



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013

No. 173

## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today give our Senators the second wind of Your passion, power, and perseverance. Fill them with the assurance of Your presence. May they seek to live with the knowledge that You have chosen them to serve You and country. Protect their thoughts and actions from temptation as You control all they say and do by the power of Your spirit. May their lives bring glory to Your Name. Lord, remind them that they pass through this life but once, so that they must not take this day for granted but live to honor You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

### SCHEDULE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:30 p.m. for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the majority leader is going to yield the floor to me at this moment.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

### CONGRATULATING THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the State of Nevada was admitted to the Union in 1864. Since 1864 there have been 25 Senators in its 148-year history. Today HARRY MASON REID becomes the longest serving Member of Congress in the history of the State of Nevada.

Senator REID was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives the same year I was elected, 1982, and became a Member of the House in 1983. He became a Member of the Senate in 1987. He has served with great distinction in both Houses of Congress, serving his State of Nevada, and today is the highest ranking Democrat in the Senate, serving as its majority leader.

I daresay, Mr. President, that you and I would probably not really know anything about the town of Searchlight, NV, were it not for HARRY REID. HARRY REID has told us so many stories of his youth and his background in that tiny town and what brought him to this station in life today. I almost feel that if there were a town or high school reunion, I could attend it with HARRY and look around and recognize a lot of people there because I have certainly heard a lot of stories about his youth and the people who have had a dramatic impact on his life from the time he was growing up in Searchlight, NV.

We know he came from modest circumstances. His family raised him in a very small home without indoor plumbing. He attended a two-room elementary school in Searchlight, NV. As a child, Senator REID's father was a hard rock miner and his mother took in laundry. He says of his parents that

his father gave him quiet and his mother gave him confidence.

Opportunities were scarce in Searchlight, but HARRY made the most of what he had. His book "The Good Fight" has a great opening paragraph that I would like to share with everyone because it says so much about what life must have been like in the town of Searchlight.

HARRY wrote in his book:

I come from a mining town. But by the time I came along—December 22, 1939—the leading industry in my hometown of Searchlight, NV, was no longer mining, it was prostitution. I don't exaggerate. There was a local law that said you could not have a house of prostitution or a place that served alcohol within so many feet of a school. Once, when it was determined that one of the clubs was in violation of the law, they moved the school.

It says a lot about Searchlight. It also says a lot about the circumstances he faced growing up. He made the most of what he had.

Between hitchhiking more than 40 miles and staying with extended relatives, HARRY was able to attend Basic High School, the nearest high school to Searchlight. While at Basic High in Henderson, he met two people who dramatically changed his life—Landra Gould, who would become his wife of 53 years and counting, and Mike O'Callaghan, who was a coach, a teacher, a mentor, and a friend. HARRY REID said of Mike O'Callaghan that he was the toughest man he ever met.

HARRY REID played high school baseball with Rey Martinez, who would become his chief of staff, and Donnie Wilson, who would also go to work for REID in Washington.

I once invited "Mr. Cub," Ernie Banks, to my office, and I invited HARRY REID—a former baseball player in his youth—to come up and meet Ernie Banks.

Ernie Banks looked in his eye and said: What position did you play, HARRY?

HARRY said: I played catcher.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S8637