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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 20, 1996)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, Almighty Sovereign of our Nation, and strength of our lives, we thank You for the privilege of living in this land You have blessed so bountifully. With awe and wonder, we realize anew the stunning truth that You have called the United States to be Your providential demonstration of the freedom and equality, righteousness and justice, opportunity and hope, You desire for all nations. O God, help us to be faithful to our heritage.

We praise You for the way You have blessed us with great leaders in each period of our history. Through them You have continued to give Your vision for the unfolding of the American dream. And this is especially true today. Bless the Senators with a renewed sense of their calling to greatness through Your grace. You have appointed them; now anoint them afresh with Your spirit. As they confront the soul-sized, crucial issues of this week, give them a spirit of unity and cooperativeness. The workload is great, the pressure is heavy, and the challenge is formidable; but, nothing is impossible for You.

Fill this Chamber with Your presence. You are the judge of all that will be said and done here. Ultimately, we have no one to please or answer to but You. With renewed commitment to You, and reigned patriotism, we press on to living the page of American history to be written this week. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. Following morning business today, it would be my intention to begin consideration of a continuing resolution. We are fast approaching the end of this fiscal year. It certainly is my hope that we would be allowed to begin this important appropriations measure. At this time, we are unable to reach an agreement to begin that bill. I tried several different approaches last Friday in discussions with the Democratic leader. We were not able to come to any agreement at that time, but we will keep working today. Hopefully, we can reach some understanding as to how we would proceed.

In accordance with the agreement reached on Friday, the Senate will resume consideration of the maritime security legislation today at 4:30, with a series of rollcall votes beginning at 5 p.m. on or in relation to pending amendments as well as final passage on that. I presume there would be at least four votes at that time. So we will have the stacked votes at 5 o'clock.

We are also hoping that the one outstanding issue on S. 1505, the pipeline safety bill, could be resolved, and we could complete action on that measure also.

It is my understanding that the VA-HUD appropriations conference report may be available for consideration this afternoon. I know that the agreement has been worked out and that they are

scheduled to vote sometime today. I do not know exactly what time we will get it. But as soon as we get it, we will try to get it into the mix at the earliest possible opportunity. It certainly is an important appropriations bill dealing with the Veterans' Administration and, of course, all of our housing policies in the country. We need to get that bill completed in order for the checks to go out on time at the end of this week or certainly the first of next week.

We will stand in recess today from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet. Once again, I ask for the cooperation of all Senators as we begin what I hope will be the final week of the Senate's business prior to adjournment. In order to accomplish that, it is going to take a lot of cooperation, a lot of give-and-take. I certainly will make every effort to work with all Senators. I hope Senators understand that this week is going to be very hard to schedule votes around other events, especially if we are really moving seriously toward completing our work, as we should, on Friday or Saturday.

In addition to that, we are working to see if we can clear problems with the NIH revitalization authorization bill. I understand there is the potential point of order that maybe can be worked out. There is a lot of support for this important legislation. I hope maybe we could do it like we did last week on the Magnuson fisheries bill, the FAA reauthorization, and the maritime bill. We can work through those problems and hopefully get about an hour to have some discussion to get a vote.

We are also working with Senator KASSEBAUM, who is very, very interested in the job partnership training legislation. There are problems there again, a point of order, which looks like it may not be resolvable, but we may call it up for some discussion this

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



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week and see what can be accomplished.

I want to remind Senators we expect a veto override vote to occur on Thursday on the partial-birth abortion ban. And there are requests from Senators to be able to speak on that matter today also. But we would schedule a vote for Thursday.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DURICKA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate and all Americans lost a true professional yesterday. Veteran Associated Press photographer John Duricka died Monday at Arlington Hospital after long battle with cancer.

The measure of John's professionalism and dedication is that he was on the job almost right up to the time of his death—doing what he loved and doing it wonderfully well.

John's combination of mature demeanor and tough determination was a familiar face to all of us here in the Senate. He was a news photographer first—make no doubt about that.

But he also respected the institution which he illustrated to the world every day with his pictures. Unlike the White House or the Federal agencies where photographers often are cordoned off from those they cover, the Congress shares its space with the media.

John Duricka respected that unique relationship that we had with him and we returned that respect with our trust and appreciation for his talent.

I want to express the Senate's sympathy to his son Darren, his daughter Tammy, and his mother Emily Duricka.

