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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, CAPT Wilbur C. Douglass III, who is the Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Please join me in prayer.

Holy and Merciful God, Lord of all Creation, hear this our prayer that emanates from the collective hearts assembled here today. Envelop and bless this gathering of Your chosen servants as they now prepare to face the arduous challenges of this day. In the silence of these brief solemn moments cause each of them to fully know that You have placed Your guiding hand upon them, protecting them both individually and as one united body.

Lord God, as You give guidance to these audacious men and women here today, enable them to clearly and distinctively hear the guidance of Your loving voice well above the confusion and chaos of a world conflicted in turmoil.

Bless, guide, encourage, and protect the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces, our Congress, our President, and, especially, our beloved United States of America. Hear us, as we pray together in Your gracious and powerful name and say in one voice . . . Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT 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.

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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNETT 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, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for the next hour and a half, until 11:30 a.m., with the first 30 minutes equally divided between Senator HUTCHISON and the minority leader or their designees. This time is dedicated to the men and women fighting in Iraq. The remaining time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. During the Republican-controlled time, Senator DOLE will be recognized for up to 15 minutes and Senator KYL will be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the CARE Act. When the Senate returns to consideration of the bill, Senator NICKLES will offer his amendment related to

land sales. The Senate will vote on both the Nickles amendment and final passage of the CARE Act at approximately 12:30 p.m. today.

Following passage of the CARE Act, the Senate may resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen. In addition to the Owen nomination, the Senate may consider the PROTECT Act conference report, if available, as well as a POW resolution. Additional votes are, therefore, expected.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as we have been doing over the last several weeks, we are devoting a few moments each morning to pay respect to the tremendous work our troops are doing overseas. Evidence continues to build that American and coalition forces are advancing, that they will prevail in this war.

Coalition aircraft destroyed a complex believed to be the site of an Iraqi leadership meeting.

Coalition forces are conducting operations at will throughout Baghdad, and British forces now control most of Iraq's second largest city.

The threat of Chemical Ali, the Iraqi general responsible for the atrocious chemical attacks on the Kurds in the 1980s, has reportedly been eliminated.

We have captured more than 7,000 Iraqi prisoners of war.

Of the more than 800 tanks in the Iraqi Army when this conflict began, all but a few, a couple dozen, have been destroyed or abandoned.

Coalition forces continue to generate good will among the Iraqi people, as we saw on the television early this morning, by delivering humanitarian supplies the country so desperately needs.

I applaud a very special group of people in Iraq, and that is the medical workers, the medical personnel, the troops who are responsible for delivering care, both in Iraq and the surrounding region. They are providing

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



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superb care, not only to fellow Americans who have been wounded on the battlefield but also to nearly 300 wounded Iraqi soldiers, as well as civilians. On the hospital ship *Comfort* in the northern Arabian Gulf, we are treating 75 Iraqi prisoners of war.

Yesterday, the Pentagon quoted one doctor who said:

We do not differentiate between patients, whether they are friends or foes.

I cannot imagine a more powerful statement about the compassion of our men and our women in uniform and our country.

On Monday, GEN Tommy Franks paid a visit to the 101st Airborne in Najaf. He awarded Bronze Stars to two 1st Brigade soldiers: SGT James Ward of the 1st Battalion and SGT Lucas Goddard of the 3rd Battalion. PFC Miguel Pena of the 2nd Battalion will also receive a Bronze Star at a future date.

In closing, General Franks said in a brief speech during the ceremony something that really captures, I believe, the feelings of all Americans when he said:

There's something real special to stand with these two young noncommissioned officers back here—and stand with these heroes.

He continues:

What I meant when I said stand with "these heroes" is I meant all of you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with the first 30 minutes to be equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Democratic leader, or their designees, with the remaining time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I yield such time that the Senator from Tennessee may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Of course.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the Senator from Tennessee, the Senator from Georgia be recognized and I be recognized immediately following the Senator from Georgia.

