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No. 1

Senate

The fourth day of January being the day prescribed by House Concurrent Resolution 531 for the meeting of the 1st Session of the 109th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol and at 12:01 p.m. was called to order by the Vice President [Mr. CHE-NEY].

PRAYER

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

Let us bow reverently as we pray.

Sovereign God, Creator and sustainer of us all, our hearts ache for the tsunami victims and for all touched by this tragedy. In our sadness, our eyes turn to You. We confess that we do not fully understand why bad things happen to good people. Nonetheless, by faith, we believe that You can carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair.

Lord, make us Your eyes, ears, feet, and hands to bring solace to those who suffer. Guide us as we seek to help the hurting and empower the global humanitarian effort. Comfort those who mourn, and strengthen the widows and orphans.

Today, bless our 109th Congress. Give our new Senators wisdom and courage as You order their steps. Help them trust You so completely that Your will may be done on Earth.

We pray this in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The VICE PRESIDENT 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 VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, these last 9 days have brought upon each of us, our fellow Americans, and, indeed, the entirety of the civilized world profound sadness and sympathy. We both as individuals and as a body will speak later today about the epic tragedy in Southern Asia that has taken upwards of 150,000 lives. But for now, I would like to begin our session by taking a moment of silence to show respect for those who lost their lives and our sincere hope that the loved ones left behind may heal.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificates of election of 34 Senators elected for 6-year terms beginning on January 5, 2005. All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all the essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the above-mentioned certificates will be waived, and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF INDIANA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November 2004, Evan Bayh was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Indiana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Joseph E. Kernan, and our seal hereto affixed

at Indianapolis, this the eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

By the Governor:

JOSEPH E. KERNAN,
Governor.

STATE OF UTAH

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, Robert F. Bennett was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Utah a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the third day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Salt Lake City, this 29th day of November, 2004.

OLENE S. WALKER,
Governor.

STATE OF MISSOURI

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Christopher "Kit" Bond was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Missouri, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness His Excellency our Governor Bob Holden and our seal hereto affixed at 11:00 a.m. this 1st day of December, in the year of the Common Era 2004.

BOB HOLDEN,
Governor.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States of America:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Barbara Boxer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of California a Senator from said State to represent California in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 14th day of December 2004.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
Governor.

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



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