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NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

May 3, 2005

3:03 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

LT. GOVERNOR MARY O. DONOHUE, President

STEVEN M. BOGGESS, Secretary

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P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The  
Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please  
rise and repeat with me the Pledge of  
Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited  
the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The  
Reverend Peter G. Young, from Blessed  
Sacrament Church in Bolton Landing, will give  
us our invocation.

REVEREND YOUNG: As we submit the  
resolution for Senator McGee today, it brings  
a very sorry kind of thought of how someone so  
dedicated and so young and energetic has been  
called to God.

We pray today that we'll be  
strengthened by that, by her dedication, and  
be able to carry on that example in this  
house.

We ask You this, and ask You to  
bless the energy and enthusiasm and commitment  
of these members. We ask You this in Your  
name, now and forever. Amen.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN:

2           Reading of the Journal.

3                   THE SECRETARY:     In Senate,  
4           Monday, May 2, the Senate met pursuant to  
5           adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, May 1,  
6           was read and approved. On motion, Senate  
7           adjourned.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN:

9           Without objection, the Journal stands approved  
10          as read.

11                   Presentation of petitions.

12                   Messages from the Assembly.

13                   Messages from the Governor.

14                   Reports of standing committees.

15                   The Secretary will read.

16                   THE SECRETARY:     Senator Volker,  
17           from the Committee on Codes, reports the  
18           following bill direct to third reading:  
19           Senate Print 1872B, by Senator Maltese, an act  
20           to amend the Penal Law.

21                   ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN:

22           Without objection, the bill is reported to  
23           third reading.

24                   Reports of select committees.

25                   Communications and reports from

1 state officers.

2 Motions and resolutions.

3 Senator Farley.

4 SENATOR FARLEY: Thank you, Mr.  
5 President.

6 On page 13 I offer the following  
7 amendments to Calendar 222, Senate Print  
8 Number 30, and this is on behalf of Senator  
9 LaValle.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The  
11 amendments are received, and the bill will  
12 retain its place on the Third Reading  
13 Calendar.

14 Senator Skelos.

15 SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, I  
16 believe there are substitutions at the desk to  
17 be made at this time.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The  
19 Secretary will read.

20 THE SECRETARY: On page 4,  
21 Senator Golden moves to discharge, from the  
22 Committee on Housing, Construction and  
23 Community Development, Assembly Bill Number  
24 6878 and substitute it for the identical  
25 Senate Bill Number 3977, First Report Calendar

1 677.

2 On page 12, Senator Golden moves to  
3 discharge, from the Committee on Cities,  
4 Assembly Bill Number 630 and substitute it for  
5 the identical Senate Bill Number 2429, Third  
6 Reading Calendar 199.

7 On page 13, Senator Golden moves to  
8 discharge, from the Committee on Cities,  
9 Assembly Bill Number 5627 and substitute it  
10 for the identical Senate Bill Number 2738,  
11 Third Reading Calendar 201.

12 On page 14, Senator Little moves to  
13 discharge, from the Committee on Local  
14 Government, Assembly Bill Number 393 and  
15 substitute it for the identical Senate Bill  
16 Number 726, Third Reading Calendar 256.

17 On page 22, Senator Nozzolio moves  
18 to discharge, from the Committee on Crime  
19 Victims, Crime and Correction, Assembly Bill  
20 Number 4982 and substitute it for the  
21 identical Senate Bill Number 512, Third  
22 Reading Calendar 413.

23 On page 35, Senator DeFrancisco  
24 moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
25 Judiciary, Assembly Bill Number 7254 and

1 substitute it for the identical Senate Bill  
2 Number 3441, Third Reading Calendar 596.

3 And on page 41, Senator Seward  
4 moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
5 Insurance, Assembly Bill Number 7708 and  
6 substitute it for the identical Senate Bill  
7 Number 5248, Third Reading Calendar 676.

8 THE PRESIDENT: Substitutions  
9 ordered.

10 Senator Skelos.

11 SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President,  
12 if we could adopt the Resolution Calendar,  
13 with the exception of Resolution 1643.

14 THE PRESIDENT: All in favor of  
15 so adopting the Resolution Calendar please  
16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Response of "Aye.")

18 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

19 (No response.)

20 THE PRESIDENT: The Resolution  
21 Calendar is so adopted.

22 Senator Skelos.

23 SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President,  
24 on behalf of Senator Golden, Resolution 1601,  
25 commemorating the election of Cardinal Joseph

1 Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI to the papacy,  
2 he'd like to open the resolution to  
3 sponsorship by the entire Senate.

4 If anybody wishes not to sponsor  
5 the resolution, they should notify the desk.

6 THE PRESIDENT: Any member who  
7 does not want to be a cosponsor of Resolution  
8 1601, please notify the desk.

9 Senator Skelos.

10 SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President,  
11 at this time if we could take up Resolution  
12 1643, by Senator Volker, have it read in its  
13 entirety and move for its immediate adoption.

14 THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary  
15 will read.

16 THE SECRETARY: By Senator  
17 Volker, Legislative Resolution Number 1643,  
18 honoring Eugene Hutchinson, the Consul General  
19 of Ireland, upon the occasion of his  
20 designation for special recognition.

21 "WHEREAS, It is the sense of this  
22 Assembled Body to publicly recognize those  
23 extraordinary individuals who have made  
24 contributions to the success and progress of  
25 society in the course of their life's work;

1 and

2 "WHEREAS, This Assembled Body is  
3 justly proud to honor Eugene Hutchinson, the  
4 Consul General of Ireland, upon the occasion  
5 of his designation for special recognition;  
6 and

7 "WHEREAS, Eugene Hutchinson was  
8 educated at the Rainy Endowed School,  
9 Magherafelt, County Derry, and at St.  
10 Patrick's College, Armagh. He earned a  
11 Bachelor's Degree in History and Political  
12 Science from Trinity College in Dublin, and he  
13 received a Diploma in Education from the  
14 Aberdeen College of Education; and

15 "WHEREAS, Eugene Hutchinson is  
16 ending his appointment at the Irish Consulate  
17 in New York City; and

18 "WHEREAS, Throughout Eugene  
19 Hutchinson's 31-year career, he has worked for  
20 the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland.  
21 Within that time span, he has served in  
22 various offices and positions such as the  
23 Economic Division, Dublin; as Vice Consul,  
24 Consulate General of Ireland, New York; the  
25 Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United

1 Nations, New York; the Embassy of Ireland,  
2 Lagos; the Permanent Representation of Ireland  
3 to the European Communities, Brussels; the  
4 Political Division, Dublin; Sarajevo (on  
5 secondment) -- implementation of the Dayton  
6 Accords; as Counsellor, Embassy of Ireland,  
7 London; and currently as Ambassador, Consul  
8 General of Ireland, New York; and

9 "WHEREAS, With him throughout have  
10 been his wife, Adele, and their children,  
11 Claire, Paul and Ben, all of whom feel  
12 privileged to be a part of his life and  
13 rejoice in his achievements; and

14 "WHEREAS, Eugene Hutchinson is an  
15 inspiration to many people, and his dedication  
16 and commitment to the foreign affairs of  
17 Ireland have proven him to be the epitome of  
18 true leadership; now, therefore, be it

19 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
20 Body pause in its deliberations to honor  
21 Eugene Hutchinson, the Consul General of  
22 Ireland, upon the occasion of his designation  
23 for special recognition; and be it further

24 "RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
25 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted

1 to Eugene Hutchinson."

2 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Volker.

3 SENATOR VOLKER: Madam President,  
4 if I might, as the vice president of the  
5 American Irish Legislators, I would like to  
6 welcome Eugene Hutchinson here and  
7 congratulate him on his many years of efforts  
8 on behalf of the Irish government and for  
9 being the consul general in New York City.

10 We appreciate all he's done to  
11 foster American Irish consultation. And if  
12 you look and if you heard his resolution, he's  
13 been involved in a great many worldwide  
14 undertakings in trying to bring peace and  
15 prosperity to this world.

16 Being from Ireland, my family being  
17 from Ireland myself -- although I'm not from  
18 Ireland originally; my grandfather came from  
19 Ireland not too far from where the consul  
20 general was brought up -- I can certainly say  
21 that he is one of the most distinguished  
22 citizens of the entire world.

23 And I congratulate him and thank  
24 him for coming here and congratulate him on  
25 behalf of the Senate and the American Irish

1 Legislators Association for coming here and  
2 honoring us.

3 Thank you very much.

4 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Golden.

5 SENATOR GOLDEN: Thank you, Madam  
6 President.

7 I rise today to also congratulate  
8 the counselor for being here in our chambers.

9 It wasn't too long ago when I was  
10 in Ireland in 1993, and I brought my wife  
11 from -- at that point it was Dublin, and we  
12 went up to the north of Ireland. And there  
13 you had seen the train was stopped and the  
14 tracks in front of us were blown up, and you  
15 were taken off the train and brought by  
16 vehicle around to another train and then  
17 brought into the city in northern Ireland.

18 And when you were off the train,  
19 you were searched. Then when you went into  
20 the town, when you went into the stores, you  
21 were searched. There were men with --  
22 government soldiers with machine guns  
23 throughout the north of Ireland.

