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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2005, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2005

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, You laid the foundations of the Earth and defend the boundaries of the sea. You command the morning to appear and cause the dawn to rise in the east. Golden splendor comes from Your mountains and You lay out the path for the lightning.

Today, we pray for those who need Your touch. Bless those who live in our world's shadows and empower the unnoticed doing their duty.

Strengthen our Senators. Inspire them to work diligently to establish peace and justice in our world. Teach them each day to be good stewards of Your manifold grace. Sustain all those who suffer in our world, who stagger beneath burdens too heavy to carry.

We pray this in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE 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, May 13, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we return to the consideration of the highway bill. Yesterday, cloture was invoked by a vote of 92 to 7. We were then able to reach an agreement for finishing the bill on Tuesday. Under that agreement, Senators may offer

amendments today from the limited list agreed to last night. Chairman INHOFE is here and may also have some cleared amendments to dispose of this morning.

I announced last night that no rollcall votes would occur today. The next rollcall vote will be Monday at approximately 5:30. On Monday, we will again resume debate on the highway bill. Senators will have the final opportunity to offer their amendments. We will vote on one or two of those amendments on Monday evening. That will allow the Senate to return to the measure Tuesday morning and vote on the remaining amendments and final passage.

After consulting with the chairman of the committee and the Democrat leader, we are hopeful most of these amendments will not require votes, that only a few remaining amendments will need rollcall votes prior to passage.

As I did last night, I commend the managers for their hard work. I look forward to finishing the bill early next week. We have spent 2 weeks on this bill and given plenty of opportunity, plenty of time for Members to come forward. They have done so. We are on a final glidepath to completion of this very important bill.

PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this Sunday marks the 24th anniversary of Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Each year, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the 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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gather in the Nation's Capital to honor their comrades lost in the line of duty. They are accompanied by wives, husbands, sons, and daughters, along with families of the fallen.

It is a solemn occasion. It is a sacred occasion. It reminds us of the tremendous sacrifices our police officers make to keep us safe. Every day around the clock they are on the front lines defending our neighborhoods and protecting our lives, our homes, protecting our freedoms.

When we need an officer to investigate a dark alley, quell a domestic dispute, to chase an armed suspect, or subdue a criminal, we call these dedicated professionals to save us from harm. And each and every time they take a risk that our distress call could be their last.

I share very briefly a few stories of our proud heroes from Tennessee who, last year, gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Officer Jason Michael Scott of Loudoun County was shot and died on March 12, 2004, after responding to a family dispute. The station got a call that a teenager was attacking his mother. Officer Scott was sent to the scene. As Officer Scott climbed out of his patrol car to walk up to the house, he was shot four times with a high-powered rifle. The 16-year-old shooter then barricaded himself inside the home and exchanged gunfire with responding officers. The gunfight raged on for more than 20 hours before the disturbed young man committed suicide. Officer Scott was only 24 years old. His first child, Jayden Nicole, was born 11 days after his death. Our prayers are with the Scott family.

Even routine calls can lead to unexpected tragedy. Officer Christy Jo Dedman of Nashville was helping a motorist on the side of Interstate 40, not too far from my home, when a tractor trailer hit and killed her. In the flash of an instant, in one random moment, her life was taken.

At the funeral of Officer Mark Vance in Bristol, TN, an officer remarked:

You always know when you go out that you are taking a risk but you do not think it is going to happen.

Officer Vance was only 30 years old when he was shot and killed on a domestic violence call. Our prayers are with each and every member of his family.

Tonight, the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial will hold a candlelight vigil to honor Officer Vance along with his fellow colleagues killed in the line of duty. Over 20,000 people are expected to attend the ceremony tonight. The names of the 153 heroes will be read, as will the names of 262 other fallen officers from years past.

On Sunday, a memorial service will be held on the West Front of the Capitol. The President will be on hand to honor these heroes. I look forward to paying my respects to each of these courageous men and women.

I will take a moment now to single out Tennessee's own who are included

on this solemn roster: Sergeant Andy Thaddeus Bailey of Jackson; Officer Christy Jo Dedman of Nashville; Patrolman Timothy Howard Dunn of Shelby County; Patrolman J. Matthew Rittenhouse of Harriman; Deputy Sheriff Jason Michael Scott of Lenoir City; Patrolman Marlon Allen Titus of Memphis; and finally, Mark Edward Vance of Bristol.

Our hearts go out to their families, friends, and colleagues who were made safer by their service. We all suffer their tragic loss. In their honor I pledge to keep working hard to show our commitment in the Senate.

Last year, I cosponsored the Law Enforcement Safety Act, which the President signed into law. This legislation had been the No. 1 priority for our Nation's law enforcement community for years. Finally, last year, Congress passed it. It is now the law of the land.

The new law allows current and retired police officers to carry a concealed weapon in any of the 50 States. America now has the added security of tens of thousands of trained and certified law enforcement officers serving and protecting us across the country and even into retirement.

There are more than 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving communities across America, the highest number ever. I thank each and every one of them and their families for their selfless courage, their sacrifice, and their dedication to public safety. Each of these officers is a hero. I honor them. Each of these officers has a family who deserves our appreciation and gratitude for their sacrifice. May God bless our women and men in blue.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SAFTEA PLANNING AND MITIGATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, the bill before us today recognizes some of the challenges that face States and metropolitan planning agencies when developing plans for future highway projects.

We have included natural resource and environmental factors for States and metropolitan planning agencies to consider when developing their transportation plans. They should consider protecting habitat, water quality and agricultural and forest land while minimizing invasive species.

While I am most familiar with aquatic invasive species such as the sea lamprey and the zebra mussel that are wreaking havoc on my beloved Lake

Champlain, nonnative species of vegetation have been degrading public and private property, degrading habitat, crops, and pastures.

State transportation planning agencies can become active stewards in roadside management by phasing out the uses of nonnative vegetation and reestablishing native plants on our rights-of-way. In addition to considering invasive species during the planning process, this bill makes funding available for the control of invasive plant species and establishment of native species.

To help States and metropolitan planning agencies assess the environmental impacts of proposed highway projects we suggest consulting with other State and local agencies. Those responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation should compare transportation plans with State conservation plans.

This would include inventories of natural or historic resources and consideration of areas where wildlife crossing structures may be needed to ensure connectivity between wildlife habitat linkage areas.

This commonsense approach will assure that transportation planners will consider the location of important habitat, wetlands and other natural resources at the earliest stages of planning for new roads. These provisions will make project delivery faster and more efficient.

Currently, transportation projects are often planned without detailed information on core conservation areas, sensitive resources or important habitat that might lie within the selected corridor. These conflicts do not come to light until the environmental review process, which then becomes more expensive and time-consuming as transportation and resource officials try to reconcile infrastructure and conservation activities. These provisions will help transportation planners in avoiding unnecessary impacts on wildlife habitat and in mitigating for unavoidable impacts of a project.

These provisions encourage States to utilize available wildlife habitat data and maps to inform the long-range transportation planning process. Planners would be able to identify potential concerns at the earliest stage of planning, when options for minimizing impacts are greatest and costs of doing so are lowest.

Over 200 Americans die each year in wildlife-vehicle collisions, many more are injured and more than 1 million animals are killed on our roadways every day.

State and Federal agencies spend considerable time and money both protecting natural areas and building transportation infrastructure. Unfortunately, conservation and growth efforts often happen independently and then come into conflict during the permitting and construction phases of a