



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

No. 144

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, Creator of all and Savior of those who put their trust in You, in this era of post-9/11, we pray that the children of this generation and their children's children may never experience another day like the one that is commemorated in various ceremonies across the Nation today. Protect and guide this Nation to a new security built upon human integrity and communal solidarity and the love of human freedom and human dignity. Empower the Senate of the United States and governments around the world to establish just laws and seek the common good that will lead to ways of equity and peace. Let our children dream dreams, equip themselves with the best education possible, and become the creative leaders of tomorrow, because they are attuned to Your holy will and give You glory now and forever.

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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2008.

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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes, and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3001, the Department of Defense Authorization Act.

Today, there are a number of events to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. There will be a bipartisan, bicameral congressional ceremony at 11:45 on the west front steps of the U.S. Capitol and there will be a moment of silence at 12:30 p.m. in the Senate Chamber.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the horror of September 11, 2001, is still very fresh in our minds. This day will always be a sad one for Americans.

It also has become a day of solemn pride as we remember the tremendous heroism and self-sacrifice of so many in New York, at the Pentagon, and on a plane over Shanksville, PA.

Later this morning, the Senate will take time to remember, and it is fitting that we do so. It is fitting that we should pause as a body and as a nation to remember the victims and their families, as well as the heroes, and to remind ourselves of the dangers we still face.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with the Republicans controlling the first half of the time and the majority the second half.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 15 minutes and that I be advised when 13 minutes of that time has expired.

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

(The remarks of Mr. BOND pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 655 are located in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is important that we commemorate today, the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. This Nation and the world should also remember that the first battle of the war against terror started in the skies over this country, and it was started not by the military but by an average group of American citizens who, by fate, found themselves on Flight 93, which had taken off from New Jersey, headed to San Francisco, CA. When they, as a group, figured out their plane had been taken over by terrorists who planned to use that plane and the passengers in it as a weapon of mass destruction against the Capitol of the United States, they did an extraordinary thing: This group of average citizens made a battle plan and executed that plan against America's enemies. This exceptional group of Americans knew they were risking and sacrificing their lives to stop an attack on America, which, in fact, was on the White House or this very building we are in today—this very building, the U.S. Capitol. The passengers of Flight 93 faced their enemies without hesitation and brought that plane to the ground in Shanksville, PA. That action was the opening battle in the war against terror.

Today, people are gathering in New York City at Ground Zero, where the World Trade Towers once stood so proudly. People will gather here in the Nation's Capital. This morning, the President observed a moment of silence on the White House lawn and then joined those gathering at the Pentagon, at the site where Flight 77 crashed, to dedicate a memorial to those who died in that building—a building that symbolizes the American military, the greatest fighting force in the world.

This remembrance is not just taking place in New York and in our Nation's Capital, it is taking place all across our Nation. Certainly, we are not alone in mourning the 2,975 people—citizens from more than 90 nations—who died in the terrorist attacks. So our allies and friends mourn with us.

These attacks carried out on September 11 changed the way we view our world. Many Americans, for the first time, felt vulnerable. While it was not the first terrorist attack on America, it was the largest on our soil since Pearl Harbor. So it is critically important to note that this attack wasn't an

isolated incident but a carefully planned operation that was part of al-Qaida's war on America. Bin Laden had already declared war on America publicly. It was, at its foundation, an attack based on a belief that America was corrupt, decadent, and lacked the courage or the will to vigorously defend its very existence.

They were wrong. The attacks that led up to that day—I will just make a note of them—the attacks that led up to that event were:

In 1983, there was an attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 241 American servicemen.

In 1985, the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* was hijacked by terrorists, and a 70-year-old American passenger was murdered and thrown overboard in his wheelchair.

In 1985, TWA Flight 847 was hijacked at Athens, and a U.S. Navy diver trying to rescue fellow passengers was murdered.

In 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 was bombed, leaving 270 dead.

In 1993, al-Qaida operatives attacked the World Trade Center and bombed it, killing 6 people and injuring 1,042. In June of 1996, 19 American servicemen were killed, with 372 wounded, in the Khobar Towers barracks attack in Saudi Arabia.

In 1998, the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed, killing 223 and wounding thousands.

On October 12, 2000, while a warship of the United States of America, the USS *Cole*, was harbored in the Yemeni port of Aden for a routine fuel stop, a small craft approached and detonated their payload, putting a 40-by-60-foot gash in the ship's port side, killing 17 American sailors.

All of that occurred before the hijacking of those four planes on September 11, 2001. Since that day, while there have been attacks on England, Spain, and around the world, there have been no further successful attacks on the United States.

Even though we are in an election campaign, it is important for us not to forget that the failure of al-Qaida to launch another attack on us is not due to the terrorist organization's relinquishing their objective, renouncing their goal of killing Americans and disrupting our lives and economy, but it is a testament to the vigilance of our law enforcement and military officials and President Bush's bold decision to stop sitting back, stop being on the defensive, and to treat these attacks for what they were—part of a war against the United States. He firmly declared that we should go after these terrorists and any who harbor them and utilize deadly force where necessary. This strategy has worked. No successful attacks have occurred since that time on our homeland. I don't think any of us would have felt that was likely the case, or would be the case, on September 11, 2001, even though I think all of us, as a nation, agreed it was time to move on the offensive. That is the best way to defend our great country.

Since September 11, 2001, 19 attacks have been thwarted in various stages of preparation. This chart is difficult to read, but the red lines across it indicate some of the successful interventions and defeats of terrorist plans. I will just mention those.

In December 2001, Richard Reid attempted to blow up an airplane headed to Miami from Paris, using explosives in his shoe.

In May 2002, Jose Padilla, who was charged with conspiring with Islamic terrorist groups, planned to set off a dirty bomb in the United States.

In September 2002, the Lackawanna Six from Buffalo, NY, were arrested and charged with conspiring with terrorist groups.

In May 2003, Lyman Faris, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Kashmir living in Columbus, OH, was arrested for plotting the collapse of the Brooklyn Bridge.

In June 2003, a Virginia jihad network, involving 11 men from Alexandria, was arrested for conspiring to support terrorists.

In August 2004, members of a terrorist cell were arrested for plotting to attack financial institutions in the United States and other sites in England.

In August 2004, two men were arrested for plotting to bomb a subway station near Madison Square Garden in New York.

In August 2004, two leaders of an Albany, NY, mosque were charged with plotting to purchase a shoulder-fired grenade launcher to assassinate a Pakistani diplomat in New York.

In June 2005, a California father-son terrorist team was charged with supporting terrorism.

In August 2005, four men in Los Angeles were accused of conspiring to attack National Guard facilities in Los Angeles and other targets in the area.

In December 2005, Michael C. Reynolds was arrested by the FBI and charged with being involved in a plot to blow up a Wyoming natural gas refinery.

In February 2006, three men from Toledo, OH, were arrested and charged with providing material support to a terrorist organization.

In April of 2006, Atlanta natives were accused of conspiring with terrorist organizations to attack targets in Washington, DC.

In June of 2006, seven men were arrested in Miami and Atlanta and charged with plotting to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago, as well as FBI offices and other buildings.

In July 2006, 10 people were arrested after the FBI discovered a plot to attack underground transit tunnels in New York.

In August of 2006, British authorities stopped a plot to load 10 commercial airliners with liquid explosives and attack sites in New York, Washington, and California. Fifteen men were charged.

In March 2007, a senior operative for Osama bin Laden already in custody