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

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that

after Mr. LEVIN, the senior Senator from Michigan, speaks, the junior Senator from Michigan be recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. That will be up until the 15 minutes for their side, and with that I agree to the unanimous consent request. There is another Senator coming for our 15-minute period.

Ms. STABENOW. Yes.

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas.

The majority leader mentioned the 101st Airborne Division in his remarks. Both he and I feel a special pride in that division because it sits on the border of Tennessee and Kentucky. The majority leader was there 10 days ago with the families over a weekend, and I was there over the past weekend with the Secretary of the Army at a luncheon in honor of the families there.

I suppose this must be said of every part of our military today, but no one can go to Fort Campbell without being enormously impressed with every single military person one meets, especially the family members. Among those was Holly Petraeus, who is the wife of the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division.

We talked about a great many things on Saturday. We talked about the bravery of the men and women from the 101st and from the Army Special Forces Divisions who have been in Iraq even longer. We talked about the number of Tennessee reservists, American reservists, and National Guard men and women who have been deployed since 9/11.

If I remember correctly, the Secretary of the Army estimated that nearly two-thirds of all of our reservists and National Guard men and women have been activated in one form or another since 9/11. We owe them enormous gratitude.

We talked about one other thing at Fort Campbell last Saturday, and that was the debt we owe to our allies because we are not in Iraq alone. We talk about the coalition of the willing. So today, I rise not just to talk about our brave men and women at Fort Campbell, about whom I will have more to say later this week, but I want to express our appreciation for and salute our allies in the military action in Iraq.

Many of our colleagues have noted the leadership of Great Britain and Prime Minister Blair, and rightfully so. Great Britain has long been a great ally of this country, and we are deeply grateful for that. But another ally has contributed significantly to military resources in this effort, a country we sometimes might overlook. That country is Australia.

Although their military is not as large as Great Britain, their contribution is significant and they deserve our thanks. Australia has long been a friend and ally to the United States. Not only did they send troops to support us in the 1991 war in the Persian Gulf, they also joined us in military action in Korea and in Vietnam. Australians share our values of democracy and a pioneering spirit. Australia also shares our history of being a former British colony with a strong independent streak. The British may be our ancestors, but the Australians are our first cousins.

Today, Australia is standing with us again. In fact, they have committed more troops to our current efforts in Iraq than they did 12 years ago in 1991. Australia's commitment includes: 14 F-18 jet fighters, 3 C-130 transport aircraft, three naval vessels, one transport and two frigates, CH-47 troop-lift helicopters and accompanying troops, and a Special Forces task group of 500 troops.

In total, Australia has committed about 2,000 army, air force, and naval personnel—their second largest military deployment since Vietnam. And they have been very active.

Australia's Special Forces have seen combat in what their commander describes as "shoot and scoot" missions. They have destroyed installations behind enemy lines and provided important reconnaissance information.

An Australian diving team has been instrumental in clearing underwater mines at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, making it possible for the arrival of humanitarian aid.

Their ships aided in the capture of an Iraqi vessel that was trying to lay more mines in the Gulf.

And their F-18 fighter aircraft have joined ours in air strikes on enemy military targets.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard told his Parliament on March 18:

We have supported the Americans position on this issue because we share their concerns and we share their worries about the future if Iraq is left unattended to.

Alliances are two-way processes and, when we are in agreement, we should not leave it to the United States to do all of the heavy lifting just because they are the world's superpower.

Now that is a true friend. Australia may not have the largest military in the world, but that won't stop them from sending what they can to help our brave men and women fighting in Iraq. They do not want to leave us to do all the "heavy lifting." And, as I noted earlier, their help has been real and significant.

Australia, led by Prime Minister Howard, has taken a courageous stand by supporting us in this war and committing so many of its troops. They are a true friend and ally of the United States, and I know we are all grateful for their help and support.

If I may say, in 1987, after I left the Tennessee Governor's office, my family