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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by the guest Chaplain, Monsignor Robert Fuhrman, the Church of St. Gabriel, in Saddle River, NJ.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, our Father, the shadow of the Cross falls upon our world as the forces of freedom and tyranny collide. In a free world, human potential, human dignity, and the sanctity of life can be recognized. In tyranny, life is cheap and living is misery. The tears of people of good will mingle with the blood of those who died or are wounded in the pursuit of freedom and security.

Therefore, we look to You, our Lord, to show us the way. Those who live by the sword—or by the chemical weapon—have no future in You. Banish from our midst the threats of those who make themselves enemies of the United States.

In this great deliberative body of the Senate of the United States of America, we beg You for Your peace and wisdom. Bless the Senators, their spouses, their children, and their staffs. Let them see the supreme privilege of their service, each in their own way, to the people and the Constitution of this great land. May this day be productive, and may we all be pleasing to You in what we think and say and do.

Protect us from evil. Give us Your peace and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for the next 3 hours, until 6 p.m. The first hour of morning business will be devoted to statements regarding our brave men and women in the Armed Forces. Following those statements, there will be additional time for Senators to give tributes to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Under a previous order, at 6 o'clock the Senate will proceed to a vote on the confirmation of Theresa Springman to be a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. That will be the only rollcall vote during today's session.

Tomorrow morning, by previous agreement, the Senate will consider

the Tymkovich nomination to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. The vote on that nomination will occur sometime on Tuesday upon the use or yielding back of the 6 hours of debate.

Throughout the week, we will continue to schedule votes on nominations, as necessary. I would also expect another cloture vote in relation to the Estrada nomination this week. In addition, we are working on time agreements for the consideration of several other important bills, including the CARE Act, the FISA bill—the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act—several bills relating to our Armed Forces personnel such as the “Troops Phone Home” bill, a bill regarding the delay in reservist pay, and a bill relating to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for surviving spouses.

Later in the week, when it becomes available, the Senate will begin consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. We need to pass that bill as soon as possible to ensure that the appropriate resources are made available for the war in Iraq. Members should therefore expect a busy week with rollcall votes each day.

101ST AIRBORNE, CLARKSVILLE, TN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, a little later today or tomorrow, I want to share with my colleagues at the appropriate time a visit I had with the 101st Airborne families in Clarksville, TN, yesterday. I had the opportunity to go by and visit with those families, attend church, and to spend the early afternoon with them and have lunch with them. It was a remarkable experience for me, Karen my wife, and our son Jonathan.

Over 17,000 women and men have been deployed from that particular post over the last several weeks. Those 17,000 are now in Iraq and Kuwait as part of the 101st Airborne air assault team. The

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



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pride we as a family felt in them, the stories that they told us, I will be sharing with my colleagues over the next several days. But just the lasting impression I had was this juxtaposition of feeling, as we talked to the moms and dads and children, of concern for their husband or their spouse and, yes, an insecurity about their safety, which is natural, as we would all feel, but at the same time an optimism, a feeling of being able to contribute to the United States of America and our great democracy.

They were upbeat. They were optimistic. They were patriotic. And that sort of juxtaposition of feeling was something that was a real privilege for me and my family to experience. The one thing they did all say, as we finished church and went to lunch, was: Make sure, when you go back to Washington, that you let your colleagues know and let the President of the United States know how much we appreciate their leadership, their support for our troops abroad. Let the President know that we are keeping him and his family in our prayers.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING 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 6 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the first hour shall be equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Senator from Arkansas, Mrs. LINCOLN, or their designees.

The Senator from Texas.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank our distinguished majority leader for visiting with the families of our troops from the 101st from his State. All of us are personally visiting with families of people who are there, and particularly in my case, I spent quite a bit of time talking to the families whose loved ones are either missing in action or are verified prisoners of war.

There is nothing more rewarding than talking to these incredible people who are afraid of what might be happening. They are, of course, going through something that all of us hope we will never have to go through, but they are very strong. They trust that we are doing everything possible to inform them, to find out the whereabouts

of these prisoners or missing persons. Most certainly, our military—this is something I personally ask in our briefing sessions—is trying to find out exactly where these prisoners or missing people are located.

They are working through the Red Cross to try to have a Red Cross representative see these prisoners just as the Red Cross representatives are being able to see the Iraqi prisoners who are being held by the allied forces. So it is a tough time for these wonderful people of America who are supporting their loved ones in this very trying time for them.

