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Senate

The third day of January being the day prescribed by House Concurrent Resolution 446 for the meeting of the 1st session of the 107th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol at 12:01 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Your glory fills this hallowed Senate Chamber. We exalt You as Sovereign of our beloved Nation, and we are profoundly moved as we prepare to witness the divine encounter between You and the Senators-elect as they are sworn in. You have destined them for greatness as leaders of our Nation. They are here by Your choice and are accountable to You for how they lead this Nation under Your guidance. May the awesome vows they take and the immense responsibilities they assume bring them to true humility and to an unprecedented openness to You. Save them from the seduction of power, the addiction of popularity, and the aggrandizement of pride. Lord, keep their priorities straight: You and their families first; the good of the Nation second; consensus around truth third; party loyalties fourth; and personal success last of all.

In the 107th Senate, equally divided between Republicans and Democrats, grant them unity and effectiveness to work together to solve problems and grasp the opportunities for our Republic at this propitious time.

May they never forget that they are here to serve and not to be served. Consistently replenish the reserves of their strength and their courage so often drained by pressure and stress. Anoint their minds with Your Spirit and guide them as they seek to know and do Your will in the crucial issues before our Nation. We believe that this can be America's finest hour awaiting leaders imbued with Your power. God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Lord

Jesus Christ, You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, 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 VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader, Senator DASCHLE, is recognized. (Applause, Senators rising.)

A HISTORIC DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on behalf of the entire Senate, but especially this Senator, I welcome you back to the Senate. This is a historic day. Never before in the history of our Nation have we had a 50-50 Senate. I welcome and congratulate all 11 of our newly elected Senators and the family members and friends who are here to share this important day with them.

Years after he left the White House, Harry Truman wrote that the decade he spent in the Senate were the happiest years of his life. As our new colleagues begin their Senate careers, we hope that they, too, are beginning what will be the happiest years of their lives.

Several of our departing colleagues are also here with us today. To them we say thank you: Thank you for sharing with us and with our Nation some of the best years of your lives, thank you for the contributions you have made to our Nation during your years of public life, and thank you for the important contributions you will continue to make in the coming years. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with each of you.

The writer Thomas Wolfe said that America is a place where miracles not only happen, they happen all the time. Today we are experiencing one of those miracles: The peaceful transition of power from one Congress to the other. Some people say it will take another miracle for this Congress and administration to find a way to work together. As we begin this historic Congress, let us resolve that we will work in good faith with each other to do the people's business. That is our pledge from this side of the aisle. We know our colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel as we do.

Finally, on a personal note, it is a high honor to have the privilege of officially opening this Senate. When I first ran for Democratic leader 6 years ago, I thought if I won, I would be majority leader. I must confess that in 6 years as minority leader, I had a moment or two when I wondered if that day would ever arrive, but I assure you, I intend to savor every one of the next 17 days.

I know we are all looking forward to a bipartisan and a productive 107th Congress that will serve our country well. It is an honor to be a part of this Congress and to be able to work, once again, with my friend and my colleague, Senator LOTT.

I now ask unanimous consent that the Republican leader be permitted to speak.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered. The minority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

THANKING THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. LOTT. I appreciate the courtesy of the distinguished majority leader for this opportunity to speak.

I want to extend also the appreciation of the Senate and a grateful Nation to the Presiding Officer, the Vice President of the United States, for the service he has given to our country.

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



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(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair will remind the Senate that boisterous demonstrations are against the rules.

(Laughter.)

Mr. LOTT. It is obvious, Mr. President, you still maintain your sense of humor. I want to thank you for your leadership and also for the example you have set through a very difficult time. You took the appropriate step, and now we are prepared to move into a transition and to a new administration.

FACING NEW CHALLENGES

Here in the Senate also we are having a historic experience. I would like to welcome all of the new Senators who are joining us today. I congratulate them. I look forward to working with the new Senators on both sides of the aisle.

As Senator DASCHLE said, I also extend, again, our appreciation to the Senators who may be in the Chamber and who are retiring or leaving the Senate, who have served, most of them, for at least 6 years and some for much longer than that. They have done a lot to make this country a better place in which to live.

