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Senate

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.

Eternal God, as flags fly at half-staff throughout our Nation to honor Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, we give thanks to You for his life and for his years of public service.

Lord, we remember with gratitude his commitment to the responsibilities entrusted to him and the many ways he sought to serve the people of this country. Give comfort, strength, and peace to his family, friends, colleagues, and all who mourn his passing. Surround them with Your presence in the days ahead and remind them of the hope that endures even in the midst of grief. May this time of remembrance inspire us to value service over self-interest, compassion over division, and hope over despair.

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done.

We pray in the name of Him who said, "I am the resurrection and the life." 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. HAGERTY). 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 senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Matthew A. Schwartz, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is a sad day for all of us in the Senate and particularly those that are very, very close to LINDSEY GRAHAM, and that would be most Senators and, obviously, his staff. So I would like to take a moment to honor the life of our fellow Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM.

We were shocked by the sad news yesterday of his untimely death. Senator GRAHAM was a devoted public servant, through his military service as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, as well as being elected to office continually since 1992.

Senator GRAHAM was a very forceful and quick-witted presence in every room that he entered. His warm nature made everyone his friend, and I feel blessed to be one of them.

A few feet from right here is the Senate cloakroom. Frequently, Senator GRAHAM would hold court there, and in holding court, he was making every Senator laugh, no matter what the challenge we were dealing with on that particular day.

He was infectious in the way he told a story, and, of course, there was always a punch line.

I was no stranger to being the butt of his jokes. Senator GRAHAM loved to tell people how frugal I was and that if I were ever to open my billfold, dust and moss would come out of it. I don't know how many times I have heard that.

Senator GRAHAM always brought a smile to your face and levity to the Halls of Congress.

Senator GRAHAM was no stranger to my home State of Iowa, as it is first in the Nation for Presidential elections. And in the year 2016, when he announced he was going to run for President, I had the privilege of showing him around a time or two during his campaign for President. He was a fan of the good people of my State of Iowa, identifying with our shared values of hard work, of faith, and genuine care for one another.

I also worked closely with Senator GRAHAM on the Senate Budget and Judiciary Committees, and we worked together for decades. He was a coveted ally on legislation, and, as chairman of those Committees, he was always fair, and he was always productive. From Supreme Court confirmations to criminal justice reform and border security, having Senator GRAHAM in your corner was a great asset.

He will be remembered for his many accomplishments as a national figure for the Republican Party.

Senator GRAHAM deeply loved his country. He was a bold leader, an impassioned national security hawk. He spoke his mind, as we all know, and we all know that he had the capability and the desire to work across the aisle. He was at the center of some of the most famous deal-making groups in the past 30 years.

He loved the Senate as an institution, and his hard-working staff was like family to him.

Most importantly, he dutifully served the people of South Carolina, and his roots ran strong through him every day of his life.

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



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Barbara and I are praying for Senator GRAHAM's family as we all grapple with the loss of a great man.

And I think we should show our appreciation for the hard work, as just 2 days before he passed, he was in Ukraine, meeting with Zelenskyy, and he was announcing that he was going to move forward with some very important legislation putting additional sanctions on Russia because of their invasion of Ukraine. And I think we can show our gratitude and appreciation of Senator GRAHAM by moving that legislation forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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 majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. I look to my right, and I see a desk which we in the Senate refer to and know as the John Calhoun desk. It is covered by a black shroud, and on top of that shroud is a bowl of white roses. That is LINDSEY GRAHAM's desk.

It is difficult to believe that LINDSEY GRAHAM is no longer here with us, that we won't run into him at a meeting today or share a joke with him at this afternoon's vote.

The halls of the Senate already feel empty without him, and I know I am not alone in that feeling. He was a friend to so many of us on both sides of the aisle. I know that I am not the only one who finds it difficult to imagine the Senate without LINDSEY GRAHAM.

The events of LINDSEY's life have been well-documented over the past couple of days: his humble beginnings in South Carolina; sharing a single room with the rest of his family, behind his family's bar; his guardianship of his younger sister Darline after the untimely death of their parents; his long service in the Air Force, the South Carolina Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve; his career in politics, first as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, then as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where I served with him for 6 years, and then in the Senate, where he was just completing his fourth term.