24 It was an area that was very  
25 unsafe, an area that we've seen much loss of

1 life over the century and especially in the  
2 last 30 years.

3 We've seen a turnaround, a complete  
4 turnaround in the peace that we now see in  
5 Ireland. And we commend you, Mr. Hutchinson,  
6 Counselor Hutchinson, for your great  
7 contributions to Ireland and to this country,  
8 for the millions that live here in New York  
9 State and to the tens of millions that live  
10 across this great country.

11 Ireland has come a long way under  
12 its leadership and under your leadership, and  
13 we congratulate your country, your nation, and  
14 we congratulate you and your family for being  
15 here today.

16 My family, from Galway and from  
17 Cavan, are very, very proud of the  
18 contributions that you have made, as well as  
19 this body is here.

20 Thank you, sir. Thank you for  
21 being here.

22 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Farley.

23 SENATOR FARLEY: Thank you, Madam  
24 President.

25 As a former Irish Legislator of the

1 Year for this chamber, we'd like to welcome  
2 you here and to say what a fine job you've  
3 done for Ireland and also for our country.

4 And of course our distinguished  
5 Lieutenant Governor and Madam President is an  
6 Irish-American, as many members of this  
7 chamber trace their heritage back to Ireland.  
8 I happened to bring out the flag that I had in  
9 my drawer.

10 And I just want to wish you and  
11 your family well, Sir Consul.

12 THE PRESIDENT: On the  
13 resolution, all in favor please signify by  
14 saying aye.

15 (Response of "Aye.")

16 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

17 (No response.)

18 THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is  
19 adopted.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE PRESIDENT: And I do think  
22 it's appropriate, as Mary O'Connor Donohue, to  
23 invite you up here officially and to welcome  
24 you.

25 CONSUL GENERAL HUTCHINSON: Thank

1           you so much. Thank you again.

2                       THE PRESIDENT:       Senator Bruno.

3                       SENATOR BRUNO:       Madam President,  
4           I believe I have a privileged resolution at  
5           the desk. I would ask that it be read in its  
6           entirety and move for its immediate adoption.

7                       THE PRESIDENT:       The Secretary  
8           will read.

9                       THE SECRETARY:       By Senator Bruno,  
10          Legislative Resolution Number 1680, paying  
11          grateful tribute to the remarkable life and  
12          career of Patricia K. McGee, New York State  
13          Senator of the 57th District.

14                      "WHEREAS, It is the sense of this  
15          Legislative Body that the quality and  
16          character of life in the great State of  
17          New York is enriched by the faithful and  
18          caring efforts of those exceptional  
19          individuals whose lifework and civic endeavors  
20          have served to enhance our basic humanity; and

21                      "WHEREAS, The members of the New  
22          York State Legislature are greatly moved this  
23          day to pay reverent tribute to Patricia K.  
24          McGee, New York State Senator of the 57th  
25          District and cherished friend and colleague;

1 and

2 "WHEREAS, Long-time Republican  
3 State Senator Patricia K. McGee, of  
4 Franklinville, New York, died on Saturday,  
5 April 2, 2005, at the age of 70; and

6 "WHEREAS, Representing the 57th  
7 Senate District, consisting of Allegany,  
8 Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties, as well  
9 as parts of Livingston County, Patricia McGee  
10 will be remembered for her leadership on  
11 women's issues, her strong support of higher  
12 education and transportation, and her tireless  
13 advocacy on behalf of New York's farmers and  
14 rural communities; and

15 "WHEREAS, Born Patricia Gould in  
16 Delevan, New York, she is a graduate of Alfred  
17 State College. In 1960, she married Maurice  
18 'Mike' McGee; and

19 "WHEREAS, Affectionately known as  
20 Patty by her constituents, Senator Patricia  
21 McGee was recognized for her energy, her  
22 follow-through work ethic, and her  
23 determination and willingness to help the  
24 people of the communities she so proudly  
25 represented; and

1                   "WHEREAS, Patricia McGee was a  
2                   lifelong resident of Cattaraugus County who  
3                   served as a county legislator for 10 years,  
4                   eventually becoming the first female majority  
5                   leader; and

6                   "WHEREAS, On June 16, 1987, she was  
7                   elected to the New York State Assembly. As an  
8                   Assemblywoman, she served as chairwoman of the  
9                   Agriculture Committee and also headed the  
10                  State Commission on Rural Resources. For six  
11                  years, she was ranking minority member on the  
12                  Assembly Committee on Transportation, and  
13                  served on the Rules, Higher Education, and  
14                  Environmental Conservation committees; and

15                  "WHEREAS, Patricia McGee was then  
16                  elected to the New York State Senate in 1998.  
17                  As a Senator, she was chairwoman of the  
18                  Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and  
19                  served on the committees on Aging,  
20                  Corporations, Authorities and Commissions,  
21                  Environmental Conservation, Higher Education,  
22                  Transportation, and Social Services; and

23                  "WHEREAS, Furthermore, Senator  
24                  McGee was vice chairwoman for a time in the  
25                  State Legislative Women's Bipartisan Caucus,

1 and served on several task forces, including  
2 panels on economic development and the future  
3 of the State University of New York; and

4 "WHEREAS, Her legislative  
5 accomplishments include sponsoring the  
6 legislation which made the New York State  
7 Constitution gender-neutral; passing Penny's  
8 Law, which removed the sentencing inequities  
9 between juveniles and adults convicted of  
10 murder in the second degree; expanding the  
11 Operation Recognition Program to include  
12 Korean War veterans; and preventing Shaken  
13 Baby Syndrome by requiring all maternity  
14 patients to receive instruction and  
15 information on the dangers of shaken infants  
16 and young children; and

17 "WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure as  
18 an elected official, Senator Patricia McGee  
19 remained an active member of her community.  
20 She belonged to numerous community  
21 organizations, some of which include 219  
22 Liaison Committee, Farm Bureau, Cattaraugus  
23 County Tourist Bureau, and the Chautauqua  
24 County Women's Political Caucus. In addition,  
25 she was a member of the Veterans of Foreign

1 Wars Auxiliary in Franklinville, the American  
2 Legion Auxiliary, and the Jamestown Disabled  
3 American Veterans Auxiliary; and

4 "WHEREAS, Senator Patricia K. McGee  
5 is survived by her husband, Mike; their three  
6 foster daughters, Ann, Carol, and Norma; her  
7 brother, Dana Gould; and her niece, Vicki, and  
8 her husband, Roger Balcom; and

9 "WHEREAS, The legacy of Patricia K.  
10 McGee will long serve as a model of integrity  
11 and devotion to public service, and it is now  
12 the intent of this Legislative Body to  
13 inscribe upon its record this somber and  
14 grateful tribute to her memory, hopeful that  
15 future generations may understand and  
16 appreciate the benevolence of this  
17 distinguished public servant, the merit of her  
18 causes, and the caliber of her service to the  
19 citizens of New York; now, therefore, be it

20 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
21 Body pause in its deliberations to pay  
22 grateful tribute to the remarkable life and  
23 career of Patricia K. McGee, New York State  
24 Senator of the 57th District, and be it  
25 further

1                   "RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
2 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted  
3 to the family of Senator Patricia K. McGee."

4                   THE PRESIDENT:       Senator Bruno.

5                   SENATOR BRUNO:       Thank you, Madam  
6 President and colleagues.

7                   We've just heard a resolution  
8 describing, in a few minutes, 27 years of  
9 public service here in the Capitol, many of  
10 the years here in the Senate. There's an  
11 empty chair here where Senator McGee no longer  
12 sits. But Patty's spirit is here in this  
13 chamber, and her spirit will stay in this  
14 chamber through her colleagues, through the  
15 people that she interfaced with, because she  
16 was just a remarkable lady.

17                   Her husband, Mike, is here. And,  
18 Mike, welcome here to this Senate chamber that  
19 Patty loved so much. And her niece, Vicki  
20 Balcom, and her husband, Roger. And Sharon  
21 Hill-McLarney, who was with Patty as chief of  
22 staff for a lot of years, joined with her  
23 husband, Joe.

24                   And they know better than any of us  
25 the commitment that Patty had to her

1 constituency. But more than just to her  
2 constituency, to all of the people here in  
3 this state.

4 So, yes, we miss Patty. But the  
5 works that she did with alcoholism, substance  
6 abuse -- I see Father Peter Young here, a  
7 great advocate. Patty, whatever she did, she  
8 just did it with a fervor.

9 But, you know, unlike a lot of us  
10 here in the chamber, she didn't have an ego.  
11 Which is something all of us ought to try and  
12 relate to. Her actions, she always felt,  
13 spoke the loudest, and her actions were always  
14 righteous and loud. But her presence was one  
15 of just being a humble person.

16 She was just a person that you  
17 wanted to be with and relate to and talk to,  
18 because you knew there was a sincerity about  
19 her. No pretenses. Nothing other than  
20 speaking from her heart, speaking emotionally,  
21 with a fervor, just feeling strongly about  
22 what she did.

