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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, thank You for the total access You have given us to approach Your throne in prayer.

Today, equip our Senators to do Your will, helping them to grasp the wonder of Your purposes. Lord, give them the ability, power, and resources to complete Your mission on Earth, thereby achieving the destiny You have for their lives. Help them to seek not what they can get from You but what Your power can enable them to do for You. Fill their hearts with Your unaltered, unconditional, and unending love.

We pray in Your sovereign name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2013.

To the Senate:

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ 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, following my remarks and those of Senator McCONNELL, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Congressman WATT to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The time until noon will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. At noon, Senator-elect BOOKER will become a U.S. Senator. Following the swearing in, there will be a cloture vote on the Watt nomination.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, October 31 has always been a special day for me,

since it marks the admission of the great State of Nevada to the Union. There are always parades and celebrations at home, many of which I have sadly missed in recent years because of my responsibilities here.

But October 31 is special for another reason, and not just that it is Halloween. It is my brother's birthday—my youngest brother, 22 months younger than I. My brother Larry, who lives in Searchlight, celebrates another birthday today. It is my pleasure to wish both my brother and the Silver State of Nevada a very happy birthday.

Nevada Day is particularly special as it marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of our 150th anniversary of the Battle Born State's entrance into the Union.

For thousands of years Nevada was the home to Nevada American peoples. I have in my office across the hall a wonderful painting by a Nevadan which shows the first non-Indian to see the Las Vegas Valley. You can see there the Sunrise Mountain and glimpses of the oases that were there. There were a number of them in that valley. He was the first non-Indian to see the valley a long time ago. He is in the picture mounted on his beautiful horse with all his fancy regalia. But the fact is the picture doesn't begin to show what Rafael Rivera looked on that day, because he had been lost. He was with the Spanish Expedition and he was lost. He was there by accident. It is a wonderful picture, and we honor Rafael Rivera in Nevada. So it is a special day for us in Nevada.

On October 31, 1864, right in the middle of the Civil War, Nevada became

• 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 36th State of the Union. Nevada is only one of two States to join the Union during the war. The first was West Virginia, which seceded from Virginia to form a new State and remain part of the Union. It gained its statehood before Nevada, on June 30, 1863.

Union sympathizers had rushed to finalize Nevada's statehood in order to ensure Lincoln's reelection—because, remember, this is right before his reelection. In fact, they were so eager to mint a State they telegraphed the new Nevada constitution to Congress. At that time, it was the longest telegram ever sent—coming in at 16,543 words and costing \$59,294.92. Eight days later, President Lincoln was reelected President of the United States.

Nevada is only one of two States to significantly expand its borders after its admission to the Union. Eastern and southern Nevada joined the State in the late 1860s after gold was discovered in the regions. Many Nevadans believe the State was only allowed to join the Union so its mineral riches could help fund the northern war effort, but in truth that is a myth. It is not true. The tale probably stems from the fact that the Nevada Territory was created in 1861 so its gold and silver could be used to help the Union rather than the Confederacy. So the State's slogan, *Battle Born*—a reference to the war—and an erroneous episode of "Bonanza," which depicted a constitutional convention in Carson City I guess helped cement the legend.

The 150th anniversary of our admission to the Union is a wonderful time to study and reflect in this shared history we have as States and as a nation. It is also time to build a foundation for another 150 years of innovation and accomplishment for our State.

Nevada—from the mountains and high deserts of the east, to the geothermal wells of the north, including Lake Tahoe to the west, of course, to southern Nevada with the Las Vegas strip, from Indian Country to the mining towns and ranching communities—is a unique State in today's modern Union.

I like to say that people don't understand Nevada is more than the bright lights of Las Vegas. From the glittering waters of Lake Tahoe, Nevada is the most mountainous State in the Union, except for Alaska. We have more than 300 mountain ranges. Other than Alaska, it is the most dangerous place to fly a private plane because of the weather patterns which develop so quickly. I have been involved as I have flown in some of the smaller airplanes around the State.

