stewardship. He was a good partner for President Reagan, and President Bush. And the respect President Clinton paid him was impressive, even across party lines.

I was proud to begin to know him during my early years here. His portrait hangs on the wall in my conference room, making him part of our leadership meetings every week I have often thought about what he might do when challenging situations arise around here.

And as much, I have often wondered what quip he might have offered to break the tension at a tough moment.

With my leadership team, we have made some tough calls under his watchful gaze. In 1996, Senator Dole was chosen by the party to run as its Presidential nominee. It was the capstone to a remarkable career.

World War II hero, dedicated public servant, master of the Senate, and champion of the conservative cause, Senator Dole has stamped his place in American political history. Although he has left office, the elder statesman has in no way retired. He has authored two best-selling books on political humor, and a personal memoir of his life as a soldier. He is invited to speak all over the world to offer his wit and keen insights into the issues of our time. President Reagan once said of Senator Dole, "His title of Leader is not just a job title, it's a description of the man." This plain-spoken, honest and humble man from Russell, KS, is the genuine article.

One of the brightest stars of the Greatest Generation, Senator Dole served his country with bravery and dedication. He has earned the affection and respect of his fellow citizens. And he will always be remembered for his humor, his leadership, graciousness and humility—and for the honor he has brought to political life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with

the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT DOLE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, yesterday, we honored our colleague, Senator ROBERT BYRD, for achieving an important milestone in our Senate's history. Today, we come to the floor to pay tribute to another man who stands out as a giant among those who have served in this Chamber. Senator Bob Dole, last Sunday, marked the 10-year anniversary of his retirement from the Senate.

Bob Dole and I came to the Senate at the same time. We have worked together a great deal. When I was Republican whip and he was our party's Vice Presidential nominee, I was asked to help him prepare for his debate when he debated Walter Mondale—the first Vice Presidential debate in history.

Bob helped us pass the Alaskan Native Land Claims Settlement Act, which paved the way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. And he supported the Alaska Lands Act and the Alaska Railroad Transfer. In short, Bob Dole is a great personal friend, a friend to me and to Alaska.

Bob was—and still is—a leader in the truest sense of the word. Whenever I think of Bob Dole, I think of the great many men I have known who were tested in World War II. Like my good friend Senator INOUE, Bob Dole is a true war hero. He was tested in war and injured and struggled back through a long recovery. Like all great leaders, Bob takes great challenges of life and uses them to improve the world around him.

Having been injured in World War II, he dedicated much of his time in public service to improving the opportunities for disabled Americans.

Those of us in the Senate who were fortunate enough to call Bob a colleague for 27 years, chose him to serve as our leader six times, when we were in the majority and the minority. He reached out to those who disagreed with him. He listened to advice. You never had to ask him twice to know where he stood; his word was—and is—his bond. As President Reagan said:

His title of leader is not just a job title, it's a description of the man.

I think Bob's decision to resign his seat rather than stay in the Senate and campaign for the Presidency demonstrates what a devoted public servant he is. I have now been in the Senate over 30 years, and I have seen Members of this body run for President and miss vote after vote because they were on the road campaigning.

Bob Dole loved the people of Kansas too much to leave them without a