All who treasure our freedoms of the press and free expression will miss his outstanding contributions to that end. We in the Senate will miss a respected friend. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the provisions of the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN] is now recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. NUNN. I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO GEARY T. BURTON

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, on August 13, Geary Thomas Burton tragically and unexpectedly died while undergoing surgery to correct a knee injury he sustained during a recent church-related softball game. He was only 45

years old at the time of his death. Geary was known to all of us on the Armed Services Committee and to many here in the Senate because he was a very important member of the staff of the Armed Services Committee from 1989 to 1991.

Today, I want to take this opportunity to recall Geary's many professional accomplishments and describe for my colleagues the life of this remarkable individual who served the Senate Armed Services Committee with great distinction for more than 3½ years.

Geary Burton was born on June 30, 1951, in Pittsburgh, PA. We are privileged to have his mother, Lura Burton, sitting in the Senate Gallery today, along with Geary's sister Nancy and her daughters Claudia and Claudette. It was through Mrs. Burton's love, hard work, and devotion in raising Geary and his sister, Nancy, that he developed such strong character and learned the value and importance of a good education. In 1973, Geary earned a bachelor of arts degree at Thiel College in Greenville, PA, where he majored in political science. He continued his education and earned a law degree from Duquesne Law School in 1976.

With great energy and dedication, Geary used his education and skills as an attorney in the service of our country. In August 1973, he received a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served as a criminal trial lawyer on active duty with the Judge Advocate General Corps from 1977 to 1981. Even after his release from active duty in March 1981, Geary continued to serve as an officer in the Marine Corps Reserve. In November 1982, he was promoted to the rank of major. We all know the Marines set very high standards—and Geary fully met these standards. Geary's accomplishments as one of "The Few and the Proud" are notable. I recall in many conversations with Geary he was extremely proud of his service with this elite military organization.

In March 1981, Geary accepted a position with the Office of General Counsel at the General Accounting Office, where he served as legal counsel to the evaluator staff charged with auditing the Department of Defense, a very major responsibility. Geary consistently demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in performing his duties and moved quickly up the civil service ranks. In less than 7 years, he earned three promotions and obtained a GS-15 ranking at the age of 36—which is a remarkable achievement.

Geary joined the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee as a detailee from the General Accounting Office in April 1989 to work on the complex issues of defense acquisition reform. I remember requesting from the GAO one of their best people. We did not know Geary at the time but we really needed help. They certainly lived up to that request because they sent us a very talented young man. He

quickly earned the respect and admiration of his fellow staff members as well as Senators on both sides of the aisle with whom he was in regular contact. Geary's tenure with the Armed Services Committee lasted until December 1992. During that period, he served as counsel to the committee for defense procurement and small business issues. We tried to keep Geary but finally the GAO demanded he come home because they needed him very bad.

Geary successfully conducted research, drafted legislation, and developed congressional and public support for many key legislative initiatives. He performed a vital role in helping the Armed Services Committee make numerous changes to defense acquisition policy that were required in the face of the post-cold-war defense build-down. Geary worked hard to enhance the role of small and disadvantaged businesses, historically black colleges and universities, and other minority educational institutions in defense acquisition practices. Geary's key participation in the establishment of the Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program was a direct reflection of the innovation and creativity that he brought to the committee in drafting acquisition legislation. In addition, Geary provided outstanding staff work in the oversight of programs designed to foster greater government-industry cooperation and to increase the use of commercial products and processes in Government procurement which has saved and will continue to save on an increasing basis literally millions and billions of the tax dollars for the American people. This of course has been a top priority of Secretary of Defense Bill Perry.

While Geary's dedication and professional competence contributed to a highly successful career, Geary was totally devoted to his family and the community in which he lived. He was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Baptist Church in Columbia, MD. In his extended community of Howard County, MD, Geary served as a member of the board for the African-American Coalition and helped establish the Black Student Achievement Program. There is a saying that "Those who possess the torch of wisdom should allow others to come and light their candles by that torch." Geary Burton followed this principle in both his professional and personal life to the great benefit of both the Senate Armed Services Committee and his local community. His service to our committee, to the Senate, and to the Nation was superb.

Geary will be missed most of all by his devoted family but he will also be missed by all of us who worked with him. He was simply a superb individual in every sense of the word.

In closing, Mr. President, I want to say to Geary's family—his wife, LaVarne; his two daughters, Ruth Giovanni and Beth Angela; his stepson Kevin Taylor; his mother Lura Burton; his sister, Nancy Bellony, and her