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Senate

The Senate met at 2:05 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O, maker of the seas and the Earth, speak to our hearts. Teach us to cling to the things that endure beyond time. When we are tempted to doubt, remind us of Your unfailing precepts. Sustain our lawmakers today in their important work. Help them to sacrifice and not to count the cost; to toil and not to seek for rest; to strive and not to ask for any reward except that of knowing they are doing Your will.

Use them today to do all the good they can for as many as they can for the honor of Your Name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN CORNYN 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 15, 2006.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CORNYN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this afternoon we begin consideration of S. 2611, a comprehensive immigration measure. Chairman SPECTER is here today to manage amendments to the bill. We have several Senators on this side of the aisle who have indicated they are prepared to pose their amendments during today's session. I encourage Members to come forward and bring their amendments to the managers just as soon as possible so that we will be able to consider them. Exactly how we handle amendments over the course of the afternoon, the Democratic leader and I and the chairman and managers will be discussing in a few minutes. We do expect a full session on the immigration bill today.

On Tuesday we have an order to have a rollcall vote at shortly after 10 o'clock on the confirmation of a circuit court nomination. I expect after that we would have some other votes that could be stacked and voted upon before our policy luncheons.

I do want to say, once again, that we need Senators to offer their amendments, to give us language on their amendments just as soon as possible. The debate itself will be fair, will be dignified. We have all agreed we want to be able to dispose of these amendments in a way that allows time for effective debate, whatever time is necessary for a debate, but that we would expect to be voting about every 2 hours—and that could go to 3 hours on some and could go to 10 minutes on others. But in order to consider the

range and number of amendments that have been proposed, we do need people to come forward and we will deal with those accordingly.

This is an important bill. It is a bill that we have talked a lot about on the floor for a couple of weeks already. There has been much good discussion, both on and off the Senate floor. I think everybody has spent a lot more time with the bill and with the proposed amendments. Thus, I think we should be able to address the issue in a careful, deliberate way, a complete way, and finish this bill before Memorial Day.

It is an important bill. It is an important bill to our national security. It is an important bill to our values, to our economy, and to our safety.

I have a brief statement to make on another topic, but I turn to the Democratic leader, if there is any comment on scheduling, of course.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Democratic leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, very briefly, we have in this most important debate two veterans of the Senate, to say the least, Senators SPECTER and LEAHY, who will be managing this bill. I agree with the distinguished majority leader. This debate should be dignified. People have very strong feelings about issues. I look forward to some very pronounced debate and voting.

We have had a lot of talk about the need to do immigration. Now is the opportunity to see what we can do. I met with my staff today, and I asked them to prioritize our amendments. We worked through some of those, which ones we want to offer first, second, third. I am sure that has been done on

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



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the majority side also. So I hope with Senator SPECTER and Senator LEAHY leading the charge that we can move forward very quickly.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I am going to make a few comments on a separate issue. Then we will come straight back to the immigration bill and how we can best handle the debate over the course of today.

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

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as I speak, on the west front of the Capitol Building we are observing the 25th National Peace Officers Memorial Service. Tribute is being paid to the 155 peace officers who lost their lives in the line of duty last year. The President spoke there moments ago, and is still there expressing his sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones.

It is always, each year, a solemn occasion. It is a sacred occasion. It reminds us of the huge sacrifices our law enforcement makes day in and day out on our behalf in our communities all across the country. Every day around the clock America's peace officers are on the front lines, protecting our lives, our homes, and our freedoms. On the front line, when we need someone to investigate a dark alley or quell a domestic dispute or subdue a criminal, it is these dedicated professionals who answer that call, who answer that need. Each time they take a risk, and they never know if that risk will be the last call they will make.

On August 8, 2005, when Tennessee Correctional Officer Wayne Thomas Morgan got ready for work, he couldn't know that it would be his last morning to say goodbye. At 10 a.m., during a routine prisoner transfer at the Roane County Courthouse, he was shot and killed. Prison nurse Jennifer Hyatte ambushed him as he and another guard escorted her husband, George Hyatte, from the courthouse to a prison van. From behind the wheel of her SUV, Jennifer drove into the parking lot, shot Officer Morgan three times, and fled the scene, escaping with her husband in the car.

