

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A Resolution (S. Res. 623) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 623) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 623

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy as President of the Senate pro tempore.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR LEAHY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I first wish to congratulate my friend, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, who has been honored to receive one of the Senate's highest honors, President pro tempore of the Senate. I congratulate him and join with him in expressing my sadness over the passing of Senator DAN INOUE.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to express my sadness over the passing of Senator DAN INOUE.

DAN INOUE came to this government, started his government service, at least, 60 years ago in the territorial legislature of Hawaii. He came to Congress when Hawaii became a State in 1959, to the Senate in 1963, and was second only, I guess, in service to Robert Byrd. He was a serious man, a solid man, a patriot, and one who always had a good spirit about how he conducted his affairs and how he related to other Members of the Senate, to his constituents, and to the American people.

DAN had served in the most violent combat and was grievously wounded himself. He was part of the 442d Regimental Combat Team, a 4,000-man unit that served in brutal combat. They were replaced 3½ times in personnel to maintain their strength, with 14,000 having served in that combat team during the brutal combat in Italy. There were 9,500 who received Purple Hearts and 21 Medal of Honors, including Senator INOUE's Medal of Honor.

It was a remarkable time and a remarkable commitment DAN INOUE demonstrated to the country he loved.

I know we will talk about his record, and I may do that later myself, but I want to say what I think about DAN INOUE at his core. He shared with us a few weeks ago at the prayer breakfast—and we don't quote what people say at that meeting—his feelings about war and his participation in it. It was one of the most moving presentations I think any of us had heard, and it was so well received by the people there. The truth is, Senator INOUE did not like war. He hated war. He knew the destructive power of war and how people suffered as a result of it, and he voted against a number of resolutions that would commit the United States to military action.

But at the same time, there was no doubt, based on his ranking and chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Appropriations Committee over a period of years—decades—he was the person who always, at bottom, could be counted on to ensure this Nation was well defended; that we did not make mistakes.

He and Senator Ted Stevens had a unique relationship. When something developed that was important for the Defense Department, and it involved a danger to our government or could do damage to the Department or they seriously needed something—and often-times in this government, we can't respond and we don't respond effectively—DAN INOUE and Ted Stevens would go in and it would be fixed. They understood that peace through strength was the best way to avoid war, and they felt a sense of great responsibility to ensure the Defense Department was not damaged on their watch. Their experience and their judgment was such they could tell the difference between whines and complaints and real danger to America's defense capability.

I would say that DAN INOUE has established a record that places him among the finest Senators ever to serve here, one of the finest human beings to serve here, and I want to say, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, how much I appreciated his particular commitment to ensuring that America's defense capability remains second to none and his willingness to take the steps necessary to maintain our defense at the level we would want it to be.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT TRAGEDY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, to begin, I want to take a few minutes to express my deepest sorrow for the events of last Friday. As a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent, I was horrified to hear the news of the tragedy in New-

town, CT. My sadness remains for those who have lost their children and loved ones and for the quiet community that saw its sense of peace and well-being shattered through such a terrible act of violence.

I, like almost everyone I know, am at a loss when it comes to making sense of such a horrible tragedy, and I won't try to do so today. All I can do is offer my prayers and sympathies for those who lost their children, friends, and family members, and to the people of Newtown.

In my faith, we believe families are eternal; that those who have lost loved ones will one day be reunited with them. That belief has helped me to cope with losses I have experienced over the years. And while I know nothing can relieve the pain of losing a child, I hope this notion will bring the parents of those sweet innocent children some measure of comfort.

Once again, I offer my heartfelt prayers and deepest sympathy to those in Newtown and throughout the country who have cause to mourn this day.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to a person I loved, appreciated, and worked with for all these years—all of my 36 years in the Senate—and to bid a fond farewell to our dearly departed friend, the senior Senator from Hawaii, DAN INOUE.

In addition to being a distinguished United States Senator, Senator INOUE was many things: a Pearl Harbor survivor, a Medal of Honor recipient, a father, a grandfather, and a loving husband to his wife Irene.

As a volunteer with the Red Cross, young DANIEL INOUE tended to the wounded in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During World War II, when the Federal Government was placing thousands of his fellow Japanese Americans in internment camps, Senator INOUE was one of many Asian Americans who petitioned the government for the right to serve their country in the military. His petition was successful, and he served heroically. In fact, the story of Senator INOUE's military service has become the stuff of legend here in the Senate and throughout the country.

In 2000, Senator INOUE, along with 21 of his fellow Japanese-American World War II veterans, was awarded the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest honor for valor.

In 1959, when Hawaii achieved statehood, he was elected the State's first full member of the House of Representatives. Three years later, in 1962, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he would serve for five decades, the second longest tenure in this Chamber's history. I am honored to have served with Senator INOUE throughout my entire Senate service.

While he and I often found ourselves on different sides when it came to