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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of all, You loved us before we loved You. Accept our thanksgiving for the gifts of life, love, and laughter.

Come among our lawmakers and manifest Your unifying love. Strengthen them in their work, leading them with Your wisdom. Lord, empower them to do Your work on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven. May they labor with the confidence that they are kept by Your power. Guide them into the future inspired by the knowledge that their times are in Your hands.

We pray in Your mighty 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, June 16, 2014.

To the Senate:

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 428, the appropriations bill at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be three cloture votes on U.S. district court judges: Mendoza, from Washington, Yandle from Illinois, and Gayles from Florida.

2014 WORLD CUP

Mr. President, on the lower level of the Statue of Liberty, there is a poem. It says a lot. It was written by Emma Lazarus.

Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.

Those words encapsulate what is good about America. Those few lines represent the very makeup of this great country.

Over its history our Nation has welcomed the tired and poor of the world and made them strong. We have opened our doors to the best the world has to offer, and the United States has become better for it. Our country is a melting pot. Every aspect of our society reflects that, especially our athletes and soccer in particular.

I can remember when my middle son came home one night—he was just a boy; I assume he was maybe 10 years old—and he said, “I want to play soccer.”

I said, “What?”

“I want to play soccer.”

Soccer was not much of a sport in Nevada at that time. I thought, you know, if you are going to be an athlete, you have to play football, basketball, baseball, run track, high jump, long jump.

“I want to play soccer,” he said.

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



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OK. And play soccer he did. That began for me a great education, and it was so good for my son Leif, my middle boy. They had a great team. My wife and I started going to the games and learning about soccer. It was so much fun. When we moved back here, he was a freshman in high school and suffered a very badly broken leg playing soccer, so his career ended there.

My next boy was a baseball player.

My youngest boy was a gifted athlete. I boasted about him for many years. He was a soccer player, and he also played basketball. He played soccer on two national championship teams for the University of Virginia. By the time he went there, I had watched hundreds of soccer games. For him to play at this premier school with great athletes, playing soccer across the country, was really an experience and, again, an education.

For example, one of my son's teammates was the famous Claudio Reyna. Claudio was so good. It was a team of many great athletes. My son was a gifted athlete and everybody on the team was good, but Claudio Reyna was better than anyone.

Claudio's dad emigrated from Argentina. His mom was from a Portuguese family. They lived in New Jersey, where he was recruited to play for the University of Virginia. My son came from a different background. His grandfather was born in Russia, emigrated to the United States. His grandmother on my wife's side had Lithuanian blood. My grandmother emigrated from England.

So he and Claudio were on that team, and it would be hard to find two young men with more different backgrounds than they. They were teammates.

Their other teammates had backgrounds that were similarly unusual, different—a young man from Spain, one from Jamaica. An All-American named Damien Silvera was from Jamaica. These young men, 11 players—and some who didn't play all the time—came from different cities and different cultures, but they were one. They were a team. They were in rhythm, always united in purpose.

They were coached by the great Bruce Arena, a famous coach who coached the Olympic team—in fact, coached one of the first championships here, playing for the Washington professional team here. He is now coaching for L.A. They won the championship there many times. He was good with a diverse group of men and women playing in sync. It was really beautiful to watch. I guess that is why they call soccer the beautiful game.

Tonight our men's soccer team will play Ghana in its first game—since being twice knocked out by Ghana—in the 2014 World Cup.

The World Cup is special, watched by more people than the Olympics. It comes around every 4 years, and Americans from all walks of life and all backgrounds watch together in support of our Nation's soccer team. But our

support for Team USA comes from more than just athletics. It is more than just competition. I think we see a bit of ourselves in the team. Our unique connection to the U.S. men's soccer players stems from the team's composition. The roster is a reflection of America itself. It is diverse, yet it is united. It is a reflection of us.

Our head coach Jurgen Klinsmann was a legendary soccer player. I can remember his playing in the World Cup. He was from Germany and played for West Germany. He has lived in the United States for a number of years.

One of the team's defenders is a man by the name of Omar Gonzalez—Texas-born, Mexican American—who played professionally in Los Angeles for Bruce Arena.

Our striker, Aron Johannsson, is a 23-year-old Alabama-born Icelander who plays in the Netherlands.

DaMarcus Beasley is the team's 32-year-old veteran defender from Indiana, who plays professionally in Mexico.

Jermaine Jones, who plays midfield, is the German-born son of an American soldier and plays professionally in Turkey.

These are just a number of examples. There are so many more. The entire roster is an illustration of America's diversity. We are, after all, a nation of immigrants.

Under Klinsmann's direction, these players will bring their unique talents and experiences from across the world and coalesce under one flag—the American flag. I wish the team all the best tonight against Ghana. I will be watching and cheering on the team.

Another reason I love soccer: You don't have all those advertisements interrupting the game. It is a free-flowing athletic contest. There is the background of announcers talking about what just took place, and sometimes we don't fully understand it, but the game goes for 45 minutes and then another 45 minutes, for a total of 90 minutes, plus whatever penalty time they get—an extra 3 to 5 minutes after the 45 minutes is up—not interrupted by commercials.

So I admit I will be watching and cheering on the game. I hope our colleagues do the same, and I have confidence they will. When we do watch this team out there, watch what our team represents, what America stands for. See what makes this great country of ours so special. The United States really has given refuge to the tired, the poor, the huddled masses of the world, and they have become strong Americans, and we as a nation are better for it.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, I would ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

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, the

Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I hope the Presiding Officer and my colleagues had a great Father's Day this past Sunday. I had maybe the best Father's Day you can imagine because I got to spend part of it with my two sons and my father. We all went out to dinner with my wife, and it was a really special day.

I come to the floor with both a light and heavy heart, light because I got to experience Father's Day in a way I wish thousands of other people across the country could experience it. The statistics of the number of people who are killed by guns every year is pretty stunning. There are tens of thousands of people all across this country who are losing their fathers and sons, in part because the Senate doesn't do anything to try to stem the scourge of gun violence across the country.

As the Presiding Officer knows, I try to come to the floor every week for about 10 minutes or so to try and give voice to the victims of gun violence.

Today, 24 hours having passed Father's Day, maybe we can talk a little bit about those who have lost their fathers and their sons—little boys such as Logan Soldo.

Logan is about to turn 1. He certainly doesn't know what happened to his father Igor, but when he is old enough, unfortunately he will hear a pretty horrific story. His father—having fled war-torn Bosnia as a 13-year-old to settle in the United States—was killed in a shooting at a Walmart, which got a lot of attention about a week or so ago.

Jared and Amanda Miller—fairly well-known radicals in the Las Vegas area—walked into a Walmart and shot Igor Soldo, a police officer, while he was eating at a restaurant.

People talked about Igor and his journey. As I mentioned, he came here from the Balkans when he was 13 years old and graduated from Southeast High School in Lincoln, NE. Following high school, he studied criminal justice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and worked part time as a corrections officer for 3 years in Lincoln where he met his wife Andrea. The couple were married in 2009. They were planning on celebrating their son's first birthday. His birthday will be on July 7. They