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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Elder D. Todd Christofferson, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father who art in Heaven, we bow before Thee this day, the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and remember with soberness and humility the sacrifice of so many who have offered their lives to preserve our liberty. We pray that Thou wilt bless their descendants and sustain the vital institutions of our government that this precious liberty may be preserved through the generations to come.

We ask Thy blessing upon the U.S. Senate and each of its individual Members this day and in the days and months ahead. Grant them the wisdom and judgment they seek in the disposition of all matters that come before them. Honor their desire to contribute to the well-being of the people of this Nation and indeed those of all nations who may be influenced for good by their decisions.

We thank Thee for Thy abundant mercy and constant blessings upon us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the continuing resolution was filed in the House yesterday. As we wait for the House to take the next step, I encourage all Members to continue reviewing the legislative text, which has been available for some time.

The Water Resources Development Act legislation has been filed in the House as well. This is bipartisan legislation that will strengthen our Nation's infrastructure and commerce while investing in the safety and reliability of our drinking water. As colleagues know, it includes, let me repeat, aid for families in Flint.

As we wait for final passage in the House, I encourage Senators to keep doing our part to ensure that we can bring WRDA and its assistance for Flint over the finish line as soon as possible.

On another matter, I am pleased the 21st Century Cures Act bill will pass this afternoon with significant support from both sides of the aisle. This medical innovation bill will help foster solutions when it comes to heartbreaking illnesses such as Alzheimer's, opioid addiction, mental health disorders, and cancer—heartbreaking illnesses that affect our families, friends, and constituents. This is one of the most meaningful bills we will pass this year, and it would not have been possible without the hard work of colleagues such as Chairman ALEXANDER, Senators CORNYN, HATCH and CASSIDY, and of course along with Ranking Member MURRAY.

Let us also again recognize Vice President BIDEN for his work on the Cancer Moonshot initiatives, which

have fittingly been renamed for Beau Biden in this legislation. I will have more to say about the Vice President when he joins us again this afternoon, but for now I look forward to passing the 21st Century Cures Act today.

On another matter, we will have another important vote this afternoon. It is a vote to move forward on the national defense authorization conference report.

We all know the world the next administration will inherit is a difficult and dangerous one. There are many threats. There are numerous national security challenges, and there is much to be done to better prepare our military and the next administration to deal with them. That is what this bipartisan national defense legislation aims to do. It will help strengthen our military posture. It will send clear messages to both our allies and our adversaries, and it will provide more of the tools our servicemembers need to be successful. It makes clear that we must also pass the continuing resolution that includes funding for the war against ISIL and for our forces in Afghanistan.

We have already seen the consequences of failing to take the necessary steps to confront our national security challenges. It is another reason we need to move forward and pass this defense legislation so we can take forward-looking steps now to help take on these challenges and support our men and women in uniform.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Of course, Mr. President, it is fitting that we are talking about the bravery of our servicemembers on December 7. Today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a date that FDR rightly predicted "will live in infamy." It is a time when we reflect on the meaning of this day for our country and for our

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



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