23 And, yes, she loved her district  
24 and Cattaraugus, where she was born and spent  
25 most of her life, and used to come in here

1       bragging about all the products, like your  
2       maple syrup and the mustard that you  
3       manufacture out there, apparently. And she  
4       took great -- not you, Mike, but out there  
5       generally. She just took great pride in  
6       everything that related to her district.

7               And we here are proud of all the  
8       good work that she did, proud that we call  
9       Patty a friend. And we just know that her  
10      spirit is here in our lives, in all of our  
11      lives, and will stay here.

12             And Patty made a great choice in  
13      Mike. Mike is a very down-to-earth, regular  
14      kind of guy, and I've gotten to know him. A  
15      war hero, wounded in Europe.

16             And Mike, I really have to tell you  
17      that I admire his honesty. He said he was  
18      wounded in Italy and as a result they assigned  
19      him to the softest duty any soldier could have  
20      for months. Now, there aren't many people  
21      that would admit to that, but Mike enjoyed it.  
22      And he didn't enjoy being wounded, but he  
23      enjoyed that duty.

24             So, Mike, we're glad that you're  
25      here and just want you to be aware -- and

1       you'll hear from her colleagues, as you heard  
2       in this resolution, just how much Patty meant  
3       to all of us in our lives as well as to all of  
4       the people here in this state whose lives she  
5       affected in so many ways.

6                   Thank you.

7                   THE PRESIDENT:       Senator Paterson.

8                   SENATOR PATERSON:       Thank you,  
9       Madam President.

10                   I first met Senator McGee when she  
11       was a member of the Assembly. But I think  
12       that my first real memory of her here in the  
13       Senate is that she was here but a month when  
14       Senator Bruno asked her to serve as the acting  
15       president, as she did so often here. And at  
16       the time, as the floor leader for the  
17       Minority, I worked with her extensively.

18                   But she was sitting where you are  
19       sitting right now, Madam President, in her  
20       first month here. And I think that the  
21       reason -- I've never asked the leader why he  
22       put her there so quickly. I think that's  
23       where she belonged. She was a leader.

24                   She was someone who spoke with  
25       authority and yet one of the most

1 down-to-earth, just genuine people that I have  
2 ever met. And serving for 11 years in the  
3 Assembly and for six years in the Senate, I  
4 think all of her colleagues were unanimous --  
5 and it's very hard to get us to be unanimous  
6 about anything, but I think we all felt that  
7 way about her.

8 Her distinction, particularly with  
9 her expertise on rural issues and farming, and  
10 particularly transportation -- and her  
11 expertise about the way transportation  
12 operates in New York City was astounding. But  
13 I think that her great credentials and credits  
14 have already been read into the record, and I  
15 think that everyone here recognized her  
16 professionalism.

17 But I think that what we will miss  
18 the most about Senator McGee was just her,  
19 just the way she was and the way she treated  
20 everyone. I think the leader put it best when  
21 he said that so many of us need to control our  
22 egos, but she didn't have one. I don't know  
23 why he was looking at me when he said that.

24 (Laughter.)

25 SENATOR PATERSON: But we really

1 had a lot of fun one day a few years ago when  
2 Senator McGee and I decided to have a little  
3 fun in this chamber. She asked Senator Nancy  
4 Larraine Hoffmann to sit in Senator Bruno's  
5 seat and to run the floor. And when she  
6 accomplished that, then I asked Senator  
7 Velmanette Montgomery to sit in my seat. And  
8 then after they passed a few bills, I  
9 announced that we finally had three women in a  
10 room, and the place seemed to be run a whole  
11 lot better than it had ever been run before.  
12 And that is how I'll remember her.

13 In January, I realized that we had  
14 both contracted pneumonia, and I called her.  
15 And she was very strong. And I really  
16 expected that she would be right back here  
17 among us. And, sadly, it didn't turn out that  
18 way.

19 And so to her husband, Mike, to her  
20 niece, Vicki, and her husband, Roger, and all  
21 the members of her family and the members of  
22 her staff, who must have felt like family, we  
23 on behalf of the Senate want to thank you for  
24 so much time that you missed being with her  
25 but that she utilized serving all the

1 residents of this state so admirably.

2 Thank you.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Volker.

4 SENATOR VOLKER: Madam President,  
5 it is not easy for me to speak about Pat  
6 McGee, who I guess I've known for about twenty  
7 years or more. I actually knew her before she  
8 was in the Assembly, when she was part of the  
9 local legislature and, I believe, the first  
10 woman chairman of the legislature.

11 The reason I got to be friendly  
12 with her was that in those days Warren  
13 Anderson and I had talked about Western  
14 New York legislators. And very honestly, we  
15 were looking for women legislators to possibly  
16 be in the Senate.

17 And Pat McGee was probably the most  
18 interesting person that I had ever met from  
19 the Southern Tier. As I've said before, she  
20 was one of the people who could yell at me and  
21 still be a good friend. And I think one of  
22 the things that we should all realize is that  
23 that's not a bad thing for all of us to do.

24 And you were speaking of ego.

25 Every once in a while, she would call me up

1 and start yelling over some issue. And I  
2 said, "What are you talking about?" And she'd  
3 say, "Well, you're supposed to be a leader,  
4 you're supposed to" -- then she'd go and then  
5 she'd say, "Oh, why am I yelling at you?  
6 Because I couldn't reach Bruno," or something  
7 or other.

8 (Laughter.)

9 SENATOR VOLKER: And I said okay.  
10 But seriously, she was -- I have to  
11 admit that she was like a sister to me in many  
12 ways. We talked a lot about issues, about our  
13 families.

14 When she was in the Assembly, I had  
15 always told her, I said, "Well, when Jess  
16 finally retires, I expect you'll be running  
17 for the Senate." I said, "If you ever get in  
18 trouble, give me a call." And I said, "We  
19 might be able to help you."

20 Well, there was one time she did  
21 that. And she said, "Well, I'm not in any  
22 real trouble, but," she says, "I got somebody  
23 to run against me who's kind of nasty." And  
24 she said, "You know how nasty I get." I said,  
25 "Oh, Pat, you're not going to get nasty."

1                   But we kind of watched over her,  
2                   and of course she did come to the Senate  
3                   eventually. And she, in my opinion, was one  
4                   of the strongest people in this body. In  
5                   fact, I have to admit to you that I was  
6                   telling people right to the end that I was  
7                   sure she was going to come back.

8                   And the day, in fact, that she  
9                   died, Mary Lou -- Senator Rath and I were  
10                  about to go to the hospital to see her with a  
11                  huge card that Chuck Fuschillo had picked up  
12                  for her, and the entire Majority delegation  
13                  signed it.

14                 And we were convinced -- and I  
15                 guess I should have seen the last couple of  
16                 conversations I had with her, she was gasping  
17                 a little bit. But we were convinced, and I  
18                 guess maybe because I've always thought of her  
19                 as just so strong and ready to move on.

20                 The final thing I'm going to tell  
21                 you is that Joe Bruno and I have talked about  
22                 this at the funeral, and I thank all those  
23                 members who were there and those that I know  
24                 would have liked to have been there. As soon  
25                 as the mass started, one of the ministers did

1 a banjo or I guess it was a guitar or whatever  
2 you call it, and we both realized -- Bruno  
3 looked over to me with this quick look,  
4 Senator Bruno, and we both knew that Patty had  
5 to have planned this whole thing. Because she  
6 would not have liked, you know, a staid kind  
7 of funeral. And it was clear to us that the  
8 service was something that she had planned.

9           And at the end, I must tell you,  
10 when we sang, at the end of the service, "God  
11 Bless America," I thought, Patty's right here  
12 with us, there's no question about it.  
13 Because that's what she would have wanted.  
14 That's what she wanted. The family, I know,  
15 did exactly what she wanted, which was a good  
16 thing to do when you were dealing with Pat  
17 McGee.

18           But we will all miss her here. And  
19 I can tell you this, that she'll never be away  
20 from us. And I think the one thing we all  
21 have to realize is the members of the Senate  
22 who really are institutional never really  
23 leave us. They're always part of us. And I  
24 think that's one of the great things about  
25 this house, is that people like Pat McGee make

1           this house what it is.

2                       And I say to Mike and to the  
3 family, thank you for giving her to us. Thank  
4 you for what opportunity you gave us. And  
5 we'll never forget her.

6                       Thank you.

7                       THE PRESIDENT:       Senator  
8 DeFrancisco.

9                       SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:     Thank you,  
10 Madam President.

11                      You know, a lot will be said. I'm  
12 sure all of her colleagues will want to speak  
13 today. But I just want to bring up one other  
14 quality that I think is probably the most  
15 important quality that Pat had, and that was  
16 her humor.

17                      In most settings in the Senate,  
18 there's more men at the events than women, you  
19 might imagine, if you look around here. She  
20 could go with the best of them, there's no  
21 question about it. She had a quick wit. She  
22 was a funny woman. And she really brought a  
23 great element of humor to this body, among the  
24 many serious things that she worked on.

