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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God Omnipotent, Your power and love destroyed the darkness of death and sin. Thank You for hardships that keep us humble and for misfortunes that keep us aware of Your power and goodness.

Lord, rule the wills of our lawmakers by Your might as You use them to do Your work on Earth. Give them faith to look beyond today's challenges and trials, believing that neither life nor death can separate them from Your love. May they not become bogged down in self-made cares as they continue to look to You, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Help us all to prove our gratitude to You by selfless service for those who need our love and care.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The minority leader is recognized.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, every Member of this body wants to keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon—everyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. But I have to say, a number of my Republican friends have shown an unusual way of showing this. The chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee worked to find a middle ground on this bill that satisfies congressional Democrats, Republicans, and the administration. It wasn't easy. In fact, it was a long and difficult process. That bill came out of the committee 19 to 0. But these two good men, the junior Senator from Maryland and the junior Senator from Tennessee, were able to strike a delicate balance that allows Congress to vote on a final Iran agreement. They were able to build a consensus along the way.

The Corker-Cardin bill was reported out of committee unanimously. Yet before this compromise even came to the floor, certain Senate Republicans were determined to destroy it. A number of Senate Republicans are prioritizing Presidential politics over national security. Others are simply trying to undermine President Obama.

For example, the junior Senator from Arkansas has been on record for

months stating his desire to see this negotiation fail. Back in January, before there was a framework of an agreement, he said the following about the ongoing negotiations to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon:

The end of these negotiations isn't an unintended consequence of congressional action. It is very much an intended consequence.

It is there what he said, just as clear as day. The junior Senator from Arkansas and other Republicans want to see any potential agreement with Iran crash and burn, even before we know what is in the final agreement.

Some Republicans have proposed poison pills—poison pill after poison pill—to what was a noble compromise between the leaders of the Foreign Relations Committee. Republicans have proposed 67 amendments as of right now. If they could, they would offer more. Democrats, on the other hand, do not want to upset this delicate balance. We have offered no amendments. Instead, we have striven to preserve the Corker-Cardin bill.

The difference, as usual, is that Democrats want to be constructive and Republicans continue to want to be destructive. Democrats want to pass this bipartisan bill right now, even as the junior Senators from Arkansas, Florida, Texas, and others work to ruin it.

The Senate has already voted on two poisonous amendments, and we will vote on more if we have to, but we don't have to. It is not necessary. It is now clear opponents of the bill aren't interested in being reasonable. The opponents of the Corker-Cardin legislation aren't concerned with finding a

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



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middle ground. That is why the majority leader should file cloture now to preserve this legislation. Destructive Members within his own party have forced his hand.

I support the majority leader in taking this step because it is the only path forward to passing this meritorious legislation. The exemplary work done by the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee is too important to be undone by Senators who are putting politics before national and global security.

MR. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD—VETO

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

MR. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

MS. HEITKAMP. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

MS. HEITKAMP. Madam President, today I rise to continue an effort to honor the memory of the 198 North Dakotans who died while serving our country in Vietnam. As I have said in the past, we are in a period of 13 years of recognition of the sacrifices of those Vietnam vets based on a proclamation signed by the President. I think it is only appropriate that we recognize not only those who were killed in action but also our living Vietnam vets who add so strongly to the fabric of our society and our culture.

First, I would like to recognize a Vietnam veteran who is making a difference each and every day, my good friend Rick Olek. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He spent 20 years in the National Guard and over 30 years as a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier. He served on North Dakota's Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs

and as president of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. Today, he grills a top-notch steak at the AMVETS.

I also want to again thank the Bismarck High School 11th graders and their teachers for helping me to research these fallen heroes and to reach out to their families. These students contacted the family of George Walker III as part of their project and shared their research with my office. I know that this experience for these students has enriched not only my efforts here but enriched their lives as well.

