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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God, smile on us and lift us with Your mighty strength. Develop in us an optimism that will withstand all challenges, bear all burdens, and catapult all obstacles.

Guide the Members of this body, today, on Your path. Show them Your ways as You lead them by the power of Your truth. Help them to set priorities that will deliver captives and relieve the oppressed, causing "justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Direct our Senators with their going out and coming in, inspiring them with a resolute determination to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. We pray in Your reverent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR 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, shortly the Chair will announce that we are in morning business until 3 p.m. today, with the time equally divided between the two leaders.

At 3 p.m., the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. Senators BOXER and INHOFE are managing the bill, and they will be here at 3 o'clock ready to conduct business. There will be no rollcall votes today.

If there are no amendments on Tuesday, the water resources bill would be ready for a vote. If there are no votes on WRDA tomorrow and they are able to complete work on the bill, then we will have the judicial nomination before the caucuses in the morning.

Also, I have had discussions with the Republican leader. We finished a conversation a short time ago. I indicated last Friday I would delay filing cloture on the motion to proceed to the immigration bill until today so that negotiations could continue. That cloture vote will occur now on Wednesday.

The Republican leader and I will continue our discussions about the best way to proceed with the supplemental. The bill is expected to be received from the House today and will be placed on the Senate calendar when it arrives. The Senate must complete action on the supplemental this week so it can be

conferenced with the House and sent to the President prior to the scheduled Memorial Day recess. It will occur. That is, the conference will be completed or we will delay our recess.

In addition, the Senate can expect to receive a conference vote on the budget sometime later this week. We need to act on that also. Under the Budget Act, debate time is limited to 10 hours.

So a busy week lies ahead for us in the Senate. We have one week after this before the Memorial Day break.

HONORING 2007 NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week-end I had the good fortune of having my brother in town. My brother Don is the oldest of four boys. He is 12 years older than I. He served in the Marine Corps, and during the Korean War he served in the Army. It was a wonderful time we had yesterday. Among other things, we went to Arlington National Cemetery. He wanted to go there.

I have been here a long time. I went to law school here, and I now have been in Congress for about 25 years. You don't often take the opportunity—because you are busy doing other things—to visit the wonderful attractions there are in the District of Columbia area.

Arlington Cemetery is a place that every Member of Congress should go once in a while. It is amazing to see all those graves. I went, as I have on a number of occasions, to President Kennedy's grave site. We saw the eternal flame. He is there with his two babies and his wonderful wife.

We watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We visited the Iwo Jima memorial—it is called the Marine Corps Memorial. Iwo Jima is mentioned there. I have been reading a lot about that lately. There are some books, such as *Flags of Our Fathers*—I don't want to hurt Clint Eastwood's feelings, but

• 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 book is much better than his movie. It is a wonderful book about the people who raised the flag over Iwo Jima. That was quite a battle on that little island. The fighting lasted 40 days. Seven thousand Americans were killed and 20,000 wounded. During the first few days, hundreds were being killed every day. Even though that battle lasted a little over a month, a significant percentage of all of the Medals of Honor that were awarded during that war were awarded to the Battle of Iwo Jima.

So, Mr. President, for me to go yesterday to the cemetery at Arlington and see the eternal flame at President Kennedy's grave, to go to the Iwo Jima monument speaks in words that cannot be described in just the setting rather than the actual words you are hearing of the uncommon valor of the courageous American men and women in uniform serving overseas.

On Saturday, we also visited the World War II monument, the relatively new monument in the area. We went to the FDR Memorial, Lincoln's monument. These are things I enjoyed doing, but I especially enjoyed them because my brother was there with me.

Our troops serve as we speak with great valor overseas. Thousands and thousands more do the same for us here at home.

Last night, National Police Week kicked off with a candlelight vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. President Kennedy actually designated May 15 of every year as the "National Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week surrounding it "Police Week." Forty-five years later, our commitment to honor the memories of officers lost in the line of duty, police officers lost in the line of duty, as well as those who continue to serve us, remains as strong as ever.

At last night's candlelight vigil, the names of all 145 officers killed in the line of duty in 2006 were read. One of those names was Sgt. Henry Prendes of Las Vegas. He was a member of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

On February 1, 2006, Sergeant Prendes was the first to respond to a domestic violence call involving a man brutally beating a woman. As Sergeant Prendes approached the suspect, he was fatally shot and killed by a semiautomatic rifle.