The couple were arrested 36 hours later in Ohio. They now face trial on murder charges scheduled for later this year. It was an outrageous crime that shocked the Nation and shocked the close-knit Kingston community.

A deacon and choir member of the Meadowview Baptist Church, Officer Morgan was well known and much loved throughout his community. His funeral was attended by over 1,000 people, including law enforcement officers from seven States and Canada.

Bradley County Chief Deputy Bill Griffith said Officer Morgan's death "reminds those of us in law enforcement that we put our lives on the line every day."

Today, we echo those words as we pay tribute to our fallen heroes.

I would like to take just a moment to recognize Tennessee's own who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty last year: Officer Michael Keith Buckner, who served the Decherd Police Department and was killed in an automobile accident while returning from an investigation in a severe snowstorm. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Trooper Todd Michael Larkins, who served with the Tennessee Highway Patrol for 5 years, was struck and killed by a tractor trailer while conducting a vehicle stop. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Correctional Officer Wayne Thomas Morgan, who served with the Tennessee Department of Correction for 28 years, is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.

And Officer Kay Frances Rogers, a 15-year veteran who served with the Murfreesboro Police Department for 4 of those years, died of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. She is survived by her mother, three brothers, and three sisters.

Our hearts go out to these families, to friends and colleagues. And we bow our heads in recognition of their dedication, their sacrifice, and their courage.

As a Senator and an American citizen, I pledge to keep working on behalf of our Nation's peace officers.

In 2004, I cosponsored the Law Enforcement Safety Act, which the President signed into law. This legislation was the No. 1 priority for our Nation's law enforcement community. It is now law of the land. It allows current 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 even into retirement.

There are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving communities all across America, the highest number ever.

Each of these officers is a hero. And each of these officers has a family who deserves our appreciation and gratitude for their service.

May God bless the brave women and men who swear to protect and serve us.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 2611, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2611) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is summertime. It is the time that we see the rolling out of American blockbuster movies. They also try to save their best for the summer. This summer's blockbuster is "The Da Vinci Code," starring Tom Hanks. It starts this Friday all across America. But the third week in May on the Senate floor we have our own Senate blockbuster. It is the sequel though, not the original, part 2 of immigration. The first installment didn't go well for a number of reasons. One of the reasons I felt it didn't go well was the fact that the President wasn't involved personally in it. He wasn't involved in the debate.

For the first installment, I think the Judiciary Committee did very well. They were working on a very tight timeframe. There probably should have been more hearings. That is one reason there were probably more amendments than we would normally have on a bill. But I think Senators Leahy and Specter did an outstanding job to work out the bipartisan compromise—what we call the McCain-Kennedy legislation. It is a bill we tried to deal with on the floor. It didn't move forward for a number of reasons, one of which is the fact we couldn't work out a procedural mechanism to go forward. We tried. We had two cloture votes. All the Democrats voted to go forward with this; all the Republicans voted not to go forward with the legislation.

What did that legislation have in it? Both the McCain-Kennedy and the so-called Hagel-Martinez substitute. They have in them provisions that I think are so important to this country.

First, our border security.

I was in the Congress 20 years ago and served in the House of Representatives when we passed an immigration bill. Obviously, we didn't do a very good job. Twenty years later, we have at least 12 million people who are here that are undocumented.

With this legislation, which is so important, we do good, sound, long-term border security.

We also have to have a temporary worker program. There could be a number of amendments offered on this legislation. But we have to have a temporary worker program. I have said on a number of occasions that Las Vegas is a perfect example of why we need a temporary worker program. In the next 4 or 5 years, they will have 50,000 new hotel rooms. Management and the union say they cannot find the workers to man those hotels. So we need a temporary guest worker program.

I have mentioned we have 12 million people who are now living in the shadows. We have to have a way of bringing them out of the shadows. The McCain-Kennedy legislation sets the framework for doing that. How? By putting them on path of legalization—a path that would require their having jobs, paying taxes, staying out of trouble, no