



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003

No. 21

Senate

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

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Creator God, Source of all that is, that has been, and that is yet to be.

We begin this new day with gratitude and thanksgiving for in You we live and move and have our being. Thus acknowledging our dependence on You, we can do no other than to thank You for our very lives and for the multiple blessings that come to us both as a nation and as individuals.

Knowing that You count us as Your precious children, we are bold to ask Your grace and further blessing on this new day, which is like no other day, for this day has not yet been lived. Enable each of us then, and in particular the women and men of the United States Senate, to live this day with the sure knowledge that Your presence is alive within us and Your Spirit is actively engaged in guiding us.

Touch our hearts that we may act in love. Touch our minds that we may act in wisdom. Touch our souls that we may act with tolerance. Touch our eyes that they may see Your will with clarity. Touch our ears that they may listen with understanding. Touch our tongues that they may speak with integrity.

And so, O God, on this new day, in these troubled times, let each one of us and especially these, our Nation's leaders, assume our responsibilities with courage, good hope and an abiding faith in You, our protector and preserver. 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 Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will be in a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements. Yesterday, along with Members from both sides of the aisle, we had the honor to lead a Senate delegation to Houston for the memorial service for the *Columbia* astronauts. It was a touching and fitting tribute to those proud pioneers, to those proud heroes, and today we continue to grieve along with their families and their friends—many of them we had the opportunity, as a delegation, to visit with yesterday.

Later today, the Senate will adopt a resolution that will express the Senate's gratitude and appreciation for these heroes. A rollcall vote is expected on that resolution at approximately 12:15 or 12:30 today.

Today, by previous consent, the Senate will begin debate on the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC court. Debate will begin at 2:15. I know a number of Senators are prepared to come to the floor to debate and discuss this nomination. I hope that we can, after a full debate, reach an agreement as to when the Senate can vote on that particular nomination. I will be working with the Democratic leader in an effort to find a time for that vote to occur.

As a reminder, the Senate will be in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today for the weekly party caucuses to meet.

Finally, this week, the Senate will need to act on another continuing resolution. I anticipate that we will receive a continuing resolution tonight or to-

morrow morning from the House. I am unaware of any requests for a rollcall vote, and we may be able to clear that continuing resolution by consent when it arrives.

I thank all Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a couple of questions for the majority leader. Does the leader expect a vote on the resolution that is before the Senate today?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I believe at this point we plan a rollcall vote between 12:15 and 12:30.

Mr. REID. The other question I have for Members is this. I spoke to the leader earlier this morning. There are a number of people who did not go to the memorial service yesterday and are going to go to one at the National Cathedral tomorrow. Does the leader expect any votes in the morning?

Mr. FRIST. No. In response to the question, we will be in session tomorrow. There are a number of memorial services that have been conducted over the last 3 days and will continue through the week. Out of respect, we did close down yesterday so that a number of people could go to Houston.

Tomorrow the Senate will be in session. We expect no rollcall votes, but we will be in session. We can talk about what time to come in tomorrow morning, but I think we will be in until about 12 noon tomorrow, and we will not be in for the remainder of Thursday or Friday.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have one additional question. We are in morning business now until 12:30, or whenever the leader calls for the vote. I am wondering—because yesterday it got a little awkward—if we can have an agreement that the time would alternate—one Republican, one Democrat, back and forth. That way people have an idea of what to do when they come here. If there are two Republicans here

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S1913

and no Democrats, OK. I don't think we need to do that in the form of an agreement, but at least the Chair would recognize we are going to do that.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I think that would be very much something we will agree to and appreciate. We have a lot to do in morning business over the course of today and tomorrow. To be able to use that time efficiently, alternating back and forth is certainly fine.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m., with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING THE "COLUMBIA" ASTRONAUTS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk on behalf of myself, Senator NELSON of Florida, Senator FRIST of Tennessee, Senator DASCHLE of South Dakota, Senator CORNYN of Texas, and Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 45) commemorating the Columbia astronauts:

Whereas the United States of America and the world mourn the seven astronauts who perished aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003, as they re-entered Earth's atmosphere at the conclusion of their 16-day mission;

