



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

No. 164

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Dr. Robert Lewis, of Fellowship Bible Church, Little Rock, AR.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for this new day and the hope that lies within it. We have been a blessed nation, not by accident but by this: In You, God, we trust. Thank You for the men and women of this distinguished body, who will again rise to face the immense challenge that will mark this day along with the special opportunities that it holds for good. I pray You will make this body ready for both.

In these turbulent times, empower their work with Your Spirit. Give them a difference making wisdom only You possess. Protect them from small ambitions. Call each heart here up to the higher ways of humility, understanding, and much needed unity. Help these leaders seek what is right and best for all in this Nation: the weak and the strong, the rich and the wanting, the great and the small; and let their work here today end tonight as a credit, not a deficit, to our Nation's life-giving legacy of liberty and justice for all.

Bless this Chamber, Father. Make us better through them, and lead us all forward in the ways of righteousness for Your greater glory.

We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2019.

To the Senate:

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

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Arkansas.

WELCOMING DR. ROBERT LEWIS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment, first of all, to thank Chaplain Black for all that he does here. The Senate is a much better place as a result of having him around.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Dr. Robert Lewis for delivering the opening prayer in the Senate today.

Robert and I had the opportunity to play football together at the University of Arkansas. He was a very good football player and had the gift of smack. He would hit you. He had a tremendous work ethic and character, and we all knew that he would do well in whatever he decided to do.

Robert is, today, a renowned pastor, a best-selling author, a passionate speaker, and a Christian visionary. He

has developed a curriculum that has reached over 1 million men worldwide in churches, on college campuses, in corporate boardrooms, and in correctional facilities.

Robert's program, the Men's Fraternity, provides men with an encouraging process of teaching them how to live lives of authentic manhood, as modeled by Jesus Christ and directed by the Word of God. The program was designed to help men come together and strengthen each other through weekly sessions that combine biblical teaching and small group interaction.

For 21 years, Robert served as the directional leader of the Fellowship Bible Church of Little Rock. During that time, the church grew from a few hundred members to over 5,000, and it was widely recognized as being one of the most innovative and influential churches in America.

Robert helped to bring Downline, which is a citywide discipleship ministry, to Little Rock, where he continues to serve as a part-time instructor. He continues to be involved in his local church and beyond, and he ministers nationally and across the world.

Robert and Sherard, his wife, have been married for over 40 years. They have four children and three grandchildren.

Serving as the guest chaplain is an incredible honor. I am thankful for Robert's ministry, and I am so pleased that he could be here to offer an invocation of asking God to guide and bless the efforts of Congress and America's leaders.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING ELIJAH CUMMINGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, first, this morning, I join colleagues on

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



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