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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, I ask my colleagues to join me in marking a special day. Exactly 70 years ago today, the State of Israel was established. On the same day, the United States was the first country to recognize Israel's statehood. I applaud President Trump's decision to commemorate this historic anniversary with the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

In the 70 years since its founding, Israel has shared an unbreakable bond with the United States. I am pleased to be a friend of Israel's and to have played an integral role in strengthening relations between our two countries.

It is difficult for me to express the profound reverence I have for the Jewish people. As a symbol of my respect, I wear a mezuzah around my neck and have done so every day for almost four decades—I think, actually, for more

than four decades. The mezuzah reminds me of the affinity I, as a member of the Mormon faith, hold for the Jewish people and their history. Both Israel and Utah were settled by religious minorities who sought refuge from persecution—a shared history that deepens our devotion to democracy and our love of freedom.

Although my schedule does not allow me to be in Israel today, perhaps it is even more appropriate that I make these remarks here rather than in Jerusalem, where I would like to be. After all, today should be seen as an American holiday just as it is an Israeli one. America's interests, prosperity, and security have benefited immeasurably from our deep friendship with the State of Israel. Indeed, the world is a much better place because of Israel, and it is high time the country received its fair treatment on the world stage. That is why, last week, I joined Senator BOOKER in introducing legislation that calls for the fair treatment of Israel and urges other nations to foster diplomatic ties with the country and recognize its sovereignty.

Israel desperately needs allies. Indeed, the events of last week are a stark reminder that Israel has many enemies that seek its destruction. The Iranian Government directed missile strikes into the Golan Heights in the early hours of the morning last Thursday. Just hours before, the Iranian Government announced it may explore enriching uranium toward acquiring nuclear weapons. I know the Golan Heights. I have been there. I have looked over the Golan Heights.

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.

Our Father, enable us to fill swift hours with mighty deeds, bearing the fret of care, the sting of criticism, and the challenge of unapplauded toil.

Lord, empower our lawmakers to think clearly, act kindly, and labor to preserve the freedoms we enjoy.

Thank You for crowning us with glory and honor because we belong to You and trust in Your steadfast love. Lord, teach us to walk blamelessly, speaking the truth from our hearts and living with integrity.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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



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We stand at a historic crossroads. Whatever your ideas about the Iran deal, whether you were for it or against it, we should remember the goals and ideas of the Iranian Government have not changed. They are, as they have been for the last several decades, aimed at the destruction of Israel.

Our Israeli friends need our help. So my message today is to the American people, to their Representatives in both Chambers of Congress, and to all the nations of the world. Now is not the time for partisanship or political games. Now is the time for meaningful and unified action in defense of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

That means a number of things. It starts with all of our getting behind this President and his new approach to Iran. We can have our disagreements on his policies in other areas, but taking an aggressive, holistic posture on Iran should be a bipartisan issue. We must be willing to confront Iran on its nuclear program as well as on its bases in Syria, its support for terrorism, and its numerous violations of human rights and religious freedom. Here in Congress, we should support the administration's position through legislation.

To that end, I invite my colleagues to join me on a number of initiatives I have championed this Congress, including the Continued Support for the Iranian People Act, which holds the Iranian regime responsible for its human rights abuses. I also call on my friends to join me in supporting the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, which exposes the hypocrisy of the Iranian Government in its funding of violent causes rather than in its providing for the welfare of its people.

These actions are just the beginning. We now have an opportunity to hold the Iranian Government accountable. We should start with curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. We would do well to remember that Iran's nuclear program is not an end in itself but just one of many tools the government has at its disposal for causing great harm.

In that light, we need to appeal to our partners in Europe and in the Middle East to not only settle on talking points but on plans of action. If, indeed, we share the priority of protecting democratic values and institutions, we must do so by protecting Israel—a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. We need to both talk the talk and walk the walk.

The world is a different place from what it was in 1948, and so is Israel. Today, Israel is on the cutting edge of every innovation that helps the human condition—from medicine to technology, to irrigation. As a testament to Israel's strength, it has nurtured partnerships across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

The United States must continue doing its part to foster these partnerships. Just as important, we must continue leading the charge in ideas and actions that can help bring about a se-

cure Israel. The task has never been more urgent. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to come together on this—to build a future of peace and prosperity for Israel and its neighbors. Let Israel's founding be a holiday for us and, indeed, for all nations of the world, and let us pray that we can soon celebrate this anniversary in more peaceful times.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, this is National Police Week, a time for recognizing the men and women in law enforcement who serve and protect our Nation. National Police Week is a solemn occasion to honor those who tragically lost their lives while serving in the line of duty. The names of those men and women are carved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

Each year during this week, families and colleagues of the fallen travel to our Nation's Capital for this special commemoration. This year, 360 names will be added, including four officers who served the citizens of Arkansas. We remember Arkansans whose names are newly etched onto the walls of this treasured memorial. I would like to recognize these heroes.

Drew County Sheriff's Deputy Timothy Braden gave his life while serving and protecting the citizens of Arkansas. Deputy Braden, unfortunately, passed away in a car crash after attempting to stop a vehicle whose driver had refused to stop, leading him on a high-speed chase.

Deputy Braden had recently joined the Drew County Sheriff's Office after serving 3 years at the McGehee Police Department. His commitment to enforcing the law, helping those in need, and protecting the community touched the lives of those with whom he served. They will remember him as a kind and hard-working officer who performed his job with a positive attitude.

Lieutenant Patrick Weatherford of the Newport Police Department had responded to a call of a vehicle break-in when he was fatally shot. He had proudly served in law enforcement for 15 years. Throughout his time in uniform, he continued to pursue opportunities to better serve the community. He was a 2016 graduate of the FBI National Academy and was working toward a master's degree in criminal justice.

I would also like to honor the dedication and service of Kevin Mainhart, a Yell County Sheriff's deputy. He was responding to a domestic disturbance call and initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle connected to the situation when

he was fatally shot. Deputy Mainhart had spent more than 20 years serving and protecting Arkansas communities in law enforcement and was a veteran of the Air Force.

The selfless service of Keith Bradford, Sr., Turrell police chief, is also worthy of recognition. The chief is one of 231 members of the law enforcement community who died in a previous year, but his sacrifice will be documented on the memorial this year.

Chief Bradford helped launch the law enforcement agency in 2012. In 2014, he responded to a call to assist officers from another local jurisdiction with a high-speed chase. He checked the safety of the officers, but according to a police report, Chief Bradford was left shaken. Hours later, he suffered a fatal heart attack. Chief Bradford had dedicated more than 20 years of his life to law enforcement.

Each of these officers demonstrated courage and determination in the face of danger. These heroes, like all members of the law enforcement community, commit their lives to protecting the public. In their profession, there is no such thing as an off-duty officer. Answering a call for help is ingrained in who they are.

As a member of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, I am committed to providing our first responders with tools, resources, and training to help them prepare for unpredictable circumstances. These men and women are brave and selfless heroes who risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe.

This Congress, I was proud to cosponsor the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act to give their home States the opportunity to provide a fitting tribute for their service, should they make the ultimate sacrifice. This bill would allow Governors to order the American flag to fly at halfstaff in recognition of first responders who are killed in the line of duty. Those who are called to serve and protect have earned this honor.

I am pleased that it was included as a provision in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 that was signed into law earlier this year. We can all agree that these courageous first responders deserve this powerful acknowledgement in recognition of their sacrifice.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I thank law enforcement officers at the local, State, and Federal levels for all they do to keep us safe. We appreciate your dedication and the heroism you display each and every day. Thank you for doing whatever it takes to protect and serve your families, neighbors, and fellow citizens.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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