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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God who presides over the universe, thank You for Your goodness and Your love. Today, make us instruments for grace. Help us to draw strength from each other, to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Teach us to refuse to let this world squeeze us into its mold, but make us ambassadors of transformation. Fill our Senators with power and wisdom so that Your name will be praised throughout the Earth. Strengthen our minds and bodies.

And, Lord, today we give You a special thanks for the lives and legacies of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. We pray this 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.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, under the order last night, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, we will begin consideration of the foreign operations appropriations measure.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Therefore, I now ask unanimous consent that following morning business

today, the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 2800, the foreign operations appropriations bill. I further ask unanimous consent that other than the offering of a substitute, the bill be open for debate only during today's session.

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

Mr. FRIST. With this agreement in place, the two managers will be here at approximately 10 this morning to begin debate on this appropriations measure. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session. As a reminder, a cloture motion was filed on the nomination of Michael Leavett to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. That vote will occur at 5:30 on Monday. In addition to that vote on Monday, I would expect consideration of amendments to the foreign operations bill. I will have more to say on that later, after I have consulted with the manager of that bill, the distinguished majority whip.

I have also repeated our desire to complete a number of other important issues as we press on during these final weeks. The objection to begin consideration of the fair credit reporting bill was removed and we reached a consent to be able to proceed to that measure. Unfortunately, we have been unable to reach a consent for the consideration of the Healthy Forests legislation, but we will continue to work on and for that agreement.

The CARE Act continues to be held up from proceeding to conference.

The deadline for action on the Internet tax moratorium is fast approaching and we really need to expedite that bill.

I mentioned the other day the importance of the Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act. This bill has over 54 cosponsors and should be considered by the Senate before we adjourn.

Nominations, in particular judicial nominations—those nominations which have been held up—do demand our attention and should be given their due process on the floor of the Senate.

I mention all of these items while we continue the ongoing appropriations process. There is much work to do and little time in which to do it. Thus, we must make very efficient use of the Senate's time. I hope Members will help the leadership on both sides of the aisle as we go forward and schedule these remaining weeks. These individual pieces of legislation, as well as the appropriations bills, as well as those bills that are in conference, must get done before we depart.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1781

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand S. 1781 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1781) to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. It will be placed on the calendar for further action.

### IRAQ PROGRESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take just a couple of moments to comment on some of the activities in Iraq, especially in light of the donor conference that is underway as we speak. We know it is very important for the world to have a clear picture of the progress that is being made in Iraq today. My comments will really center, again very briefly, on that.

Not very many Americans have heard of Karada Street, I would wager. Karada Street is Baghdad's busiest commercial avenue, and something truly remarkable is happening there. Iraqis for the first time are enjoying the fruits of economic freedom. Not

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



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even a bomb blast at the Baghdad Hotel just a few blocks away from this now very busy commercial strip has dampened the growing activity. A number of our colleagues have traveled and are continuing to travel to Iraq, and they come back with those encouraging reports that we are just beginning to hear about these days.

Recently, ABC News reported that at one computer and data system company, trade is up 70 percent since sanctions were lifted in May. At the Al Farah used car lot, a 9-year-old Jeep sells for \$1,000 less today than when Saddam was in power. Meanwhile, government workers at a Karada Street match factory have seen their salaries soar fivefold. The manager tells the news agency, "Now my salary is much better . . . I can buy anything I want now."

There is much more. Portable generators are selling at discounted prices. Why? Because electricity has become more reliable. Indeed, washing machine and air-conditioner sales are brisk. In a particularly vivid example of how things have changed since the fall of Saddam, a local ice cream shop that used to serve almost exclusively Saddam's circle is now open to any local resident who comes in for that cold treat.

All of these stories are out there and they all point to the dramatic, remarkable changes that are underway that are associated with tasting freedom for the first time in decades.

One of the freedoms Iraqis have been most enthusiastic to exercise is the freedom to express their views. Pollsters for a new Gallup poll reported last week that Iraqis were pleading to share their opinions, and almost every Iraqi asked to participate in the survey volunteered to do so. Gallup's director of international polling told reporters that once they started talking, the Iraqis "went on and on."

It is not hard to imagine the exhilaration they must feel today, how their hearts must swell with the realization that they, for the first time in decades, are truly free—free from tyranny, free from torture, free from persecution, free to speak their minds and create a government of their own devising, for the people and by the people.