Sergeant Prendes had spent 14 years on the force protecting the people of Las Vegas.

His wife Dawn and daughters Brooke and Kylee are in Washington this week to honor their husband and father.

It is impossible to imagine the void left in Dawn, Brooke, and Kylee's hearts. Perhaps that void will be eased in some small way by the pride in knowing that their father and husband served his community and our country with extraordinary courage and uncommon valor.

During this National Police Week, the memory of Sergeant Prendes and

all those who have likewise fallen in the line of duty this year and in years past are foremost in our thoughts.

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 be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

WHISTLEBLOWER WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I announced today the kickoff of whistleblower week in Washington. This week, and the events surrounding it, are designed to promote, to celebrate, and to educate Congress and the public about the courage and the patriotism of our whistleblowers. These individuals often risk their careers to expose fraud, waste, and abuse in an effort to protect not only the health and safety of the American people but also the Federal Treasury and taxpayer dollars.

This week's events promoting and celebrating whistleblowers are important for all Members of Congress and for the public as well. By highlighting what whistleblowers do, we provide insight into what it means to be a whistleblower and the important role they play in Government and society.

For over two decades, I have learned from, appreciated, and honored whistleblowers. Congress needs to make a special note of the role that whistleblowers play in helping us to fulfill our constitutional duty of conducting oversight of the executive branch of Government or what we learn in high school government classes called checks and balances.

As a Senator, I have conducted extensive oversight into virtually all aspects of the Federal bureaucracy. Despite the differences in cases from agency to agency and from department to department, one constant remains: the need for information and the need for insight from whistleblowers. This information is vital to effective congressional oversight, the constitutional responsibility of Congress, in addition to legislating.

Documents alone are insufficient when it comes to understanding a dysfunctional bureaucracy. Only whistleblowers can explain why something is wrong and provide the best evidence to prove it. Moreover, only whistleblowers can help us truly understand problems with the culture of Government agencies, because without changing the culture, business as usual is the rule.

Whistleblowers have been instrumental in uncovering \$700 being spent on toilet seats in the Department of Defense. These American heroes were also critical in our learning about how the Food and Drug Administration missed the boat and approved Vioxx, how Government contracts were inappropriately steered at the General Services Administration, and how the corporation Enron was cooking the books and ripping off investors. Courageous employees blew the whistle and shed much needed sunlight on the problems that would otherwise never see the light of day.

Similar to all whistleblowers, each whistleblower in these cases demonstrated tremendous courage. They stuck their neck out for the good of all of us. They spoke the truth. They didn't take the easy way out by going along to get along or by looking the other way when they saw that things were wrong and that there was wrongdoing.

The whistleblower whom I call the grandfather of all whistleblowers, Ernie Fitzgerald, of about 30 years of Department of Defense fame as an auditor, says that the only thing that whistleblowers commit—let me say it this way: The only thing that whistleblowers do, and it ends up getting them in trouble is, in his words, "commit truth." For committing truth, then, they are about as welcome as a skunk at a Sunday afternoon picnic with the bureaucracies they are within.

I have said it for many years without avail, and it probably will not be of avail, that I would like to see the President of the United States—and I have said this to four different Presidents—have a Rose Garden ceremony honoring whistleblowers. This would send a message from the very top of the bureaucracy, which is the Presidency of the United States, and to the bottom of the bureaucracy about the importance and value of whistleblowers.

They deserve this attention, and we all ought to be grateful for what they do and appreciate the very difficult circumstances they often have to endure to do whistleblowing—or as Fitzgerald says, "committing truth"—because in the end they sacrifice their family's finances, oftentimes their employability, and the attempts by powerful interest groups to actually smear their good names and good intentions.

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to speak at a panel that gathered to discuss the plight of whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These individuals discussed the hurdles they face in exposing the truth—or, according to Fitzgerald, "committing truth." Further, they discussed the lengths at which some bureaucrats will go to prevent the truth from getting out.

Unfortunately, these former agents also discussed a culture that keeps problems internal and the circling of wagons within the bureaucracy when