I also extend our appreciation to the extended family of the Senate, our staff members new and old, and to the families who are in the gallery today. I realize we should not be referring to those in the gallery, but there are a lot of people who have made an awful lot of contributions and sacrifices to make this day possible for us in the Chamber. So we have a lot of people we need to thank, and also to realize that we are in a position where we can make this an even better country.

To the new Members, I urge them to take a look around and think about the challenges and opportunities they will have here. It is a unique institution, created by the founders of this Republic. Quite often we are frustrated with the rules—frustrated even today that we are going through this unique situation—but they had a lot of foresight. They created this unique Senate that makes sure we take the time to think through an issue and to have full debate. And while sometimes we believe, on one side or the other, that we did not have an ample opportunity for debate, I am sure we are going to work together to find a way to give everybody that opportunity over the next 6 years.

For those of us who have been here a few years, we also face new challenges. We have one today. I must say it is the first time I have ever been referred to as the minority leader. And while it beats certain alternatives, I liked the other title better. But we are showing here today—and hope we will show during the next 17 days and, more importantly, during the months beyond—that we will always find a way to work together.

It is quite often not easy to find consensus, as is forced upon us quite often in the Senate, but we must strive for it. Quite often Senator DASCHLE and I

do our very best to find a logical solution to a problem, and we have 98 other Senators who may not agree with us, but we will continue to work together to make this great Republic—the best, most outstanding the minds of men have ever created—work as it should.

I look around the Chamber, on both sides of the aisle, and I see men and women with the potential to raise this country to an even higher level, to our highest and our best. I will work as the leader of my party, and in 17 days as the majority leader of the Senate, to find a way to make that possible.

One bit of information from a housekeeping standpoint. We will have some housekeeping resolutions that we will do in a moment. One of them is to begin the introduction of bills on January 22. Senators should be prepared to have bills ready. Senator DASCHLE and I have already talked about the fact that we will do the usual five alternating from one side to the other. We will do that for the first 20 bills. There will be a lot of other announcements Senator DASCHLE and I will make.

So thank you for this opportunity. I thank you on my side of the aisle for this leadership role. Together we will go forward.

I yield the floor.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the various credentials of Senators elected for 6-year terms beginning on January 3, 2001, elected to fulfill the remainder of an unexpired term, or appointed to fill a vacancy.

All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all the essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the above-mentioned certificates will be waived, and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the documents ordered to be printed in the RECORD are as follows:

STATE OF HAWAII

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the seventh day of November 2000, Daniel K. Akaka was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Hawaii a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2001.

Witness: His excellency our governor, Benjamin J. Cayetano and our seal hereto affixed at Honolulu this 27th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2000.

By the Governor:

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO,
Governor.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 7th day of November, 2000, George F. Allen was duly cho-

sen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as Senator from said Commonwealth to represent said Commonwealth in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2001.

Witness: His excellency our Governor James S. Gilmore, III, and our seal hereto affixed at Richmond, Virginia this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2000.

JAMES S. GILMORE,
Governor.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 7th day of November, 2000, Jeff Bingaman was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Mexico, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2001.

Witness: His excellency our governor Gary Johnson, and our seal hereto affixed at Santa Fe this 8th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2000.

By the Governor:

GARY JOHNSON,
Governor.

STATE OF MONTANA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 7th day of November, 2000, Conrad Burns was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Montana, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2001.

Witness: His excellency our governor Marc Racicot, and our seal hereto affixed at Helena, Montana, this 27th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2000.

By the Governor:

MARC RACICOT,
Governor.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the seventh day of November, 2000, Robert C. Byrd was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of West Virginia a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2001.

Witness: His excellency our governor Cecil Underwood and our seal hereto affixed at Charleston this Eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord 2000.

By the Governor:

CECIL UNDERWOOD,
Governor.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the seventh day of November, two thousand, Maria Cantwell was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Washington a Senator from said state to represent said state in the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, two thousand and one.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Washington to be affixed at Olympia this