

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader is recognized.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I object. Reserving the right to object, I would say to the majority leader that we are about to enter a topic where people have strong opinions, and they should be able to speak what amount they desire and not be limited to 10 minutes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I am not sure what the question of the Senator from Oregon is related to. I was simply going to commend the Senator from Louisiana for presiding over the Chamber for 100 hours—not a terribly controversial thing, I don't think.

Mr. MERKLEY. And I certainly don't object to the Senator doing that. But as we go into morning business, there is no need to put a 10-minute limit to accomplish that.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a word to Senators about our colleague currently in the chair. He has just passed an important milestone. He has now presided over the Senate for 100 hours. We all know what that means. He will be receiving the Golden Gavel, and I look forward to presenting it to him tomorrow.

Presiding over the Senate may not seem the most glamorous job around here to some people, but it is an important one. You learn a lot about procedure, you learn a lot about your colleagues, and because the use of electronic devices is prohibited, you rediscover the lost art of communicating with a pen and a piece of paper. I think

we could all stand to benefit from that kind of practice.

Today's Golden Gavel recipient often dashes off notes for pages to bring to his staff while in the chair, and because today's Golden Gavel recipient is a doctor, it also takes his staff about 3 hours to decipher each of the notes he writes.

Here is the bottom line for our friend from Louisiana. Being in the chair reminds him of all the history in this Chamber. It brings to mind the many important decisions that have been made here over the years, and it gives him perspective.

"Every now and then," Senator CASIDY says, he likes to just "soak up the moment." I hope he will take the opportunity to do so now. He is the first Member of the class of 2014 to earn the Golden Gavel distinction, and all of our colleagues are pleased to acknowledge this accomplishment.

#### NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the body the message to accompany S. 764.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 764) entitled "An Act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3450

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 764 with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 764 with an amendment numbered 3450.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment with an amendment to S. 764, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, Tom Cotton,

Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Richard Burr, James M. Inhofe, Jeff Flake, Tim Scott, Cory Gardner, Shelley Moore Capito.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

#### MOTION TO REFER

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to refer the House message on S. 764 to the Committee on Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to refer the bill, S. 764, to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to Sarah Root, a young woman from Iowa who had a very bright future but was taken from this Earth too soon.

Sarah was 21 years old and just graduated from Bellevue University with perfect grades. In the words of her family, "She was full of life and ready to take on the world."

According to a close friend of hers, Sarah was smart, outgoing, and dedicated to her friends and family. She embodied the words that were tattooed on her body: "Live, laugh and love."

The day Sarah graduated, she was struck by a drunk driver. That driver was in the country illegally. The alleged drunk driver was Edwin Mejia, and he had a blood alcohol content of .241, three times the legal limit. The driver was charged with felony motor vehicle homicide and operating a vehicle while intoxicated on February 3. Bail was set at \$50,000, but he was only required to put up 10 percent. So for a mere \$5,000, the drunk driver walked out of jail and into the shadows. As Sarah's father said, after laying his daughter to rest, "The cost of a bond cost less than the funeral."

Those are painful words to hear, but what is more frustrating is that the driver should have never been released. When local law enforcement apparently asked the Federal Government—specifically U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—to take custody of the person, the Federal Government declined. ICE refused to place a detainer on the driver. An ICE spokesman stated that the agency did not lodge a detainer on the man because