We have magnificent wildlife. We have the famous bighorn sheep, we have mountain goats, the largest antelope range in the world. We have 1 mountain almost 14,000 feet high, and we have 32 mountains over 11,000 feet high. It is a magnificent State, and I am so fortunate to be able to represent that State—the State where I was born.

So today and throughout this special year we should celebrate everything that makes Nevada extraordinary and successful.

Happy Nevada Day, Nevadans.

CONGRATULATING CARL FRITTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to congratulate a man who has been part of the Senate for a long time. With more than four decades of service to the Federal Government and some 32 years here in the Senate, a man by the name of Carl Fritter will retire today. He began his career at the Government Printing Office and gave 44 years of service to the Federal Government. He is respected by his colleagues in the Secretary's Office and admired throughout the Senate community for his craftsmanship. Carl learned the art of bookbinding as an apprentice in the Government Printing Office. He received special training in bookbinding from experts across the globe.

In 1977, Carl was detailed to the Senate Library, where he eventually became Director of the Office of Conservation and Preservation. My son, during one of the summers, worked in that office, and that was a great experience. There he got to know Carl.

In addition to binding and repairing books, he has built many beautiful boxes and other things. He is a modern-day artisan. It is amazing the things he has built and can build. He has built, for example, boxes to contain gavels, books, and other works of art. Later today when we swear in the new junior Senator from New Jersey, the oath book Vice President BIDEN will use to swear in Senator-elect BOOKER was made by Carl Fritter.

I wish him the very best in his retirement. He is going to go to Key West, FL, where he wants to spend more time there with his wife Bunny and his children and grandchildren. I thank Carl for his decades of dedicated service to this institution and the Federal Government, and congratulate him on a career of success building and preserving artifacts here in the U.S. Capitol.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TRIBUTE TO CARL FRITTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words of thanks this morning to a member of the Senate family who is leaving us today. After 44 years of government service, including 32 here in the Senate, Carl Fritter has decided it is time to go.

Carl has been a real friend to my office over the years, through his work in the Office of Conservation and Preser-

vation, and we are sorry to see him leave us. But before he does, I want to say how grateful we are for his outstanding work over the years.

Carl learned the art of bookbinding in an apprentice program at the Government Printing Office many years ago. He says he never saw himself as a bookbinder, but after working outside one January during the construction of the Kennedy Center, he started thinking about getting a job indoors, and his supervisors over at the GPO gave him the opportunity. Carl would learn his trade from bookbinders from all over the world, each of whom taught him different techniques, which he put to good use in the Senate Library for many years.

In 1990, the Office of Conservation and Preservation was created. Carl was named Director 4 years later.

In addition to binding and repairing books, Carl taught himself a lot of other crafts. I am told he makes some pretty amazing decorative boxes, bowls, gavels, and books. One of Carl's most memorable projects was a fall-down box that he built as a gift for Margaret Thatcher. It was a box that opened to reveal a plate in the middle, with two congressional resolutions on either side. I am sure Prime Minister Thatcher loved it.

Carl, thank you for lending us your talents for so long and for giving so much of your life to this institution. We wish you and Bunny all the best in your retirement. I am sure you will enjoy passing down your skills to your grandkids. They will have a great teacher. But the entire Senate community will miss your craftsmanship and your commitment to excellence, and we will miss your friendship.

Carl, thank you very much.

FAMILY FRIENDLY AND WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, given that October is National Work and Family Month, I wish to take the opportunity to discuss an issue that has become increasingly important to working families, and that is the need for workplace flexibility.

Yesterday my colleague Senator AYOTTE and I introduced the Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act of 2013, which we hope will provide America's workers with the flexible work arrangements they need. Countless Americans have become increasingly familiar over the past several years with the same reality: more and more to do, with less and less time to do it. And while Congress can't legislate another hour in the day, we can help working Americans better balance the demands of work and family.

The Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act is a commonsense measure Congress can pass to help alleviate that burden for millions of families by providing greater flexibility in managing their time. We all know working moms who are stretched between a job and supporting their kids,