For the first time in a generation, the Iraqi people live free of the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. They have begun to develop democratic institutions of government. They are pursuing economic policies on trade and investment that are more liberal than any other country in the region. The Iraqi people have begun replacing that old Saddam currency with the new, unified dinar. They will have in their wallets a powerful symbol of their liberation, money to save or to spend as they choose, without Saddam's face mocking their hopes.

The Gallup poll I mentioned just a few minutes ago found that, even in Baghdad, the Iraqis want us to stay that course. That is because the Iraqis

now have an opportunity, as do we, to change the course of history and bring peace and stability to the heart of the Middle East.

For the sake of Iraq, for the sake of America, we must continue to fight for freedom. Our Declaration of Independence tells us that all men are created equal. Now, in Iraq, we have the opportunity to once again realize that essential truth.

I yield the floor.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

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

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m. with the time equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or her designee, and the Democratic leader or his designee.

Who seeks recognition?  
The Senator from Ohio.

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#### ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRANDEN F. OBERLEITNER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this past May, I came to the Senate Floor to commemorate the 58th Anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. I had been asked by the surviving members of an Army Company—Company K of the 409th Regiment of the 103rd Infantry Division—to fly a flag over our U.S. Capitol building in honor of those in the company who died on the field of battle—those who did not return home—those who Bill Gleason, a Private in K Company, described this way:

Some in our Company were denied the chance to reach old age. They didn't make it to adulthood. They never were old enough to vote in an election. They died then—there in France or Germany. . . . They are frozen in time as they were—forever youthful.

I have again flown flags over our U.S. Capitol and am here today on the Floor of the United States Senate to pay tribute to another soldier—another soldier who did not make it home—another soldier who will remain forever youthful.

Private First Class Branden F. Oberleitner was born on June 18, 1982, in Columbus, OH. He grew up in nearby Worthington, OH, and graduated from Thomas Worthington High School in 2001, just two short years ago. He was a beloved member of his class.

As a kid growing up, many of his friends and family described Branden as "ornery"—as an independent kid who liked to do things his own way. He didn't feel a need to "follow the crowd." He enjoyed looking for crabs with his friends and taking trips to Kentucky to explore in some of the local caves.

Branden valued friendship. Once you were Branden's friend, you were always his friend.

He was loyal.

Branden had an innate ability to fix things. He could intuitively find solutions to problems. Branden was a gifted mechanic and loved to work on cars—especially the 1988 Delta Oldsmobile that seemed to occupy a permanent place in the family driveway. Branden's friend and classmate, Tyler Louk, remembers him elbow-deep in grease working on that car night after night after night.

Branden dreamed of opening a bike shop someday with one of his friends. They were going to fix Harley's.

During high school, Branden started taking firefighting classes at the Delaware Area Career Center. He met a man there named Keith Luce, a retired firefighter and now a firefighter and EMT trainer, who had been an airborne trooper in Vietnam. Keith became an important role model, mentor, and trusted friend. The two developed a tight bond. They had a great deal in common and just seemed to speak the same language. Branden looked up to Keith—he respected him.

With Keith's support and encouragement, Branden thrived in his firefighter training courses. He took to it. He was adept at it. He had found something that really interested him and something that he was good at and enjoyed—something he could make a career out of when he was finished with high school.

Branden's life was taking on whole new dimensions. He was becoming a grounded, disciplined young man, who learned to take time to think things through.

He became focused and developed a sense of responsibility for himself and an appreciation for the needs of others. He wanted to make something of his life—he wanted to help others—he wanted to be of service to others.

The tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, brought further clarity to Branden's life and his plans for the future. Angered by the vicious attacks and compelled to protect others from future terrorist strikes, Branden enlisted in the United States Army. He joined B Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Assault Division, based out of Fort Campbell, KY.

The call to arms resonated with Branden. "That's all he wanted to do," said friend Kevin Earhart, who worked with Branden at a local gas station before he enlisted. Military service became his passion. He was a good soldier—regimented and resolute. He quickly earned the respect of his unit. Known as "Obie," Branden served as an infantryman and back-up medic, where he was regarded as being both tactically and technically proficient. All in his unit endorsed his application for Officer Candidate School. His Captain, William Riley, described him as "a shining example of what a soldier