In the Senate, LINDSEY distinguished himself as a staunch conservative—and a fierce advocate for South Carolina—but also as someone who was willing to work across the aisle to find common ground and to reach solutions.

A lawyer by trade, he served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2019 to 2021, where he helped confirm a Supreme Court Justice and numerous Federal judges—the

kind of judges who believe in following the law and the Constitution, instead of legislating policy from the bench.

Most of all, of course, LINDSEY was known for his national security and foreign policy work. There was no bigger believer in America's role in the world. He was confident that the United States could be a force for good, and he gave everything he had to ensuring that we would be.

He was a friend and defender of freedom-loving peoples all over the world. He stood with the Ukrainian people in their fight against Russian aggression, and he died with his boots on, having just returned from a trip to Ukraine, his 10th.

He believed fiercely in the importance of a strong national defense—in ensuring that our country and our military men and women were always prepared to deter and defeat any threat.

But while there was always a lot made of his support for American hard power, he was also a big believer in the use of soft power: economic, diplomatic, and political solutions to the world's problems.

I was fortunate to travel with him all over the world, including to Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack. And I saw firsthand the work that he did to promote American security and the security of freedom-loving peoples around the globe.

And, of course, I don't need to tell anyone in this body that LINDSEY was fearless in his commitment to the causes that he espoused. It didn't matter to him whether he would catch flack on an issue. He was undaunted by the politics if he believed he was right on the principle.

Senator, warrior, patriot, statesman—words that will be written about LINDSEY. But for me, most of all, he was my friend. "Without friends"—Aristotle said—"no one would choose to live, [although] he had all other goods."

And it is difficult to count the ways in which LINDSEY's friendship made this job richer and its burdens lighter. Lindsey was as loyal as they come and a trusted adviser. I could always rely on him for straight-talking advice. He never minced words or pulled punches. I could also rely on him for a steady flow of humor and encouragement. He always could make me laugh—always.

In the last couple of years, he came to South Dakota twice, and, twice, we sat on the deck and watched the sun go down on Lake Oahe—a familiar scene to me but new to him.

And as the stars came out, you could see the Milky Way overhead, and you could hear coyotes howling and rooster pheasants cackling down below.

Lindsey's wit punctuated all of it, and I will cherish those memories for a long time to come.

If there is any light to be found in this grief, it is this: that as a Christian like Lindsey, I know that death is not the end. The Apostle Paul writes:

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Whereas another Graham once put it:

Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.

I will miss LINDSEY's friendship more than I can say. We pray for his staff and for his family, whom he loved dearly and who loved him dearly in return.

But I am comforted by the knowledge that in the end, he has just changed his address and that one day we will laugh together again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, I joined several of my colleagues from the Senate and from the House at the NATO summit in Ankara, Türkiye. It was a historic meeting in terms of the future of NATO and the future of Ukraine and so many other issues that relate to that critical and important alliance.

Last Wednesday, we had a dinner that was hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye, Tom Barrack. There must have been 50 or 60 people there who all shared concerns of the summit conference. Among them were Members of Congress, Turkish leaders, and representatives of other countries around the world who had gone to that famous summit.

At the heart of that dinner was my colleague and friend Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. When I arrived that night, it was no surprise that he had been there before me and had been working the crowd. He had been speaking to each and every person who was there—business leaders and political leaders from all parts of the world—about his concerns.

LINDSEY was walking them through, one at a time, his vision on how we could end the war in Ukraine and the legislation we needed to accomplish that, which was typical of LINDSEY GRAHAM. We all shared that concern, but he was buzzing around that crowd like an aspiring candidate, convincing everybody that there was a way to end this war the right way.

Only a few days after that dinner, my friend LINDSEY GRAHAM passed away. It was a shock. I would like to take a moment to recognize his lifetime of public service both in the State of South Carolina and for our Nation.

I served with LINDSEY GRAHAM in the Senate for more than two decades, and during that time, I counted him as a trusted friend. I will tell you that my friends and supporters back in Illinois many times would just shake their heads and say: DURBIN, what are you doing with LINDSEY? You shouldn't be working with him.