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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. Steven N. Ailes, Main Street United Methodist Church, Peru, IN.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, Lord of all that is good and beautiful and perfect, we come to pray for Your blessing upon this gathering of U.S. Senators. We ask for the guidance of Your holy spirit upon the work they do for this one Nation under God. We pray for Your inspiration in their hearts and minds and souls. We ask for Your grace in their work and deliberation, that this might be an extension of Your sustaining presence in our life together as citizens of heaven and of these United States of America.

While we pray for these elected representatives of our Nation, we remember the families and staff who are such an integral part of their service to our Nation and to the world. May all be touched by Your love and respect for all people; from all nations, in all conditions, in all Your creation.

O Holy God, be with us all in these moments, that our work may be directed by Your peace—a peace that surpasses mere human understanding and encompasses care and compassion for the entire world. May You lead these Your servants with a passion for justice and righteousness, wisdom and insight, mercy and love; with strength to do that which is right and honorable and in accord with Your holy way.

God, bless America, and may Your will be done in this gathering and in our lives. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 5, 2008.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Senator from Indiana wishes to comment on the chaplain who is kind enough to join us today. I yield to him for that purpose.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Indiana is recognized.

### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague.

It is a special privilege to see the Senate open with a prayer today by

Rev. Steven Ailes from Peru, IN. Reverend Ailes has served in seven churches in Indiana. He is a civic leader in Peru as president of the Rotary Club and has been the chairman and a member of many foundations. He has brought students to this Capitol from Peru, IN, with regularity.

I have known Reverend Ailes well because of his son Justin who is a distinguished graduate of the University of Indianapolis and who came onto my staff and served for many years as a very able public servant. It has been a privilege to be reunited this morning with Justin and with his dad.

Let me say that Reverend Ailes is a genuine Hoosier, born in Valparaiso, IN. He completed his undergraduate degrees at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, but came back to Ball State and has served there likewise in addition to these distinguished churches in our State.

I thank the Chair for allowing me to make this special word of greeting and commendation to a very distinguished pastor and a very dear friend. I thank the Chair.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in the place of our leader, Senator REID, who couldn't be with us this morning.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today following my remarks and the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL, there will be a period of morning business for up to 2 hours with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority

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



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