25                      And I really think one of the

1 sentiments that most of us have is when Pat  
2 came back for a couple of days after she got  
3 ill, I really thought she'd be back. And no  
4 one even -- I know I didn't even think, I had  
5 no clue that the situation was as serious as  
6 it was. And I think the only regret I have  
7 today with respect to Pat McGee is that I  
8 couldn't say goodbye to her.

9 She was a wonderful woman, a great  
10 colleague, and she will be missed deeply by  
11 all of us.

12 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Bonacic.

13 SENATOR BONACIC: Thank you,  
14 Madam President.

15 I think to know Senator McGee was  
16 to love her. I served six years in the  
17 Assembly seated next to her. We came into the  
18 Senate together in 1999, and I was seated next  
19 to her for four years. So for many days of  
20 10 years of my life, I got to speak at length  
21 with Pat McGee. And our offices were next to  
22 each other on the eighth floor.

23 And many people will talk about the  
24 attributes of Pat. And I don't mean to be  
25 repetitious, but the thing that struck me the

1 most about this wonderful woman was that if  
2 she was walking down the hall and saw someone  
3 sweeping the floor, whether she saw someone at  
4 staff, whether it was her own staff or a  
5 staffer in anyone else's office, or whether it  
6 was the elevator operator or whether it was a  
7 colleague or it was the Governor of this great  
8 state, she treated everyone with the same  
9 smile, the same respect, and the same dignity.

10 She made every one of us a better  
11 person, and for that we will always be  
12 grateful. And she is in a better place. And  
13 this chamber has been enriched by her being an  
14 elected official -- probably the kindest  
15 elected official I've ever met.

16 There's one thing that I could  
17 never get over. I would see her with a pile  
18 of letters all the time at that desk, and I'd  
19 see her with this pencil, like six pencils,  
20 and she's writing a mile a minute. And I  
21 said, "Pat, what are you doing?" She says,  
22 "I'm answering the constituent." I said, "You  
23 mean you write every letter back that you  
24 receive?" And she says, "Yes, I do."

25 And I said, "You're amazing. How

1           come you don't have a staffer do that for you,  
2           because you have so much to do?" She says,  
3           "No, I want to read the letters and I want to  
4           answer them."

5                         That is the kind of person and  
6           dedicated servant she was. She took care of  
7           the smallest detail, no matter how long it  
8           took.

9                         So a wonderful woman. We will all  
10          miss her. And we thank you for sharing her  
11          with us.

12                        Thank you.

13                        THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Maziarz.

14                        SENATOR MAZIARZ:      Thank you very  
15          much, Madam President.

16                        I had the occasion to travel to  
17          Albany, to fly to Albany with Pat, we were on  
18          the same schedule many times. And she was a  
19          great friend.

20                        I know when I was first elected to  
21          the Senate back in 1995, and she was a member  
22          of the Assembly, she was, I think, one of the  
23          first members of the Assembly from Western New  
24          York to come over and to offer her  
25          congratulations and her advice.

1                   And she offered that advice  
2 throughout the time here. Sometimes it was  
3 unsolicited advice, I might add. But it was  
4 always there, and it was always positive.

5                   And I know that as part of our  
6 Western New York delegation, with Senator  
7 Volker and Senator Rath and Senator Stachowski  
8 and Senator Brown, Pat McGee, even though she  
9 represented the Southern Tier of Western  
10 New York -- and what we in the northern area  
11 of Western New York, the Buffalo-Niagara  
12 section, consider to be somewhat of the rural  
13 area -- there was never an issue, whether it  
14 involved the City of Buffalo, Niagara, or any  
15 part of Western New York, that Pat didn't  
16 assist us in any way that she could.

17                   I know that I for one am truly  
18 going to miss her. Just a few short months  
19 ago, I was married, and she wrote me the  
20 nicest letter giving me, again, unsolicited  
21 advice on the topic of marriage, which I hope  
22 to live by.

23                   Thank you, Madam President.

24                   THE PRESIDENT:       Senator LaValle.

25                   SENATOR LaVALLE:       Thank you,

1 Madam President.

2 I think Senator McGee was certainly  
3 a perky, very direct, plain-spoken individual  
4 who got to her point and conclusion very, very  
5 quickly. You knew exactly where she was going  
6 and what was on her mind.

7 The people certainly of the 57th  
8 District were really very well served by her  
9 being here and I think, as Senator Bonacic  
10 pointed out, very in-tuned with what was going  
11 on.

12 But she and I really got to know  
13 one another as a member of the Senate  
14 Committee on Higher Education. She I believe  
15 attended just about every meeting,  
16 participated fully in its deliberations, and  
17 really studied all the bills. And being a  
18 Majority member, I mean, Pat would vote no  
19 without recommendation, but you knew very  
20 clearly that she was going to participate in  
21 the process.

22 The committee was very, very  
23 focused about a year ago on wanting to deal  
24 with the nursing shortage problem. And we  
25 looked at what was under our purview in

1 committee, and I made an executive decision to  
2 put together a group of people, a little  
3 subcommittee, and I named Pat the chairperson  
4 of that committee. She in a very short time  
5 came back to me and said she was going to hold  
6 five or six roundtable discussions around the  
7 state, bringing in all the stakeholders to  
8 participate.

9 And as we moved forward, it became  
10 very, very evident that one of the needs was,  
11 in higher education, that there were not  
12 enough faculty members. And by having only  
13 the same number of faculty members that we  
14 have, we could only generate the same number  
15 of students in terms of output and then into  
16 the hospitals. So by increasing the number of  
17 faculty members, we could thereby increase the  
18 number of people out into our community  
19 hospitals in the health care system.

20 Pat participated and was meticulous  
21 in how each of the sessions were conducted,  
22 the kind of input that we got, and how the  
23 report to the committee came out. And as a  
24 result of her leadership on that subcommittee  
25 and on the Higher Education Committee, in this

1 year's budget, for the first time, we put  
2 money in for nursing scholarships and money  
3 for loan forgiveness for individuals who will  
4 move forward into the faculty and academic  
5 setting.

6           So for all those individuals who  
7 will have opportunities to fulfill a nursing  
8 career, they should thank Senator Patricia  
9 McGee for her work. And those in higher  
10 education that will be the teachers for those  
11 students, they should be thanking Senator  
12 Patricia McGee on that good work that she did.

13           Just in closing, as chair of the  
14 Majority Conference, each of the members have  
15 certain signals that they give in wanting to  
16 be recognized. And Pat always made the  
17 gesture of "just a little bit," I want to  
18 speak just a little bit. And she did. As I  
19 said in my introductory remarks, she knew  
20 exactly what the conclusion was. She started,  
21 laid out the facts in a very direct way, and I  
22 think everyone got her point.

23           And she served her constituency so  
24 very well. We will certainly miss her.

25           THE PRESIDENT:       Senator Rath.

1                   SENATOR RATH:     Thank you, Madam  
2     President.

3                   Mike, Vicki, Roger, thank you for  
4     being here with us today.  As I said to you,  
5     Mike, you would hear things today about Pat  
6     that you certainly would never have heard from  
7     her, because she would have been too modest or  
8     she wouldn't have thought that maybe you would  
9     be interested.  But I'm sure you would have  
10    been.

11                  What an extraordinary person Pat  
12    was.  The Buffalo News identified her as a  
13    tireless advocate for the Southern Tier.

14                  I met Pat about twenty years ago.  
15    We were meeting every month or so somewhere in  
16    Western New York, the eight counties, at a  
17    grouping of county legislators that met --  
18    now, here's going to be a surprise for you, we  
19    were working on a bipartisan welfare and  
20    Medicaid reform coalition.  Sound familiar?  
21    Even then, Pat and I were knee-deep in working  
22    towards what we thought was important  
23    legislation.

24                  And of course we'd fire things off  
25    to the New York State Senate and the Assembly.

1 And don't know if you all ever got the  
2 message, or you probably would have done it  
3 immediately.

4 But Pat and I were tireless in our  
5 efforts all those years ago, and what fun we  
6 had getting to know each other.

7 And how she loved her staff in the  
8 Rural Resources Commission, and some of you  
9 are here today. And I called the staff and  
10 asked if they had some recollections. And so  
11 let me give you a few words from some of them  
12 and what they thought.

13 "She made a concerted effort to get  
14 to know each of us on a personal basis. And  
15 when I got engaged last year, she was one of  
16 the first persons I wanted to tell. I knew  
17 she was sincerely happy for me."

18 "When Pat was in the intensive care  
19 unit at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, she had been  
20 working on a personal letter to honor a  
21 special occasion for one of her constituents.  
22 She was concerned because she had not been  
23 able to finish the letter, so she called the  
24 staff and said: 'You guys make sure you get  
25 the letter finished.' And I know you did."

1                    "She was always encouraging and  
2                    upbeat, even if she was not feeling well  
3                    herself. And every day she thanked us for  
4                    coming to work and doing such a good job.

5                    "Pat McGee set the tone for the  
6                    office. We were a real team and a staff that  
7                    worked well together because we respected and  
8                    admired our boss."

9                    "The things I remember about  
10                    Senator McGee, I remember her ability to  
11                    empower people around her to do things beyond  
12                    what they thought they were capable of doing.  
13                    She treated everyone with compassion and  
14                    respect, always adding a little humor to keep  
15                    everyone relaxed."