I want the family members, friends, and fellow veterans of the men I honor today to know that it is not easy to narrow the facts of each man's life. In fact, I believe a book could be written about every one of them. I am touched that so many family and friends have opened up to us to talk about their loved ones.

GERALD COULTHART

We are going to start with Gerald Coulthart. Gerald was from Hamilton. He was born June 5, 1947. He served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. Gerald was 21 years old when he died on April 28, 1969. He was the youngest of six children. His brother Raymond also served in the Army.

In high school, Gerald participated in wrestling. After graduation, he attended the Hanson Trade School in Fargo. Before leaving for Vietnam, Gerald shared a premonition with his sister Serene that he would not be alive the next time they would be together. Despite his feeling, Gerald was glad to go, saying it was better it be he than a guy with kids and a family and a wife.

Gerald's fellow soldier, Michael Matthews, recounted that Gerald died 6 weeks into his tour in Vietnam, when Firebase Carolyn came under rocket attack.

STEPHEN EICHELBERGER

Stephen Eichelberger was from Fargo and was born September 26, 1946. He served in the Marine Corps in the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. Stephen died on May 16, 1967. He was 20 years old. He was one of five children. Stephen's brother Richard served in the Army.

Stephen's siblings remember him teaching them about the real world. They say Stephen was the best brother anyone could ask for. They appreciated his dedication to them, including attending their sporting events and even buying them a bike.

In addition to his parents and siblings, Stephen left behind his wife Janet and one son John.

FRANCIS "ED" GEIGER

Francis "Ed" Geiger was from Dickinson. He was born on December 23, 1936. He served in the Air Force as a pilot. Ed was 28 years old when he died on July 23, 1965. He was the eighth of 10 children. Only three of them are living today: Monica, Florence, and Leonard.

Ed became an Air Force captain and flight instructor who was very careful

about deciding whether or not to certify other officers to fly. He was a stickler for the rules.

Ed left behind his wife Joan and daughter Lynn.

Faith was very important to Ed. While in Vietnam, he worked with the chaplain to provide a daily Catholic mass for those who wished to attend.

Two Air Force memorials honor Ed: Geiger Hall at Minot Air Force Base and a memorial wall at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs for forward air controllers killed in action.

STEPHEN GROTH, JR.

Stephen Groth, Jr., was from Enderlin and was born January 12, 1945. He served in the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Stephen was 22 years old when he went missing July 12, 1967.

In high school, Stephen was well liked. He enjoyed golf and baseball. He attended both North Dakota State University and the State School of Science in Wahpeton before joining the service.

His sister Kathy remembers how Stephen spent his last days before leaving for Vietnam visiting the people he loved. Kathy has always believed he was using this time to say good-bye. Throughout the years, people have left photos, letters, and other memorials at his grave in Enderlin.

MELVIN LEMBKE

Melvin Lembke was from Grand Forks and was born March 23, 1944. He served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. On December 11, 1968, Melvin died. He was 24 years old.

Melvin was one of four boys, and three of them served in the military at the same time. One brother, Raymond, also served in the Army, and another brother, William, served in the Marine Corps.

Melvin was an accomplished wrestler, earning second in the State high school championship, and later made the wrestling team at the University of North Dakota.

Melvin's brothers remembered how he excelled in math and science and loved life. Melvin was survived by his wife, son, brothers, and parents.

THOMAS NARUM

Thomas Narum was from Amidon and was born on May 13, 1946. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He was only 20 years old when he died on January 18, 1967.

Thomas was 1 of 11 children. His sister closest in age, Margaret, remembers Thomas as a kind, gentle young man. She told of how he would often scrub the floors in their home to help his mother.

Thomas was such an important part of the sports teams in high school that after he fell off a scaffolding while working on the family's house, the school superintendent was upset that Thomas chose to have surgery for the chipped bone in his arm and wouldn't be able to play.

RICHARD ORSUND

Richard Orsund was from Grafton and was born on July 19, 1947. He served