Whereas United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband, Mission Commander; United States Navy Commander William "Willie" McCool, Pilot; United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Payload Commander/Mission Specialist; United States Navy Captain David M. Brown, Mission Specialist; United States Navy Commander Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Mission Specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist; and Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist were killed in the line of duty during the 113th Space Shuttle Mission;

Whereas we stand in awe of the courage necessary to break the bonds of Earth and venture into space, with full knowledge of the perils and complexities inherent in such an endeavor;

Whereas the people of the United States and the world have enjoyed rich benefits from the space program including technological advances in medicine, communications, energy, agronomy, and astronomy;

Whereas we in the Congress of the United States recognize that curiosity, wonder and the desire to improve life on Earth has inspired our exploration of space and these traits epitomize the intrinsic dreams of the human race;

Whereas, despite these lofty goals, we realize that our reach for the stars will never be without risk or peril, and setbacks will always be a part of the human experience;

Whereas we recognize our solemn duty to devote our finest minds and resources toward minimizing these risks and protecting the remarkable men and women who are willing to risk their lives to serve mankind; and

Whereas we will always hold in our hearts the seven intrepid souls of Columbia, as well as those explorers who perished before, including those aboard Apollo I and the Space Shuttle Challenger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the tragedy which befell the Space Shuttle Columbia shall not dissuade or discourage this Nation from venturing ever farther into the vastness of space;

(2) today we restate our firm commitment to exploring the planets and celestial bodies of our Solar System, and beyond;

(3) we express our eternal sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the families of the seven astronauts;

(4) we convey our condolences to our friends and allies in the state of Israel over the loss of Colonel Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli in space;

(5) we will never forget the sacrifices made by the seven heroes aboard Columbia; and

(6) we shall learn from this tragedy so that these sacrifices shall not have been in vain.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, today I rise to honor the memory and the sacrifice of the seven astronauts whose lives were tragically cut short in pursuit of the newest frontier—space.

America is a word, a country, and a people. America is also a spirit, an indomitable spirit of adventure and courage, one that defies complacency and accepts challenge. The American spirit knows no bounds.

Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon also had that spirit, and so did Kalpana Chawla, who was born in India and made America her home. It is that spirit which President Kennedy harnessed in 1961 when he made the bold claim: Within a decade, America would put a man on the Moon and return him safely home.

That same spirit enabled us to fulfill a great mission and make space travel seem routine, although it was never routine.

It is that spirit which fueled the hearts and minds of those seven men and women who launched into the sky on January 6, 2003.

On Saturday, we were reminded of the high price we sometimes pay for reaching new horizons. Our thirst for knowledge led us to explore space. Our curiosity, sense of wonderment, and desire to improve life on Earth prompted

us time and again to defy the odds. Those heroes did not take their task lightly, but they undertook it with joy.

Ilan Roman, the first Israeli astronaut, who was on that fated flight, wrote the following words from space:

The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile.

His serene vision came to a catastrophic end on Saturday morning, and that moment when the world awoke to the news that seven astronauts disappeared into the skies will be one etched in our collective memories forever.

In recent years, America has borne too much tragedy and experienced too much grief, but our collective loss still sears our souls and the pain is never easier to bear. Today, just 4 short days after they vanished into the crystal blue skies of Texas, we pause to remember them and thank them from our hearts: Rick Husband, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Ilan Roman, William McCool, David Brown, and Michael Anderson.

And though the families' loss cannot be diminished, their pain and grief is shared around the world and our prayers are with them.

Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. Their lives were not lost in vain. We will send more brave astronauts into the cosmos to learn and discover. We will continue to explore the vast sky that envelops the Earth and their names will forever be etched into the history of space flight.

Rick Husband, a spiritual man, a Texan, the commander of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, often signed photos referencing Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct your paths.

Throughout history, our young Nation has experienced great heartache and tragedy. Each time, we have overcome adversity with boldness and tenacity. We have come back stronger than ever.

With steely resolve and a firm determination, we rose from the ashes and embers of Ground Zero more resolute than ever before.

Christina Rossetti, the 18th century poet, wrote a poem called "Remember." She could never have envisioned what this poem would come to represent, but it did bring me some solace in this time of tragedy in my home State of Texas. She wrote:

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned;
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that I once had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

We will hold these seven souls in our hearts and eventually we will smile