16                    The district office. "Pat was a  
17                    gold standard for politicians and for women.  
18                    She rarely turned down the opportunity to meet  
19                    any group. Even when she was in her district  
20                    office, if people came in, she would come out  
21                    the door and meet with them and talk with  
22                    them, particularly the young people. Everyone  
23                    knew they had a friend after they'd talked  
24                    with Pat."

25                    Another said, "I always called her

1 'Senator.' And she said, 'You don't have to  
2 call me Senator; we're friends.' And I  
3 responded, 'I don't have to call you Senator,  
4 but I love doing it, because you're so  
5 deserving of the title.'"

6 And, Sharon, your comment: In 15  
7 years that you worked for her, you never had a  
8 day that you didn't look forward to going to  
9 work.

10 And my all-time favorite was one  
11 that you all shared with me. And maybe if you  
12 had an office next door to her, John, maybe  
13 you would hear it. Because when she would  
14 come back in after a long day of legislature  
15 work, she would say "Mother's home," and would  
16 go in and talk to everyone about what had  
17 transpired during the day.

18 What a wonderful, wonderful woman.  
19 And, Senator Paterson, you caught the essence,  
20 I think, of Pat in the chair. But let me give  
21 you my recollection of Pat in the chair.

22 When things would come a little bit  
23 unglued around here, as they do sometimes, she  
24 would bang the gavel, and then she would stand  
25 there with the gavel in her hand, sort of like

1           this, and she would say: "Senator So-and-so,  
2           did you wish to ask a question of Senator  
3           Thus-and-so?" And of course the Senator would  
4           say, "Yes, I did." "I would be more than  
5           happy to translate your request through the  
6           chair."

7                           And then of course order would be  
8           restored, and we would proceed. And wasn't  
9           she wonderful the way she did that. It kept  
10          us on an even keel, with civility and with  
11          poise.

12                          So what can be said in closing  
13          except thank you, Pat, for your energy, your  
14          enthusiasm, your insight, your leadership, but  
15          most of all for your friendship. May you rest  
16          in peace.

17                          THE PRESIDENT:        Senator  
18          Marcellino.

19                          SENATOR MARCELLINO:    As you've  
20          heard, Pat was well-liked by everybody in this  
21          chamber. And I know it goes well beyond that.

22                          The phrase "Mother's home"  
23          reverberated into our office, because we'd  
24          been sharing a conference room for a number of  
25          years, and we heard that phrase all the time.

1           So we always knew Pat was back.

2                       And it was interesting, because it  
3 was done not as a joke, it was done with  
4 meaning and feeling. She actually meant what  
5 she said. And she looked upon her friends and  
6 her staff I think as her children, and treated  
7 them with respect and kindness. And that's a  
8 marvelous thing.

9                       In the years we shared a conference  
10 room, never a minute of any kind of conflict.  
11 Never a disagreement. We came close once. As  
12 many of you know, I was the president for two  
13 years of the Italian American Legislators  
14 organization, and as such the meetings were  
15 held in our conference room. And of course  
16 the posters of scenes of Italy were put all  
17 around the walls.

18                      Pat walked in one day quietly and  
19 just kind of looked around. The next day,  
20 there were shamrocks in between all the  
21 posters.

22                      (Laughter.)

23                      SENATOR MARCELLINO:       So I went  
24 into the office and I said, "Was there a  
25 leprechaun in the room?" She said, "I just

1       felt a little balance was necessary." So it  
2       was that kind of relationship.

3               And she did me a favor, a great  
4       favor. She introduced me to salt-rising  
5       bread, a vile stuff. I could not develop a  
6       taste for this. She loved it. I don't know  
7       how, I don't understand why. But she loved it  
8       and always was willing to share. And it was a  
9       gift that sometimes we didn't want to have,  
10      but it was there. And you always took it.

11              And I must say, I will miss her.  
12      And one of the saddest days I've ever had up  
13      here was when I walked into this chamber and I  
14      saw those roses on this desk. It's too bad.  
15      It's a loss, as has been said, to this chamber  
16      of a very fine person and a very fine  
17      legislator. And I know "Mother's home" in a  
18      much better place.

19              God bless.

20              THE PRESIDENT:       Senator Nozzolio.

21              SENATOR NOZZOLIO:     Thank you,  
22      Madam President.

23              I thank my colleagues for sharing  
24      with us such fond and wonderful remembrances  
25      about such a wonderful lady.

1                   Those of us who shared those  
2                   remembrances here in the Senate, I know we'll  
3                   treasure them. Those of us who had the  
4                   fortune of serving with Pat, both in this body  
5                   and in the Assembly, have been given a  
6                   wonderful gift through those years.

7                   I just want to share with my  
8                   colleagues briefly a little story of Pat that  
9                   took place before she came to Albany. And  
10                  Mike and I were reminiscing about it a little  
11                  earlier, that early spring of 1987, when she  
12                  was called upon to run for the State Assembly  
13                  the first time. And Bill Paxon, who was in  
14                  Mike's kitchen, trying very hard to convince  
15                  Pat, at not the 11th hour but the 12th hour,  
16                  to sign up and run for the State Assembly.

17                  I know she had a lot of doubts.  
18                  Maybe it was because Bill was dispatched in  
19                  the first place to talk her into it. But she,  
20                  after giving it as much thought as she could  
21                  on such short notice, decided to run. And I  
22                  went down a few days later to meet with her  
23                  and to help in that first campaign.

24                  And in spite of that, she still  
25                  decided to keep running. And in spite of

1           that, she still ran what at that time was  
2           literally one of the best and strongest races  
3           in the history of the Assembly. It was such a  
4           wonderful, happy, joyous day that she was  
5           victorious that spring day, that May day in  
6           1987. Bill Paxon still talks about it.

7                         And I know that person who was  
8           brought in to service at the state level, we  
9           are so grateful to her family for the  
10          sacrifices to allow her to serve in the  
11          Legislature, to her community, who supported  
12          her, the community that she loved.

13                        What struck me way back then, in my  
14          first meetings with her during that campaign,  
15          was what I remember most about her today.  
16          Strong-willed, independent-minded, dedicated  
17          to family and community, cared so much about  
18          what she was doing. That service to her  
19          state, to her nation, was terrific. But what  
20          she gave us here were memories of a person who  
21          was so kind and so supportive.

22                        Madam Chairlady, I know we all are  
23          sad by this occasion, but all happy by the  
24          fact that we had the honor of knowing her.

25                        THE PRESIDENT:        Senator

1 Hassell-Thompson.

2 SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank  
3 you, Madam President.

4 When you're this far down the  
5 chain, there's very little left that's unique  
6 and new to say. So if I repeat, it will be  
7 reinforcement, not duplicity.

8 Pat McGee was an extraordinary  
9 lady. Coming from the Democratic side didn't  
10 matter to her. She was a person who was a  
11 good friend. We met at a women's caucus once,  
12 and we started a conversation. And until the  
13 last day I saw her, there was no break in that  
14 friendship and in that conversation.

15 She had a demeanor that if all of  
16 us would emulate, we'd be a lot better for it.  
17 Micah says to love mercy, do justice, walk  
18 humbly with your God. That was Pat McGee.

19 THE PRESIDENT: Senator  
20 Oppenheimer.

21 SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Well, I  
22 will have to concur with Senator  
23 Hassell-Thompson; we may have known her in a  
24 little different venue.

25 We've heard from most of the people

1 here -- in fact, everyone here -- that she was  
2 so well-liked by all of us on both sides of  
3 the aisle. And that she was very  
4 direct-talking. You knew that what she said,  
5 she meant. And you welcomed the very  
6 directness that she had. But she also had a  
7 wonderful, fun, lovely manner, and that was  
8 another piece of her that we loved.

9 But I knew her in a slightly  
10 different venue, as did the prior speaker, and  
11 that is from the Legislative Women's Caucus.  
12 I've been on the executive board for 18 years,  
13 and she was on it for a number of years.

14 And in that capacity, I must say  
15 she was a little bit more progressive than  
16 some of her confreres on the other side of the  
17 aisle. She was a strong supporter for  
18 pro-choice, for a woman's right to choose her  
19 reproductive timing. She was there for all  
20 kinds of health issues that were exceedingly  
21 important to women's health. She was there  
22 for education, equal opportunities for women.  
23 It was just a great variety of issues that  
24 were substantial and important to women.

25 And for that, I felt very thankful

1           that she was on the other side of the aisle  
2           and that we had support coming on some of  
3           these issues which I feel are very, very  
4           meaningful to women, to myself personally.

5                         And it was wonderful to me to have  
6           her there, and I'm going to miss her a lot.

7                         THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Little.

8                         SENATOR LITTLE:       Thank you, Madam  
9           President.

10                        All of us have many memories of our  
11           years of friendship with Pat McGee. She  
12           preceded me in the Assembly and welcomed me  
13           there with her friendship and her mentorship  
14           and the name "Miss Betty." I think she was  
15           the only person in my lifetime that ever  
16           called me "Miss Betty," but it was with such  
17           warmth and friendship that I loved it.

