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Senate

The Senate met at 3 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.

Eternal God, we trust You. Lead us in the paths that bring glory to Your Name. Point us to the right road, guiding us with Your truth so that we will honor You with our lives.

Give our lawmakers gratitude for the work they do each day and for the opportunities to make a positive impact upon our Nation and world. Increase in their hearts the qualities of love, knowledge, and obedience, enabling our Senators to grow daily in Your likeness.

And Lord, we praise You for the life and legacy of a gentle statesman, President George Herbert Walker Bush.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE LYING IN STATE OF THE REMAINS OF THE LATE GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH, 41ST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 55, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 55) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of the United States.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 55) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE CATAFALQUE SITUATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 56, submitted earlier today.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) providing for the use of the catafalque situ-

ated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the rotunda of the Capitol for the late George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of the United States.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the McNamee nomination occur at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5. I further ask unanimous consent that the congressional review period for S.J. Res. 64 be extended until December 14.

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE H. W. BUSH

Mr. McCONNELL. On Friday, the 94-year journey of George Herbert Walker Bush came to a close. At once, Americans from all walks of life began paying tribute to this great patriot and giving thanks for his fearless heroism in wartime skies; for his dedicated, expert service at the highest levels of government, in one essential role after another; for his loving fatherhood of a great family.

I am not the first to observe that George Bush seemed like the "greatest generation" distilled into a single life

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



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story—the immense contributions in both wartime and peacetime, the stunning bravery paired with quiet humility, the belief that devoted service is not cause for special praise but simply each citizen's duty.

The “greatest generation” achieved all-American accomplishments and exhibited all-American virtues. And it may be just that no one did that as fully as our 41st President. Even in the ranks of this remarkable generation, he will stand out forever as one of its most especially remarkable sons. George Bush was the best of the best.

Months after Pearl Harbor, our future President celebrated his 18th birthday and high school graduation by enlisting in the Navy. He was still a teenager when he got his wings—the youngest naval aviator.

He was only 20 on that fateful day in September 1944. He was piloting one of four Avenger bombers aiming to take out a Japanese radio tower. His plane was hit. The engine caught fire, and the cockpit began filling with smoke, but George Bush kept his steady hands on the controls. Rather than turn tail, he and his crew went right on with their mission. Only after he had released the bombs—and successfully damaged his target—did he finally bail out over the Pacific. With a steady hand on the controls, more worried about doing his duty for others than about himself, George Bush stayed the course.

According to one biographer, that was a key phrase for him. It concluded a list of core principles he once laid out in a letter to his mother. Here is what he said:

Tell the truth. Don't blame people. Be strong. Do your best. Try hard. Forgive. Stay the course.

Year after year, post after post, George Bush stayed the course, and he helped his country do the same. Through the fog of war in the Persian Gulf, when international order needed defending, America's Commander-in-Chief led just as steadily as he had in that smoking cockpit almost 50 years earlier. And in between the Pacific and the Presidency, he steered us straight through countless challenges as a Congressman, Ambassador to the United Nations, Envoy to China, CIA Director, and Vice President.

Serving capably in just one or two of these posts would ensure any citizen's place in American history, but George Bush served in all of them and always with excellence. On the homefront, President Bush was a warrior for hope, optimism, and opportunity. As President, he paved the way for education reform and signed legislation to give disabled Americans a better shot. Overseas, he was a talented diplomat and powerful champion of our interests.

It was on his watch that the Cold War finally ended. The free people of Europe threw off the shackles of communism. But President Bush knew America should not kick up our heels and enjoy a holiday from history. We

fought and won the gulf war in order to make something perfectly clear to allies and enemies alike: It had to be right, and not might, that filled the void. We needed, he said, “a world where the rule of law supplants the rule of the jungle.” And his leadership moved us towards such a world.

Through global change, domestic turmoil, and economic transformation—whether in jobs that he had passionately sought out or in other assignments he dutifully accepted—George Bush kept us on course. He wasn't a dramatic or revolutionary leader. He didn't advertise radical change. He never quite seemed at home in the spotlight. Instead, he offered humility and a servant's heart. He aspired to govern his country well, preserve what was good, and improve things where possible. He wanted to keep us flying high and challenge us to fly a little higher. He led us as he seemingly did everything in his life—with grace and kindness that seemed almost unbelievable, given all that he had accomplished.

Daring aviator. Chief spy. Wartime President. You would think this must be a tough and gruff guy, but it is the man's good cheer and generous spirit that stand out most of all in our national memory. He was a prolific hand-writer of notes and letters. He freely changed his own plans to make life easier for his staff or for the Secret Service detail. I saw recently that, some years after his Presidency, he couldn't even bring himself to simply turn down a reporter's request for an interview without crafting a warm, apologetic, full-page letter explaining his rationale.

His decency and attentiveness to others was a credit to his upbringing. But it wasn't only habit; it was principle. This is a man who said this in his inaugural address:

In our hearts, we know what matters. We cannot hope only to leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend; a loving parent; a citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood, and town better than he found it.

Looking beyond the day's drama. Issuing a deep moral challenge. George Bush set the bar high. His country listened because we saw him meet those standards himself.

George Bush's gifts were many, but some gifts were greater than others. George Bush and Barbara Pierce met at a Christmas party in 1941. He described her to his mother as “the niftiest girl at the dance.” Weeks after he returned from the war, they were married. “I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world,” he would write much later, “but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband.”

Their love story would grow to include six children. It would span great joys and tragic loss. It weathered the challenges of the spotlight. In every chapter, George Bush served as com-

forter and counselor. He cared for loved ones with a dedication that never ceased to amaze them.

So much for the myth of the starched Episcopalian New Englander. George Bush was no stoic. In fact, he developed his own teary-eyed reputation as a founding member of what the Bush family calls “The Bawl Brigade.” That is b-a-w-l.

He was considerate, empathetic, and kind, and the Bushes passed on these values to their children. They nurtured a family of leaders whose contributions have enriched this country even more.

Few men so powerful would have even thought to call for a kinder, gentler nation. Even fewer could have lived it themselves.

His words literally lifted our spirits. His example inspired us. A quarter of a century after George Bush left the Oval Office, his legacy continues to directly inspire not just “a thousand points of light” but millions of volunteers who serve others.

So in war and peace, in public and in private, in high office and in family moments, George Bush stayed the course—the “greatest generation,” indeed.

The grand heroism that saved our Nation, the quiet diligence that built it up, and the basic goodness that sustains it—all in one.

Today, the U.S. Senate joins the Nation and the Bush family in mourning and in prayer.

We are also joined in gratitude.

We are thankful that God gave this country George Bush and Barbara, thankful that they built such a loving family, and thankful that they may now be reunited—their great love story perfected in the light of His grace.

AMY, VICKY, AND ANDY CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2018

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am pleased Congress recently passed my bipartisan bill, the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018. This legislation will help provide meaningful assistance for child pornography victims to support their recovery and allow them to reclaim their lives. This is a momentous day and many years in the making. I have introduced similar versions of this bill in the last three Congresses, and I look forward to the President signing it into law.

Nearly 25 years ago, Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act, which created a process for victims to seek restitution from defendants. For crimes that involve individual defendants who cause specific harm to particular victims, the restitution statute works in a straightforward way.

Child pornography is unlike any other crime. The abuse involved in creating these images profoundly alters the lives of victims, while trafficking in the permanent record of that abuse