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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HERB KOHL, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who restores the soul and gives life in the midst of decay, empower our Senators to do Your will. Be to them a faithful guide on the challenging road they travel. Teach them to find contentment in striving to please You, and provide them with Your powerful companionship.

As tomorrow's difficulties loom large, remind them that You can move mountains and create opportunities. Blaze the trail ahead for our lawmakers with Your might and wisdom, for You are our shelter and hope. Keep them from flinching before the unknown ways that spread before them and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HERB KOHL 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KOHL 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. REID. Mr. President, the time until 12 noon will be divided between the majority and minority. I know Senators LEVIN and STABENOW and SALAZAR want to make statements regarding President Ford. At noon we will have a rollcall vote on the adoption of S. Res. 19, which is a resolution honoring the late President.

Following that vote, we are going to begin consideration of S. 1, the ethics package. This will be for opening statements. The minority has agreed that we could go to this bill in the morning. I appreciate that very much. We are going to work through this bill as

quickly as we can. We would hope that people who want to offer amendments will be here tomorrow to offer amendments. The majority of the management of this bill will be by Senator FEINSTEIN, whose committee, Rules, has most of the jurisdiction. Senator LIEBERMAN will comanage it because there are some aspects of this legislation under the jurisdiction of his committee.

For the information of the Senate, there should be no other votes today after the 12 o'clock vote. Members are advised that the remainder of the week we should and will have rollcall votes during the day and into the evening. And we will have votes Friday. We hope to complete the voting by 12 noon if all goes right. But there will be votes Friday.

We will not finish this ethics bill this week, but we will finish next week, unless something untoward develops.

HONORING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I never had the opportunity to meet with Gerald Ford when he was President, but I did when he was Vice President. I was chairman of the National Lieutenant Governors Conference. This was during the height of the energy crisis, and we came to Washington. One of the pleasures was meeting with the Vice President in the White House. That was really a big deal for me, a young Lieutenant Governor from Nevada. And a week or so after having met with the Vice President, he sent a picture to my home, a picture of me and the Vice

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



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President. That was really a significant event in the Reid family, but also my boy thought it was a significant event, and he took a crayon and marked all over that picture—my prized picture of my being in Washington, sitting with the Vice President. So my wife and I labored for some time and worked to get the crayon off that picture. We did a pretty good job. I still have the picture, but you can see my boy's marking on that with his crayon. I wish I had the opportunity to talk to the Vice President about that. I am sure he would have laughed.

President Ford was a wonderful man. We all know he died the day after Christmas. He was 93 years old. There were celebrations, as there should have been, in the Capitol Rotunda, at the National Cathedral, the Ford Presidential Library in Grand Rapids, MI, and the Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, MI, where I had the opportunity to attend at the invitation of the former First Lady. The speeches were good. Former Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld spoke, President Jimmy Carter spoke, a noted historian spoke. It was really a quite moving event.

We have heard tales during the past couple weeks of Gerald Ford and the athlete he was. We have even read from Chevy Chase, who became famous literally making fun of Gerald Ford. He made fun of him because—he was a big man—coming out of an airplane once, he hit his head on the airplane door, and that was the beginning of Chevy Chase's career.

The fact is, even though Chevy Chase became famous making fun of President Ford, we have never had a more athletic President than President Ford—All-Big Ten; he was a great, outstanding football player at the University of Michigan.

As a Member of Congress, he was outstanding. He was praised by people who served with him. He served for about 25 years in the Congress and became the Republican leader. He, of course, was Commander in Chief as President of the United States. But one of the things we have learned so directly during the last couple weeks is how great he was to his wife Betty. She, during the time of their real public presence, had breast cancer and had a bout with alcoholism, and she approached both in a very strong, courageous way. The Betty Ford Clinic in Palm Springs is a place where people go to find that they are addicted and need help. But we have learned what a wonderful wife she was to President Ford and what a great First Lady she was to her entire country.