18                        And then when I came to the Senate,  
19           it was the same welcoming Senator McGee, with  
20           some advice and counsel and friendship and  
21           mentoring as we go along.

22                        I recently heard a statement that  
23           said for a community leader, life is a bowl of  
24           charities. And I think that speaks of Pat  
25           McGee. For in her district, she advocated and

1 she gave her presence and her support, her  
2 financial support and her personal support, to  
3 so many of the not-for-profit groups in her  
4 district who were doing so much good for the  
5 people that she loved so much.

6 And today, we remember and we  
7 recognize her not for all the honors that she  
8 received, although they were many, and not for  
9 the successful elections she had, although  
10 they were many and very successful too; she  
11 was a great candidate and a great campaigner.

12 I think we recognize and remember  
13 Senator McGee today for all that she has  
14 given, all that she has given to this Senate  
15 body and to the state, but, most of all, all  
16 that she has given to her constituents. She  
17 gave her constituents a voice in Albany. She  
18 gave them a true advocate for their causes.  
19 And she gave them a very caring friendship.

20 I know her family will miss her  
21 greatly. But to say that we will miss her  
22 greatly is truly an understatement. And I  
23 know we all will miss her smiling face and her  
24 personal friendship as well.

25 Thank you.

1 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Morahan.

2 SENATOR MORAHAN: Thank you,  
3 Madam President.

4 I rise today in sorrowful tribute  
5 to our colleague Patricia McGee and to offer  
6 my condolences to her family.

7 I also had the privilege of sitting  
8 next to Senator McGee. Every time I moved my  
9 seat, it seemed that we were together. And we  
10 also sat together in the conference.

11 And I admired her dogged, dogged  
12 support and work on behalf of her  
13 constituents. So I want to offer also to her  
14 constituency our sympathies on the loss of  
15 such a great advocate and leader.

16 Wherever she is now, I know Pat  
17 would be terribly embarrassed hearing all  
18 these great words. She wasn't that kind of a  
19 person. She did her work, she looked for no  
20 glory, she worked very hard and she was very  
21 well respected -- indeed, loved -- by this  
22 community of senators.

23 So I want to share with you our  
24 grief. We want to share with you your pain.  
25 We want to let you know that she will be

1           terribly missed.

2                       Less than a year ago, Patricia sat  
3           where the Lieutenant Governor is now, up at  
4           the podium, and presided over a similar  
5           occurrence, an occasion for my daughter who  
6           had passed away. And she conducted that  
7           ceremonial act of the Senate in the most  
8           graceful way. And I have that on tape that I  
9           can review. And I'll never forget Pat for  
10          that day, or for the many other days that we  
11          served together.

12                      So I offer you my condolences. And  
13          to Pat, where I think I know where she is,  
14          she's probably looking down on us now,  
15          red-faced and embarrassed, saying: Sit down,  
16          Tom Morahan, and shut up. So that's exactly  
17          what this senator is going to do.

18                      Thank you.

19                      THE PRESIDENT:        Senator  
20          Stachowski.

21                      SENATOR STACHOWSKI:    Pat McGee  
22          was a very interesting individual, I thought,  
23          because as easygoing as she was, and as  
24          friendly as she was, if you were on Rural  
25          Resources, which I had the opportunity to

1           serve on with her, you always knew who was in  
2           charge.

3                         As a matter of fact, I'm not sure  
4           that the Assembly chairman ever knew that he  
5           really wasn't in charge, that it was really  
6           Pat McGee's show, because she just took it  
7           over. At least that was my impression. And  
8           at those meetings, I don't really talk a lot,  
9           I kind of observe. And I thought Pat ran it  
10          and someday the Assembly guys will figure it  
11          out, that it was really her commission and she  
12          just let them along for the ride.

13                        But she had a wonderful sense of  
14          humor. And I used to travel with her an awful  
15          lot. And last year, when USAir was in one of  
16          their wonderful periods of no flights to  
17          Albany, we used to go through Philadelphia on  
18          Sundays. And Pat would always fly, and we'd  
19          get off in Philadelphia and we'd sit. And I'd  
20          go waltz around the airport, because they have  
21          a mall there, and I'd come back and Pat would  
22          be sitting on the other side, not usually on  
23          the side that the gate would go, and I'd have  
24          to run over and say, "Pat, this one's ours,  
25          we're leaving."

1                   She'd have a plastic bag with  
2                   cut-up fruit, and she'd always offer me some.  
3                   And I felt like I was her son, half the time,  
4                   because she'd be saying, you know, "You should  
5                   have this, it's better for you," et cetera.

6                   And she just was wonderful to  
7                   travel with. And unfortunately, now we're  
8                   going through Philadelphia again, some of us,  
9                   and it's kind of an empty feeling going  
10                  through Philadelphia without Pat along. So  
11                  it's another place where you'd miss her being.

12                  And actually, it really is funny  
13                  because I said that to Mike at the lunch after  
14                  the funeral, that I've gone through  
15                  Philadelphia twice, and without Pat being  
16                  there it's really kind of a cold trip.

17                  Nobody ever supported the Southern  
18                  Tier harder. And the interesting thing is  
19                  whenever there was an important delegation  
20                  meeting, as George alluded to earlier, no  
21                  matter what the weather, it seemed like Pat  
22                  was there. And sometimes the trip for her,  
23                  coming from Franklinville to Buffalo, isn't  
24                  the easiest in the winter. And she was there.

25                  If it was something important to

1 the region, Pat McGee was there, because she  
2 wasn't going to miss out on it and she was  
3 going to make sure that her opinion on that  
4 issue would be heard. Or she would get the  
5 information from whoever we were dealing with  
6 so she could make her own judgment, and  
7 probably help us make ours.

8 So we're all going to miss Pat  
9 McGee. And it was interesting, you didn't  
10 always agree with her. But no matter if you  
11 argued with her or not, you never disliked  
12 her. And she's one of those people that you  
13 often hear about that you've never heard  
14 anybody say anything bad about.

15 And as Senator Bruno said, she  
16 didn't have an ego, and more of us could use  
17 that. She also had a sincerity about her. No  
18 matter what she said, you knew that's what she  
19 meant. And there was never a question it was  
20 going to come back something different. Once  
21 she told you that's what she was going to do,  
22 you knew that that was what she was going to  
23 do.

24 I also had an edge on her because,  
25 unknowingly to her, I had friends who knew her

1 and her husband for years. So I had done all  
2 this background check on her. The Carpenter  
3 family knows the McGees for years, and her  
4 brother Danny used to ref with Mr. Carpenter.  
5 So I knew all about Pat, but I never let on to  
6 that. I just kept that information and wanted  
7 to see if she was actually as good as they  
8 kept saying she was. And she was. So it was  
9 a great thing to have known about so that I  
10 knew I could trust her ahead of time.

11 And the fact is that we're going to  
12 miss Pat. And especially in Rural Resources,  
13 where that commission, more so than anything  
14 else -- and I've been on other commissions  
15 while I've been here. Pat McGee always made  
16 sure that everybody was included. When there  
17 was a bill coming out of Rural Resources,  
18 everybody was on it. Assembly majority,  
19 Assembly minority, Senate majority and Senate  
20 minority, we were all on the bills, because  
21 Pat McGee made sure we were all on the bills.

22 And that may not sound like much to  
23 the people that are visiting, but to those of  
24 us who work here, that was a really big deal.  
25 And so that's just another area where Pat was

1 ahead of her time.

2 And Pat was just such a wonderful  
3 person, and we're going to miss her. But  
4 we'll always be thankful that we had the  
5 opportunity to have the family share her  
6 friendship with us by letting her be here.

7 THE PRESIDENT: Senator  
8 Fuschillo.

9 SENATOR FUSCHILLO: Thank you  
10 very much, Madam President.

11 The resolution started off today  
12 "the remarkable life and career of Patricia K.  
13 McGee." How appropriate for such a great lady  
14 who decided to join this business of  
15 self-promotion and tremendous egos, and she  
16 had neither.

17 I remember she used to sit over  
18 here, and I guess I'm not going to take an  
19 insult that every year she moved one seat away  
20 from me. But she started off, and we didn't  
21 always agree, but we drew together. Whenever  
22 I had a bill on the calendar, she used to say:  
23 "Chucky, Chucky, Chucky." And then it went  
24 to, last year: "Oh, my God, another Fuschillo  
25 bill."

1                   And I didn't get insulted, Carl,  
2                   when she moved next to you, at all.

3                   But she always put it into  
4                   perspective for me, and I always say this to  
5                   people now too: It's just a job with a great  
6                   title, but it's just a job.

7                   And as John Bonacic said, she used  
8                   to sit here and we used to joke how she used  
9                   to probably drive her staff crazy with the  
10                  pencil erasers. And all you used to do is  
11                  come down from the office and bring her more  
12                  pencils.

13                  But she took so much care and love  
14                  to her work. And what I admired most about  
15                  her was the respect that she had for people,  
16                  especially her staff. I mean, you were never  
17                  her staff, her administrative aide, her  
18                  secretary, her counsel; you worked together on  
19                  everything. And she taught us a lot about how  
20                  to treat people.

