



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2005

No. 36

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2005

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD M. BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God, the fountain of every blessing, we thank You for the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. You blessed our world with his intellectual strength and compassionate heart. You challenged our spirits with his advocacy of justice and his pursuit of peace.

God of all mercies, comfort those who mourn. Be particularly near to the family of Doug Fertig, Director of Human Resources for our Senate family, who died on Friday. Remind us that nothing can separate us from Your love.

Bless today the work of our Senators. Empower them with increasing awareness and openness of heart. Give them wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We pray in Your eternal Name.

Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD M. BURR 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 4, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD M. BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURR 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, the Senate returns to session today and joins the world in mourning the death of Pope John Paul II. I know many of my colleagues will want to pay tribute to one of our greatest spiritual leaders. Therefore, we will have a period of morning business throughout the day to accommodate those speeches. I also alert my colleagues that we are working on a Senate resolution which would pay the appropriate respect and tribute to Pope John Paul.

We have also returned to the sad news of the passing of one of our former colleagues, Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

With regard to the schedule this week, we have a busy legislative schedule with a number of scheduling challenges over the next several days. We hope to begin consideration of the State Department authorization bill tomorrow, on Tuesday. Chairman LUGAR is preparing to bring that bill to the floor, and we hope to complete work on that over the course of the next couple of days. I hope we can reach an agreement that will allow that bill to come forward, with amendments relevant to the underlying legislation.

In addition, on Wednesday, there will be a joint meeting of the House and Senate to receive an address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. That is scheduled for 11 a.m. We ask that Members be in the Senate Chamber at approximately 10:30 so we may proceed together to the Hall of the House of Representatives for that address.

Also this week, we have a couple of district judges who are available for consideration, and we will want to schedule those for floor action.

On behalf of the Republican and Democratic Policy Committees, I remind everybody that on Tuesday we will have a floor debate on the issue of Social Security. Senators SANTORUM, DEMINT, DURBIN, and STABENOW will participate in the scheduled debate. I encourage all Members to listen to this constructive conversation. I applaud

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



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