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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

The Senate met at 5 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS, a Senator from the State of Utah.

PRAYER

The Presiding Officer offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Give us the wisdom, the strength, and the faith to trust in You in all things above and all things.

In Your Name, we pray. 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. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Walter Clayton, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today at the U.S. Capitol and the National Cathedral, at those places, we honored the life of Senator Lindsey Graham.

Over the past few weeks, we have mourned Senator Graham's untimely passing. Here on the Senate floor and in committees, I and my colleagues have spent time honoring his life and recalling fond memories.

Senator Graham loved this country. His forceful and quick-witted presence continues to be missed.

Barbara and I continue praying for Senator Graham's family and newly appointed Senator DARLINE GRAHAM.

I yield the floor.

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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SANCTIONS

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I stood alongside so many of my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle, in a press conference, to announce the Russia sanctions legislation. It was just 3 days before that that this legislation and this cause lost its champion, Senator Lindsey Graham.

Today, many of us attended his service at the National Cathedral, and in typical Lindsey fashion, he somehow orchestrated a vote on Ukraine's future—on peace through strength—on that very same day.

While this sanctions bill quickly amassed bipartisan support across the Senate, it took more than a year of tireless work by one man and a few friends—Senator DICK BLUMENTHAL, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, and Senator ROGER WICKER—to finally get this to the floor.

Even though Lindsey is not physically with us today, his presence can

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



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certainly be felt in this Chamber. During his 33 years of public service, Lindsey achieved a great deal. He used his role on the Senate Appropriations Committee to make sure that South Carolina's hard-earned taxpayer dollars went back home. He was a fierce and outspoken advocate for the most vulnerable among us—the unborn. He led the fight to repeal section 230 because he believed in protecting the next generation online. He believed in blind justice, in defending the Constitution, and in confirming judges to the bench who would uphold the law. And he was an incredible colleague, mentor, and friend.

This list of accomplishments, while it doesn't even span all of the things he did, is impressive, but it is this legislation—this legislation we are voting on today—that he told me would be the most consequential piece of legislation that he ever led and got to the President's desk. Now, that is saying something.

It is an honor to now help champion one of his highest priorities, and not just for Lindsey, but importantly for the doctrine which he so deeply and passionately believed; that is, peace through strength.

Today, we have an opportunity to advance this legislation at a critical juncture in the war, where Russia is the weakest that it has been since the start of the war more than 4 years ago. This legislation will give the President the tools and the economic firepower that he needs to sanction individuals who fund Russian war and its machine, to stop countries from purchasing Russian oil and gas that is Putin's financial lifeline, and it will also hold the regime in Tehran accountable for fueling 47 years of terrorism around the globe.

There is no reason this legislation should not advance with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I hope that that is what we see here today.

Ukraine and the world need this war of aggression to end.

As I reflected today on Lindsey's service and his life and so many memories that I have of him, one thing came to mind. When we were leaving Normandy after being there for the 80th anniversary of D-day, he said to me: I want you to remember how important the decisions we, as political leaders, make because if we fail to do our job, young men and women are sent into harm's way. He said: There is no doubt the "greatest generation" earned that title, and he said the decision that was in front of us right now—as he reflected on all of this—was that people miscalculated Hitler. He said many were doing the exact same thing to Putin, and he believed that that miscalculation would ultimately be an enormous mistake.

So let's honor Lindsey's memory the best way we know how, by responding to Putin's war of aggression with a show of strength and vote today to hold the Kremlin accountable. It is

time now to get the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 to the President's desk. I hope my colleagues will join me in doing just that this evening.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

SANCTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me thank the Senator from Alabama for her poignant and strong and much needed words.

Let me thank my colleague from New Hampshire, along with Senator BLUMENTHAL, for leading the fight in this very important issue.

Now, I just got back from a beautiful service honoring Lindsey Graham. The service honoring Lindsey Graham today was a tribute not only to our friend Lindsey but to his belief that America can act as a positive force on the global stage, especially in Ukraine.

I didn't agree with Lindsey on many things, but Lindsey understood something Trump has yet to learn: It takes resolve to earn respect.

Instead of standing strongly behind Ukraine and squarely against Vladimir Putin, Trump has tried and failed to pander to Russia. At a time when Ukraine is turning the tide in the war against Putin, we must show the Ukrainians that our Congress and our country are fully behind them and show Putin that his war is a losing battle because the people of the United States and this Senate stand behind the Ukrainians.

With this bill, we are going to show the Russians we mean business. We are going to impose steep, mandatory sanctions to clamp down on the Russian war machine, drain the Kremlin's war chest, and truly cripple the Russian war effort.

That is how you make a bully like Putin listen, by putting real pressure on him to end this devastating war. Words will not do; actions matter. This is strong action, strong medicine.

And Trump should not pass up—better not pass up—this opportunity. If Trump tries to abuse these tools and continue kowtowing to Putin, he will only make himself and our country look weaker.

Make no mistake, there is an overwhelming majority in this country that wants to see Russia defeated and Ukraine victorious in this fight against Putin's authoritarian invasion.

President Zelenskyy has reiterated that Ukraine is changing the tide in this war and gaining momentum every day. We are seeing it happen with our own eyes.

Lindsey Graham spent his final days trying to help Ukraine achieve victory. We ought to do the same in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

MAIL-IN VOTING

Mr. President, now on mail-in voting, Trump's desperation—this is my open-

ing statement since we just opened at 5 o'clock.

Trump's desperation to avoid accountability at the polls this November grows every passing day. Yesterday, Trump begged the Supreme Court to help him block mail-in ballots in every corner of the country.

Hey, Donald, did you also tell the Court that you yourself voted by mail just a few months ago? Everyone knows that mail-in voting is safe and secure, and apparently so do you.

It is absurd. Trump is pleading for the highest Court in the land to make it harder for millions of Americans to vote using the same method he used to submit his ballot earlier this year.

We all know why. Trump sees the writing on the wall for November and thinks he can escape accountability from voters. Trump knows just how bad a bind he is in. Trump can't defeat the crippling costs. Trump can't defend the crippling costs working families see every time they go to the grocery store or the gas pump. Trump can't defend the rampant corruption that has allowed his family to make billions of dollars off the American people. And Trump can't defend the unrelenting chaos he has unleashed in American streets.

But Trump can't defend himself from Americans' wrath at the ballot box in November either. Senate Democrats are working around the clock to make sure that every eligible American voter can cast their ballot without interference, intimidation, or obstruction.

You can hear in every lawsuit, Executive order, and desperate plea to the Court: Trump is afraid of the voters, not of voter fraud.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

SANCTIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act.

I want to applaud Senator SCHUMER's comments about supporting this legislation to try and end the war in Ukraine. I applaud Senator BRITT and Senator WICKER, and, of course, Senator BLUMENTHAL who has worked for over a year to get to this point and thank Senator DARLINE GRAHAM for her efforts to support this legislation.

I had the privilege of traveling with Senator Graham earlier this month on what tragically turned out to be his final codol.

We all know that he was a tireless advocate for Ukraine. He knew that Ukrainians stand on the frontlines of freedom. This legislation is designed to cut off Vladimir Putin's most important resource in his war against Ukraine: his money.

And you can see from this poster, what this legislation does is impose mandatory sanctions that target Russia's war machine; it clamps down on Russia's shadow fleet; it strengthens financial and export restrictions; and it