All of us want to be reminded that there are specific laws, international laws, called the Geneva Convention, about the treatment of prisoners. Article 17 explicitly prohibits inflicting physical or mental torture and any other forms of coercion on prisoners in order to obtain information of any kind, including publicizing photographs where they can be recognized. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer questions may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind.

Article 23 of the Geneva Convention prevents a prisoner from being sent to or detained in areas where they may be exposed to the fire of the combat zone, and in no case can prisoners be used as human shields.

The Geneva Convention also requires access to the prisoners by officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We have informed the Iraqi Government that we intend to treat their prisoners with dignity and abide by the Geneva Convention. We most certainly are appealing to the Iraqis to let in the Red Cross personnel.

One of the benefits of the so-called embedded media is that they are on the scene with our military and are able to provide some very candid photos of our troops in action.

I want to show a few more of the photos. I started some of them last week. I think these photos really speak more than a thousand words about what it is to be at the front. We see the pictures on television, but I wanted to display some of the still pictures showing how we are treating prisoners of war and the people of Iraq as our allied soldiers are coming upon them.

This photo shows a U.S. marine helping an injured prisoner of war moments after securing the port of Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. It was taken on March 23 of this year.

U.S. Marine LCpl Marcco Ware of Los Angeles carries an Iraqi soldier who was injured in an attack on Ware's outfit on Tuesday, March 26, 2003. This unit has been attacking LCpl Ware's unit, but he found this injured soldier and is carrying him to safety.

I am very proud of the character and courage of our forces and the way they are treating those who are in their care. At the same time, we have seen our soldiers paraded on Iraqi television

in clear violation of international law. We applaud our troops' bravery, courage, and professionalism. Our prayers are with them and their families in this most difficult time.

President Bush has demanded that the Iraqis immediately comply with the Geneva Convention. I urge all of those who might have information that could be helpful to the Red Cross in getting in to see our prisoners of war to bring that forward. I encourage the Iraqi Government—if there is any shred of dignity—to make sure they abide by the Geneva Convention, just as our forces are abiding by it.

I know so many in the Senate are reaching out in their individual States, trying to make sure that we touch the families who are suffering so much. In churches throughout my hometown of Dallas, they have prayer lists including every person who is connected to a member of that particular parish. Those young men and women are being named individually in those prayers. I think all of us are touched. We have Texas embedded media.

I close with part of a piece in the San Antonio Express that was written by Sig Christenson, their military correspondent who is embedded with the 3rd Infantry Division:

March 25: It was a little after 3 p.m. today when the little slice of Iraq that we occupy dimmed.

A vicious sandstorm, almost certainly the worst one yet for the 3rd Infantry Division troops that have been here for months, swept over the sandy plateau we took from 200 or so Iraqi troops this past Sunday.

"Wow, it's dark," Airman 1st Class Dan Housely said.

Not to mention surreal.

In less time than it takes to watch a rerun of "The Beverly Hillbillies," the once-overcast but relatively clear desert was a swirling mass of sand. An orange hue descended over the landscape, creating a scene resembling Viking probe photos of Mars.

Sand gets into everything around here, and especially seems drawn to your sinuses and ears. Take a "Baby Wipe bath," as soldiers call it, and you'll clear out clumps of dirt from your ears—day after day.

Outside, gale-force winds kick up the sandy floor and turn each fine grain into a weapon. . . . Within an hour, I had a headache that pulsed at the back of my skull.

It could be worse.

We hold the high ground and have lots of firepower, but that won't stop Iraqis loyal to Saddam Hussein. Already we've lost a soldier within walking distance of my cot—he was shot dead—and our troops have encountered Iraqis wearing American military uniforms close to our camp.

If today's battle for a bridge outside An Najaf is any example, we can expect a determined, fierce resistance all the way to Baghdad. Iraqi regulars and elite militia driving trucks took on 70-ton M1A1 tanks, coming at them again and again.

That kind of fanaticism is cause for my imagination to go wild as I prepare to sleep. A sandstorm gives perfect cover to infiltrators and snipers out here, and as I worked today I found myself frequently looking out my Humvee. It could become a habit.

Mr. President, I appreciate very much Senator LINCOLN from Arkansas sharing this hour with me, and the rest of the hour on our side will be managed by Senator THOMAS of Wyoming.