21                  The Wednesday before she passed  
22                  away, Mike Balboni and I were in the mall and  
23                  we bought this card that Dale had spoken  
24                  about, and we thought it would be a nice thing  
25                  to bring back to conference. And I remember

1           everybody wrote such nice things. I think  
2           Betty Little wrote: "Help, come back, we need  
3           another woman in this conference!" But, you  
4           know, the tone was we miss you, we love you,  
5           we need you back.

6                           And I remember getting the call  
7           Sunday morning at my house that Patty McGee  
8           passed away, and it was just terrible, tragic.  
9           It was so sad. And then I became angry. As  
10          John DeFrancisco said, angry because I never  
11          had the opportunity to say goodbye. And angry  
12          because I really, really loved this lady. And  
13          angry because if she was here today, I would  
14          say to her, Thanks, Patty. Thanks for being  
15          my friend and thanks for enriching my life.

16                           Thank you, Madam President.

17                           THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Libous.

18                           SENATOR LIBOUS:        Thank you, Madam  
19          President.

20                           Who could not fall in love with Pat  
21          McGee. Mike, you had to share her with all of  
22          us and her staff and her constituents.

23                           And as members are speaking today,  
24          I'm looking around the room and I'm seeing all  
25          these smiles because Patty is with us. And we

1 all have different memories. We all have  
2 those special moments that we had with her and  
3 her many attributes that were talked about.

4 And I'd like to share one with you,  
5 and it comes to mind quite frequently in the  
6 last several weeks since her passing, because  
7 I, like John and Chuck and I think a lot of  
8 others, didn't realize how sick she really  
9 was. And there's an emptiness because we  
10 couldn't say goodbye, and it's difficult not  
11 to have closure with a friend.

12 And when Patty first came to the  
13 Senate, Senator Bruno appointed her the  
14 chairman of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
15 Committee, and I was the chairman of the  
16 Mental Health Committee. And I had shared  
17 Alcoholism and Abuse prior to that. And we  
18 have these budget subcommittees that we form.  
19 And so the first subcommittee meeting took  
20 place, and Patty shows up at the subcommittee  
21 meeting, and there's staff there and other  
22 members.

23 And as we're going through, the  
24 staff is doing their analysis of what's in the  
25 budget and what the Senate should protect and

1           whatever. And then they would begin reading  
2           off \$100,000 for a program in Long Island,  
3           \$150,000 for a program in Binghamton, programs  
4           in Orange County and whatever.

5                       And as the meeting's going on,  
6           Patty stopped and she said, "Mr. Chairman" --  
7           because she was always very respectful -- and  
8           I said "Yes, Senator?" And she said, "Could I  
9           see you in your office for a moment?" So we  
10          went into the office, we closed the door, and  
11          the staffs are still sitting out there.

12                      She looks me right in the eye and  
13          she says: "Listen, dearie." She says,  
14          "Before you adjourn that meeting, there's  
15          going to be \$150,000 in that budget for an  
16          alcoholism program for women in the Southern  
17          Tier."

18                      And I looked at her and I said,  
19          "Yes, ma'am."

20                      (Laughter.)

21                      THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Alesi.

22                      SENATOR ALESI:        Thank you, Madam  
23          President.

24                      I'm just wondering if there's  
25          anybody here who didn't sit next to Pat McGee.

1 It seems as though we all did. I know I did.

2 And I enjoyed that experience very much.

3 I can honestly say that I developed  
4 a great affection for Pat McGee when I first  
5 went to the Assembly. And we had a rather  
6 large freshman class. And we were pretty much  
7 all full of ourselves, and probably myself  
8 more than anybody. But somehow or other, I  
9 zoned in on Pat McGee, or Patty zoned in on  
10 me. But whatever it was, we got to be good  
11 friends very quickly.

12 And I remember, like when you go  
13 away to college the first year, you know, when  
14 you come into the Assembly and you're out to  
15 dinner a lot and you start beefing up and you  
16 start putting on weight. One day I was  
17 sitting in conference, and I was fooling  
18 around with my button-down shirt. And  
19 afterwards she came over to me and she said,  
20 "Are you having a problem with your collars?"  
21 And I said, "Yes." And she said, "You know,  
22 they're all crumpled up." And I said: "I  
23 know. I don't know what to do about that.  
24 You think maybe a little more starch would  
25 help?" And she said, "No, sonny boy, a little

1 less starch."

2 (Laughter.)

3 SENATOR ALESI: And from that day  
4 forward, there was a little bit of a thing  
5 between Patty and me.

6 And I escaped the Assembly minority  
7 long before a lot of my colleagues who were  
8 senior to me. John, you sat next to her, and  
9 Balboni and Flanagan and Robach and so many  
10 others. But when Patty came here to the  
11 Senate, with no disrespect to all of my other  
12 friends, I was just overjoyed, because it gave  
13 me that opportunity -- because she did sit  
14 right here, and eventually next to me again,  
15 and it gave me that opportunity to banter with  
16 her.

17 And in fact, when I was going to  
18 move this year, I just wanted to move for the  
19 sake of moving, and it turns out that Patty  
20 was supposed to sit next to me again. But I  
21 didn't like being back there, because I have  
22 difficulty hearing and I wanted to come back  
23 here. And I convinced Morahan he should go  
24 back over there. But the one thing that was  
25 very difficult for me in making that decision

1 was that Patty was going to be sitting next to  
2 me.

3 And so I landed back here. And for  
4 whatever reason, I don't know, right now  
5 there's an empty seat there and an empty seat  
6 where she would have been.

7 And it just makes me think of a few  
8 times when I'd offer up sometimes some  
9 one-liners. In fact, I was always trying to  
10 get under her skin. And I would be cynical  
11 about something, and she would just simply  
12 look at me and she'd say, "You don't say." As  
13 if whatever it was I was trying to say didn't  
14 really mean anything, get a grip on myself.  
15 Don't take yourself that seriously. Because  
16 that was Patty.

17 If I was being irreverent, she'd  
18 just simply look at me and say, "Why,  
19 Senator," and I'd get the message.

20 And sometimes when I was really  
21 pushing the envelope, she would just look at  
22 me and say nothing. And sometimes that's the  
23 greatest display of intelligence and a great  
24 of sense of humor, is just to smile back at  
25 somebody and say nothing. And she was very,

1 very good at that.

2 I mentioned all my colleagues that  
3 came over here with me from the Assembly. And  
4 I take great joy in reminding all of them, who  
5 were so senior to me at the time in the  
6 Assembly, that they all came in and I am now  
7 senior to all of them. And I used to do that  
8 to Patty all the time.

9 And every now and then something  
10 would come up, and she'd give me a one-liner  
11 back, and the only response I could give her  
12 was, "Well, that may be true, but just  
13 remember you're junior to me." And one day  
14 she looked me right in the eye and she said,  
15 "And, Senator, I very much enjoy being your  
16 junior," as if I were a hundred years older  
17 than she was.

18 And that was her folksy charm that  
19 everybody came to know. That was Patty McGee.  
20 That was just a regular person, but devoted to  
21 the job, passionate about her job. She showed  
22 a strength and a sense of purpose that you  
23 don't often see in our business, because you  
24 knew that she was doing this for a reason  
25 other than self-promotion.

1                   And you could tell, if she was  
2                   talking to somebody, it wouldn't matter if she  
3                   was talking to a Democrat or a Republican.  
4                   When Patty McGee was talking to somebody, she  
5                   was talking to a person.

6                   And when I went down to the  
7                   funeral, I had that same sense when I looked  
8                   around and saw all of the people that came to  
9                   pay tribute to her. What a collection of  
10                  people, different people. And every single  
11                  one of them had, I'm sure, that same thing  
12                  that I said I developed so long ago, was a  
13                  sense of affection for Patty McGee, and in  
14                  their own way, as we do in our own way here.

15                  I only wish -- by way of paying a  
16                  compliment, I only wish I could hear once  
17                  again the words that her chief of staff said  
18                  at that funeral. It was marvelous. It was  
19                  such a wonderful way to capture the spirit of  
20                  Patty McGee. And to see her in her hometown,  
21                  where we don't get to see ourselves or each  
22                  other very often, because we're different  
23                  people up here. Patty was not different when  
24                  she came to Albany. She was not different  
25                  when she was in the Senate.

1                   And so as Senator Bruno mentioned  
2                   in his comments, we do have an empty seat.  
3                   But I know Patty McGee's presence will always  
4                   be felt here.

5                   THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Stavisky.

6                   SENATOR STAVISKY:       Thank you,  
7                   Madam Chairman.   Madam President, rather.  
8                   Sorry.

9                   I served on that subcommittee on  
10                  the nursing shortage with Senator McGee.  And  
11                  when she first started the subcommittee, I  
12                  made my position very clear.  We disagreed on  
13                  one very important issue, the 8:00 a.m.  
14                  meetings.

15                 And one day at one of the 8:00 a.m.  
16                 committee meetings, she had handed me some of  
17                 the bread and said, "Taste it.  Isn't it  
18                 delicious?"  And I must tell you, I lied.  And  
19                 I said, "Yes, it's delicious."  Because I was  
20                 afraid not to say -- to tell the truth.

