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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of our destinies, keep our spirits attuned to the graciousness of Your loving providence. Deliver us from emotions and actions that thwart Your purposes for our lives.

Lord, guide our lawmakers and engender in them a spirit of unity, as they respect the integrity and patriotism of their colleagues.

Give us the wisdom to use this day to strive to do Your will on Earth even as it is done in Heaven. As You show us the way to advance Your Kingdom on Earth, provide us with goodness and mercy, wisdom and strength.

We pray in Your mighty 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask to speak for 2 minutes as in morning business.

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

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to tell my colleagues in the Senate about a project I worked on in Iowa on getting history from various veterans.

This morning, I delivered 20 stories from veterans to the Veterans History Project at our Library of Congress. These stories will be preserved in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress, making accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

I want to thank all of our veterans, including those who were interviewed, who have sacrificed for the defense of our freedoms. Their service ensures that all Americans will live in peace and prosperity for generations to come.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, May is National Foster Care Month.

Due to the opioid crisis and other substance abuse issues plaguing communities in Iowa and all across America, the number of kids in foster care is rapidly rising. In 2017, there were 443,000 kids in care. Ninety-six thousand entered foster care because of parental substance abuse.

These families need help. That is why Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act, which will allow States to receive Federal reimbursement for services to help keep kids with their parents. These services include substance abuse treatment programs.

As we celebrate this month of May as National Foster Care Month, I hope we will think about the number of kids who are there and do what we can to help those kids have permanency and parents. As chairman of the Caucus on Foster Youth, those are the two things I hear from them when listening to them talk about going from foster home to foster home, sometimes two or three times a year. They tell me they would like to have parents and they would like to have a home. They want stability.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

• 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this week marks National Police Week, which is dedicated to the brave men and women of law enforcement. Police officers prioritize the safety of their neighbors and fellow citizens above their own.

This week gives us an opportunity to reflect on the dedication and perseverance of law enforcement officers across the country. We should also honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our communities. It is because of the commitment and bravery of police officers, firefighters, first responders, and other public safety officers that we can feel safe in our homes, places of work, and our communities.

I am particularly grateful for the men and women in blue who serve my fellow Iowans.

I would also like to thank the officers who serve in Washington, DC. The Capitol Police work diligently every day to ensure that those of us who work here and everyone who visits this Capitol are safe. Each member of the Capitol Police works selflessly to protect us, and their dedication to service doesn't go unnoticed.

National Police Week serves as a reminder to thank specific members of law enforcement whom we know and care about; however, we can't forget to honor those who sacrificed their lives to protect ours. These individuals are heroes.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,582 officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years. That is an average of one death every 55 hours.

In 2018, 158 officers were killed in the line of duty.

At the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, the names of some 200 Iowans are inscribed amongst those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Each name represents a unique individual who answered the call of duty. We are indebted to each and every one of those people.

To that end, I am pleased that the Senate Judiciary Committee recently approved three bills, two of which I cosponsored and one that I introduced.

My bill, the Protecting America's First Responder's Act, seeks to fix issues in the Federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program. Officers whose lives have been transformed by injury in the line of duty deserve our support, and that bill lends to their support and makes sure that it is actually accomplished. Unfortunately, the Federal program that was created to assist them has fallen short in responding to claims efficiently. This important bill improves this program to ensure that disabled or fallen officers receive the benefits they deserve.

My bill enjoys the wide support of multiple groups, including the Fraternal Order of Police, Federal Law En-

forcement Officers Association, Sergeants Benevolent Association, National Association of Police Organizations, Peace Officers Research Association of California, Wounded Blue, How2LoveOurCops, Billings Montana Police Department, National Volunteer Fire Council, National Association of School Resource Officers, and the Violently Injured Police Officers Organization.

I look forward to passing this bill into law, and I thank all of the bill's cosponsors for helping to move this bill forward.

In addition to the Protecting America's First Responder's Act, we also moved two other bills out of the Judiciary Committee.

The first is the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program reauthorization. This bill allows State and local law enforcement officers to purchase lifesaving bulletproof vests for those officers working in the field. I am happy to cosponsor this legislation and support my colleague Senator LEAHY's tireless efforts to improve the availability of bulletproof vests to our police.

The other bill that passed out of committee last week is the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act. Mental illness and suicide among police officers continue to grow. Senator HAWLEY introduced this bill, and I am proud to cosponsor it with him because it addresses a critical issue that far too many officers face. This bill seeks to provide necessary resources to law enforcement on mental health and suicide prevention.

I urge my colleagues to support all three of these bills. Passing them into law is one way to say thank you to the brave men and women who serve us so selflessly.

I would like to conclude my remarks by once again thanking all members of law enforcement for their dedication and sacrifice.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 230.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week the Senate will continue to promptly and reasonably consider a number of well-qualified nominees for important positions.

Several weeks ago we put an end to 2 years of unprecedented, systematic partisan obstruction that had kept abundantly qualified nominees on the sidelines for no substantive reason. The Senate took a modest but important step to turn back toward the institutional traditions that had shaped our work in nominations throughout our history. We put in place a reform to speed up the postcloture floor time that we spend debating on lower level nominations—or, in many cases, I should say, supposedly debating them.

Since then we have been able to fill several important posts in the executive branch, along with seats on the bench, at a more reasonable pace. In many cases, these unobjectionable candidates have received the overwhelming support they deserve—90 to 8, 90 to 8, 95 to 3.

Over the next few days, four more will receive consideration on the floor. We will begin by processing the first of two more well-qualified nominees to our Nation's district courts, such as Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to serve as U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Texas.