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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. 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.

O mighty God, our gracious Father, thank You for the gift of this day. Lord, You are the one clear manifestation of love in the midst of lesser powers. Today, use our lawmakers to bring more of Your love to our world so that Your kingdom may come and Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

May our Senators discover the stillness of soul needed to begin to comprehend what is the height, length, breadth, and depth of Your great love. Use them as Your instruments of righteousness and justice in our world. Lord, open their minds to think Your thoughts and give them the courage to do Your will.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 488, S. 2648, the emergency supplemental appro-

priations act dealing with the border crisis.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 488, S. 2648, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

At 12 noon, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Robert Alan McDonald to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly caucus meetings.

At 2:45 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote for confirmation of the McDonald nomination, followed by several voice votes to confirm the Andre, Hoza, and Polaschik nominations.

Upon disposition of the Polaschik nomination, the Senate will consider the Highway and Transportation Funding Act. Senators should expect five rollcall votes this evening in relation to Wyden-Hatch, Carper-Corker-Boxer, Lee, and Toomey amendments and on passage of H.R. 5021, as amended, if amended. Senators will be notified when those votes are scheduled.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2673
AND H.R. 3393

Mr. REID. There are two bills at the desk due for second readings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2673) to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

A bill (H.R. 3393) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to consolidate certain tax benefits for educational expenses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements to the child tax credit, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings of these two matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

VETERANS' CARE

Mr. REID. Almost 2 years ago, within a few days 2 years ago, we were in Las Vegas to dedicate this beautiful new veterans facility. Taxpayers' money spent on it was about \$700 million. It is beautiful. It is the second one we have been able to do in southern Nevada. We built a nice little hospital with a joint venture between the Veterans Administration and the Air Force.

But with the wars in Iraq, and Afghanistan, we ran out of room to accommodate the influx of veterans.

It became very difficult for veterans. We have a huge veterans population in southern Nevada. We have all kinds of military bases there that they are stationed in. They come, and they decide they want to live in southern Nevada.

So the veterans in southern Nevada found themselves in a difficult situation. When this new hospital was dedicated—it took 7 years of work to get this done. I worked hard, as did others, to obtain this money. It was a state-of-the-art facility, 100 inpatient beds, a nursing home unit, and an ambulatory care center. It was a state-of-the-art facility. It was unquestionably, probably without exaggerating, the finest veterans hospital in the country. It was brandnew. But, more importantly, it was a precious resource to veterans throughout the State of Nevada.

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



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