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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 2 p.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our rock and our fortress, thank You for guiding our lives. Without the unfolding of Your loving providence, we would miss life's music. Lord, You have set our feet on solid ground and delivered us from our enemies. You have kept us from sorrow and sighing for we trust You in life's storms.

Today, empower our lawmakers to be instruments of Your will. Remind them that their times are in Your hands as You save them in Your steadfast love. Give them serenity to accept what they cannot change and courage to change what they can.

We pray in Your Holy 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.

REMEMBERING BEAU BIDEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I will have more to say about the Senate business before the Senate later, but at this time I wish to express my sincere condolences to the entire Biden family in their moment of such deep and profound loss.

Beau Biden was known to many as a dedicated public servant, a loving father of two, and a devoted partner to the woman he loved, Hallie.

I have known the Vice President for many years, and it is hard to think of anything more important to him than his faith and his family. I hope he will find comfort in the former as he grieves such a terrible loss.

The Senate offers its Presiding Officer and every member of his family our prayers and our sympathy.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 5 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form and that the Senate recess at 5 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING BEAU BIDEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I join in my feelings about the JOE BIDEN family. I

was saddened beyond words to hear of the passing of Beau. He was such a fine young man. He was a devoted husband, father, son, a dedicated servant to the people of Delaware, and a faithful, honorable veteran of the United States, having served in the Middle East in Iraq.

I, of course, extend all of the sympathy I am capable of extending to his family during this very difficult time. Beau left us far too soon. He was only 46 years old, but I am certain his family will take solace in knowing he lived a selfless, noble life.

To my friend JOE BIDEN, whom I served with in Congress for so many years, I extend my deepest thoughts and condolences to you, JOE.

There is a song "Man of Constant Sorrow" that certainly, if that ever applied to someone, it would be our friend JOE BIDEN. Not having been sworn in to the Senate, he experienced the tragic loss of his wife and little girl. Then, as to his two sons, Beau and Hunter, he spent time on a train going back and forth to Delaware virtually every night so he could take care of those two fine young men until he was fortunate enough to meet Jill Biden, his beautiful wife.

I am very sorry JOE has had to go through this terrible ordeal now of losing a son after having lost a daughter.

But, I repeat, there is no question that Delaware is a better place because of Beau, our country is a better place because of Beau, and the world is better place because of Beau Biden.

I, and the entire Senate family, as Senator MCCONNELL has indicated,

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



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