We have heard tributes from Senators, Governors, clergy, newsmen, and Presidents. They differed in tone and substance, but they all made the point of stressing one thing: Gerald Ford was, above all, a man of integrity, a man of honesty, and, ultimately, a role model for all of us who serve in Government.

He, of course, is the only man to become President who was never elected. Yet, time and time again, he proved himself the right man at the right time, healing the Nation after the scars of Watergate and moving our country forward.

Husband to his wife Betty, father to his beautiful children, Michael, John, Steven, and Susan, World War II veteran, star athlete, even an Eagle Scout—Gerald Ford was the core of what America is all about, a shining example of what we hold best in America. He took office at a dark time in our country's history and shepherded this Nation through the trials of Vietnam and Watergate, with a bipartisan spirit of reconciliation and grace, a shining example to us all. He reminded a wounded nation of the honesty and decency of its leaders.

Mr. President, we all hope when we pass on our friends and colleagues will look back and say we left the world a better place. With Gerald Ford, there is no doubt. This Government, this Nation, this world are better from Gerald Ford's life and service to our country, and for this the Senate honors his life today.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. RES. 19

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, do I understand from the distinguished majority leader that the resolution does include an insertion by the distinguished Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, and myself?

Mr. REID. Yes, I say to my distinguished friend. I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 19 be modified with the changes now at the desk. This modification has been cleared by the Republican leader. That takes care of the problem the Senator raised.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader. Assuming we have time here—I am going to yield the floor to my leader—I will address that inclusion of the amendment.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

HONORING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, many praiseworthy things have been said about Gerald Rudolph Ford over the past 2 weeks, and this is good. It is good to see so many people speak so well of a man who was often wrongly criticized in life, and it has been uplifting to watch an entire nation stop and reflect on what it means to live a good

life, good to see that old virtues still have the power to inspire.

Of course, Gerald Ford didn't seek out the Presidency, and certainly he came into the highest elected position in the land in the unlikeliest of ways.

I was recently reminded that his life didn't get off to the most promising start. Born Leslie Lynch King, Jr., in Omaha, NE, his mother and father divorced when he was 2.

His mother picked up and moved back home to Grand Rapids, where she married a paint and varnish salesman. Gerald Ford, Sr., gave Dorothy three more boys—and her first son a new name that he would carry into history.

The childhood home was pleasant, but since money was tight, Junior had to mow lawns and grill hamburgers after school.

The experiences of the boy had an effect on the man: Ford would later gain a reputation in Congress as a fiscal conservative, as someone who thought that Government, like any household, should live within its budget. He didn't learn this from a policy paper. He didn't need to.

We have heard that Gerald Ford was a great athlete, that he could have played with the Packers or the Lions, but he took a job as an assistant coach at Yale instead. And determined to go to Yale Law School, he convinced the faculty to let him on parttime. They did.

Gerry Ford once said:

The harder you work, the luckier you are. I worked like hell.

He ended up in the top fourth of a law school class that included a future Supreme Court Justice, a future Secretary of State—and a future President.

We have heard how President Ford signed up for the Navy after Pearl Harbor; that he put duty and country first, and nearly got swept off the deck of the USS *Monterey* in the middle of a typhoon. It wouldn't be his last brush with an early death.

And we have heard a love story: that Ford came home to Michigan after the war and married a pretty young dancer named Betty Bloomer; that he started to think about politics, and that Betty wasn't worried at all about it distracting from family life. "I never thought he'd win," she said.

But, of course, he did.

The Fords moved east, and decided to stay awhile, and stayed together through it all—until last week, when Betty, older now but no less graceful, said good-bye to her husband, the President, in the same church where they said "I do" 58 years ago.

We have been inspired by the story of President Ford's political career—how he didn't make a name for himself with high-profile speeches or partisan broadsides; how he did his job, and did it well, in big and little things.

He built a reputation as someone who could bridge the gap, who brought people together and worked problems out. Gerry Ford summed up his approach to lawmaking this way: