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Senate

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATOR PETE DOMENICI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I outline what we are going to do this afternoon, let me say I had a conversation last week with PETE DOMENICI, who announced he would not run for reelection. I served with Senator DOMENICI for my entire time in the Senate on the Appropriations Committee. We worked on the Energy and Water Subcommittee over many years. During most of that time, he was either chairman or I was chairman, and the other one was the ranking member. We traveled the country looking at different facilities that related to the jurisdiction we had. It was a great subcommittee because all the money we had was discretionary, and it was a subcommittee that did so many good things for the country. There were water projects that were long overdue. We set up the safety and reliability of our nuclear arsenal. It was not easy, but we worked through that.

Senator DOMENICI has a tremendously interesting background. Because of my fascination with athletics, and especially baseball, I was stunned to learn this respectable man—who has so much mental acuity and is good

with numbers and all this—had started out as a great baseball player. He was a pitcher, a left-handed pitcher, as I understand. He played professional baseball. He was in the Brooklyn Dodgers' farm system. He left there to become a junior high school math teacher.

He went on to earn a law degree before he began a storied career in the State of New Mexico as a city councilman and mayor. Now, of course, he is one of the more senior Members of the Senate.

During the time Senator DOMENICI and I have known each other, we have gotten to know each other's spouses. He is very kind and thoughtful to Landra, my wife, as I try to be to his very sweet, personable Nancy. They have eight children.

He is a person for whom I have great respect. I will miss him. He has a unique knowledge of the importance of our National Laboratories. One reason, of course, is we have two of them in the State of New Mexico. But we have them in other places—California, Illinois. I have traveled with him to Missouri.

He is a person who has looked out for the Nevada test site—a place where almost 1,000 nuclear devices were exploded, most of them underground, but not all of them underground. He worked with me to make sure that facility—that is a billion-dollar facility—is still used for the security of this Nation. He has worked on, as I have indicated, the safety of our nuclear stockpile.

He made his decision to retire for reasons that are certainly valid, but that does not take away from the fact we will all miss him.

I must say, one of the other issues he has worked so hard on—originally with Senator Wellstone, but after that much of the time alone—deals with mental health parity. Fortuitously, a week before we adjourned for the Columbus Day recess, we passed that legislation

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord, magnificent in mercy, plenteous in grace, and generous in love, we pause to confess our shortcomings. Forgive us for speaking when we should listen and for manipulating facts to suit our purposes. Forgive us also for waiting for opportunities instead of creating them. Lord, we have forgotten, faltered, and failed, and we ask today for Your mercy.

Strengthen our Senators for today's journey. Give them strong hearts and sound minds to do their ethical best in representing You. As they look to the future, give them the wisdom to join their plans to Your will and to do Your work on Earth. Lord, radiate Your hope through them, making them positive people who are expectant of Your best for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

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



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