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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.

Almighty and eternal God, thank You for hearing and answering our prayers. You are the high and lofty one. Yet You have chosen to dwell with those who have contrite and humble hearts.

We ask that you dwell with our lawmakers. May they meditate on Your ways and be guided by the light of Your word.

Lord, give them wisdom to seek Your help in times of trouble and beyond. Remind them of all that You have already done, particularly the ways You carried and sustained this Nation through September 11, 2001. May those memories give them confidence that the best is yet to come.

Lord, do for them immeasurably, abundantly above all that they can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your powerful 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 (Ms. GRAHAM). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this past Friday, our Nation marked the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

I will never forget that day. That morning, after my weekly interview with Iowa radio networks, the U.S. Capitol was evacuated, and I remember officers pounding on my door here in the Capitol office: You have got to get out of here.

No one knew right then that nearly 3,000 lives would be lost in that morning's attack or that more than 8,000 people would die from post-9/11 illnesses.

Now, a quarter of a century later, more than one-third of the U.S. population is too young to remember the terrorists' attacks. So we need to carry history forward so that we never forget and keep our country safe.

We all know that, under the Constitution, national security is the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government. As a Federal policymaker, I have worked to ensure that we don't repeat the mistakes that led to the intelligence failures preceding 9/11 and that the missions of the intelligence community, the U.S. military, and Homeland Security are effectively and efficiently serving the American people.

On this solemn 25th anniversary, let's recommit ourselves to the spirit of America and never forget the lives that were lost on 9/11 and in the years that followed. We honor the memory of those who have passed and carry forward the legacy and uncommon courage of the heroic first responders, survivors, servicemembers, and their loved ones.

I yield the floor.

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

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Byrne nomination.

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

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, on Friday, our Nation paused to observe the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The passage of time has only emphasized the need for remembrance.

For many of us, the events of that day are as fresh and clear as they were yesterday. But there are so many young Americans—young adults even, now—who were not alive then and who do not remember the grief of that day, the evil we saw, and the patriotism and resolve that rose from the ashes. There are young men and women who have never heard the stories of the heroes—the firefighters, the first responders, the men and women of Flight 93, the ordinary Americans who placed the lives of others above their own.

In the darkness of that day, the very best of America stood up, and I pray that we will never forget their example.

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



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119TH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, it is hard to believe that we are in the last few months of the 119th Congress. Two years ago at this time, Democrats were still in charge, and the country was dealing with the two defining legacies of the Biden administration: a historic inflation crisis and a historic immigration crisis.

And I don't use the word "historic" lightly, but those two crises were truly historic. Democrats presided over the worst inflation crisis in 40 years, with inflation reaching 7, 8, and 9 percent. And they presided over 4 straight years—4 straight years—of record-breaking—recordbreaking—illegal immigration. Republicans' priority when we came into office was dealing with the effects of these crises, and that started with preventing a massive tax hike on hard-working Americans.

As everyone knows, during the first Trump administration, Republicans passed a historic reform of our Tax Code. We cut tax rates across the board, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. But that tax relief was scheduled to expire at the end of 2025.

The standard deduction, which is claimed by 90 percent of Americans on their taxes, would have shrunk, increasing the amount of Americans' income the government could tax. Tax rates would have increased. The child tax credit would have been reduced by 50 percent.

For a typical family in my State, that would have meant sending an additional \$2,500 a year to Washington. Well, Republicans were not going to let that happen.

And so in 2025, we passed the Working Families Tax Cut—sometimes known as the One Big Beautiful Bill—to prevent this massive tax hike on hard-working Americans.

We made the increased standard deduction permanent; we made the lower tax rates permanent; and we made the increased child tax credit permanent. In other words, more money in American families' pockets permanently.

But we didn't stop there. We were well aware that Americans had had a very rough time financially under the Biden administration and so we took action to put additional money in hard-working Americans' pockets.

In 2017, we had doubled the child tax credit. In 2025, we not only made that increase permanent, we boosted the child tax credit even further and indexed it to inflation so its value will never go down.

We also implemented no tax on tips and no tax on overtime, substantially lowering the tax bills of millions of hard-working Americans, from Uber and Lyft drivers to hairdressers, to police officers. And we added a new bonus deduction for seniors, making retirement more affordable for millions of older Americans.

And our efforts to help Americans keep more of their hard-earned money

didn't stop with the Working Families Tax Cuts. We have also spent this Congress cutting burdensome regulations that have driven up prices for hard-working Americans, from the California electric vehicle mandate, which would have forced Americans into costly electric cars, to regulations that would have driven up the cost of appliances.

We passed landmark housing legislation in June to help keep hard-working Americans from being priced out of the housing market, and we took action to drive down costs at the pharmacy counter as well.

We passed a law to ensure that patients get the savings from any discounts or rebates from their purchases at the pharmacy counter in their healthcare plans. We removed incentives for pharmacy benefit managers to promote higher priced medications at the expense of seniors. And we improved access to more affordable generic drugs.

As I said, in addition to reducing taxes and working to lower costs, Republicans were also committed to dealing with the Biden border crisis.

President Trump took action immediately to get the situation at our southern border under control, and the reduction in illegal immigration has been staggering.

During the last full year of the Biden border crisis, which was fiscal year 2024, there were well over 2 million illegal immigrant encounters at our southern border.

Well, we are almost done with fiscal year 2026, and do you want to know how many encounters there have been at the southern border? Fewer than 120,000. We are looking at somewhere on the order of a 90-percent decrease.

And do you want to know how many of those illegal immigrants have been released into the United States? Zero. That is right, not a single illegal immigrant has been released into the United States during the entire 2026 fiscal year. Now, that has been the case for 15 straight months, in fact, under President Trump.

And I don't need to tell anyone what a massive turnaround that is from the Biden administration, which presided over the release of millions of illegal immigrants into our country's interior.

The dangers of the unchecked illegal immigration that we saw under the Biden administration are manifold. And to help prevent anything like that from happening again, the Working Families Tax Cut included substantial resources to help guarantee the security of our Nation's border from additional Border Patrol agents to security technology. We also boosted funding for our national defense and for law enforcement.

Safer communities and a safer country, that has been and will continue to be a Republican priority.

Our work isn't done, but I am proud of what we have been able to do this Congress to put more money in Ameri-

cans' pockets and to help make our country more secure. And hard-working Americans will continue to be at the top of Republicans' agenda.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 830.

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 senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Kasdin Miller Mitchell, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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 senior assistant 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 830, Kasdin Miller Mitchell, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, Rick Scott of Florida, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Chuck Grassley, Jim Banks, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd.

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on artificial intelligence, the warning signs about AI's rapid pace have never been clearer. But what is President Trump's response to the recent calls