21                 But this is the way you dealt with  
22                 Pat McGee.  Hearings were held all over the  
23                 state, which she chaired.  And I went out to  
24                 Fredonia and to other places in Western  
25                 New York, and I found it fascinating.  And I

1 was so glad that she had chosen SUNY Fredonia  
2 as a spot for a hearing. And I went to the  
3 other hearings throughout the state.

4 And at these hearings, I must say,  
5 Pat was amazing. Because these were not  
6 hearings, these were roundtable discussions  
7 with people who were invited to speak. But  
8 each one spoke. And there was an interaction  
9 that I've never seen at hearings before.

10 There was an interaction between the person  
11 who was the invitee and Senator McGee.

12 And it was a roundtable, but she  
13 made sure that she got in the middle of the  
14 table so that she could interact with each of  
15 the participants. And it was just the thing  
16 that when I was going to college and I took  
17 some education courses, this is the way you  
18 were supposed to interact in a classroom.

19 And she was doing this -- we had  
20 one in my district, in Queens, and she was  
21 absolutely amazing. She brought a warmth and  
22 a vitality, a sense of energy and exuberance  
23 to what she was doing. And everybody came  
24 away from this hearing with such a wonderful  
25 feeling that perhaps something would be done

1 to help the nursing shortage.

2 And this concern for others just  
3 overflowed into everything that she did. I  
4 enjoyed the time that we spent at these  
5 hearings, and we're going to miss her.

6 Thank you, Madam President.

7 THE PRESIDENT: Senator  
8 Montgomery.

9 SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Yes, Madam  
10 President, thank you.

11 I join my colleagues in expressing  
12 the fact that we miss our colleague very, very  
13 much.

14 And I just want to tell a story.  
15 It was many years ago when, in the old days,  
16 we passed legislation on this side. Fairly  
17 frequently, I shall remind you. And I had a  
18 bill that was related to the way the members  
19 of the Seneca Nation, and I suppose other  
20 tribes in our state, handled their foster care  
21 decisions.

22 And I was invited to come and visit  
23 with members of the nation that took me into  
24 her district. At that time she was in the  
25 Assembly. And even though, you know, I

1       traveled very, very far, my staff and I -- and  
2       it was very, very exciting but really  
3       different to be in Olean and on the  
4       reservation and to deal with the Native  
5       Americans.

6                   And she apparently dealt with them  
7       all of the time. So she very graciously came  
8       to a big event that we had, that they had for  
9       us. And I don't believe we invited former  
10      Senator Present, but we did invite her. She  
11      was, you know, a woman at that time in the  
12      Assembly. And the two of us had a great time  
13      celebrating, with the Seneca Nation,  
14      legislation that was so meaningful to them.

15                   And so I thought -- I never forgot  
16      that. I thought that that was just so  
17      gracious of her. And it was really a  
18      different -- different to be able to have a  
19      sisterhood as a legislator with another woman  
20      in another part of the state, even though she  
21      was Republican. So I appreciated that. And  
22      that's my memory, that sort of set for me, of  
23      a most gracious lady and a wonderful  
24      legislator.

25                   So I wish you continued memories of

1           those good times when we all were able to  
2           enjoy her presence here with us.

3                         Thank you.

4                         THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Flanagan.

5                         SENATOR FLANAGAN:      Thank you,  
6           Madam President.

7                         It's interesting to listen to all  
8           the people talk about sitting next to Senator  
9           McGee. Given the fact that I sit next to  
10          Senator Robach, I really wish I could have sat  
11          next to Senator McGee.

12                        (Laughter.)

13                        SENATOR FLANAGAN:      Got to bust  
14          chops around here and say good things about  
15          our colleagues.

16                        Everybody brings something  
17          different to the equation, in listening to the  
18          comments that were made. Here's how I would  
19          describe Patty McGee. I was elected in the  
20          fall of 1986, she was elected in the early  
21          part of 1987, so I served with her and had  
22          some relationship with her over a long period  
23          of time. And yet I won't stand before this  
24          body and suggest that I knew her as well as  
25          some other people did.

1                   But my remembrances of her are very  
2                   clear and basic and very important. She was a  
3                   lady. She was always a lady. She could be  
4                   irreverent, and she had a wonderful sense of  
5                   humor, but she was always a lady.

6                   She was extraordinarily  
7                   well-respected. And I, like many of us, hope  
8                   that we can always enjoy the respect of our  
9                   colleagues. So that no matter what your  
10                  profession is, if you can do that at the  
11                  beginning of your career and, more  
12                  importantly, at the end of your career, that's  
13                  a hallmark of someone who is a real  
14                  professional.

15                  Her staff, all wonderful people and  
16                  all reflective of her as a person. I think  
17                  you learn a lot about what a Senator or an  
18                  Assembly member is like by the people that  
19                  they have in their office and how those people  
20                  act. So that's a real compliment to her. And  
21                  the other way around; they had a profound  
22                  impact on her.

23                  She served in the Assembly, and a  
24                  number of us served with her in the Assembly,  
25                  I perhaps a little longer than most. She had

1 a wonderful demeanor, but she could drive the  
2 Democrats in the majority absolutely crazy.  
3 She was genteel, she was affable, but she was  
4 persistent. If she wanted to ask questions on  
5 a bill, she could have cared less how long we  
6 were going on, she was going to ask her  
7 questions on a bill and be persistent.

8 Always diplomatic, always  
9 professional, but when she wanted to make her  
10 point, people were going to listen to what  
11 that point was. And she did that many, many,  
12 many times. But always in a nice way. She  
13 may attack your bill, but she would never  
14 attack anyone personally.

15 So part of her tenure in the  
16 Assembly was to play the role of the loyal  
17 opposition, and she did it extraordinarily  
18 well.

19 And two other things about Patty  
20 McGee. The most important I'll save for last,  
21 in my own humble opinion.

22 I don't know if this is folklore or  
23 if it's true, and I would have to perhaps ask  
24 Mr. McGee if this is true. There was a time  
25 in the Assembly I had heard that Patty had a

1 tattoo. So again, I don't know if this is  
2 folklore, but I had the temerity, slash,  
3 stupidity to actually say to her: "Patty, do  
4 you actually have a tattoo?" Now, she tells  
5 me yes. Again, I don't know if it's true.  
6 And I said, "Where the heck is it?" She says:  
7 "None of your damn business."

8 (Laughter.)

9 SENATOR FLANAGAN: And you know,  
10 because you know her, I'm telling you the  
11 truth.

12 Last but not least, I don't think  
13 anybody's said this, she is a perfect  
14 indication that nice guys don't finish last.  
15 She was at the top of her game, she was loved  
16 immensely by people here and in her district.  
17 She is what we should all hope that we can  
18 turn out to be.

19 Thank you, Madam President.

20 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Marchi.

21 SENATOR MARCHI: Madam President,  
22 it must be bewildering to you, staying up  
23 there and yet catching so much of the magic  
24 that seems to flow in an unending web.

25 Malcolm Wilson used to sit up

1       there. Had never been a member of the Senate.  
2       I don't think we participated with him in the  
3       constitutional convention. And in each and  
4       every body, we had an opportunity to know each  
5       other.

6                        So I don't know whether it's the  
7       fortuitous mix of the shape of this chamber,  
8       of the distance that embraces us, of all of  
9       the elements that contribute to what we  
10      recall.

11                      Let me tell you this. The happiest  
12      years that I have spent in my life as a member  
13      of the Legislature were these recent years,  
14      because it -- because I enjoyed the same --  
15      had the same feeling at the very start. And  
16      as time went on, everybody that I had met, and  
17      Senator McGee was an example of it,  
18      demonstrated such a wonderful humanity.

19                      It's not how much we know or how  
20      much we put together or what legislation we  
21      were able to pass, it's what we feel. And  
22      this is what every single member in this  
23      chamber, all of us. And you yourself, Madam  
24      President, just sitting there, I'm sure,  
25      because I remember discussing this very thing

1 in great length with Malcolm Wilson. He sat  
2 up there, but at the same time he caught all  
3 of the feelings that flowed from this group.

4 So all of you, whatever you do, if  
5 you're doing it out of conviction and out of  
6 heart, you're donating a patrimony of  
7 tremendous value. There's no money in the  
8 world that can give you as much happiness in  
9 enjoying this patrimony, this patrimony of  
10 love and affection that we have for each  
11 other.

12 And this does not mean that we have  
13 to march according to a ritual jump. We can  
14 elect to make decisions. And the product, I  
15 think, compares well with any legislative body  
16 in the world. But it's the feeling that if  
17 imparts to each and every one of us.

18 And Senator McGee was really a  
19 very, very enlightened example of it. I  
20 remember very personally things that I  
21 exchanged with her -- as all of you do, I  
22 suppose, that you've had an opportunity to  
23 talk with her -- how prescient and how just  
24 full of life and understanding of humanity  
25 that she represented to us.

1                   So, Madam President, I thank the  
2                   good Lord for his blessing, and I'm glad that  
3                   I'm hear to witness. This is a wealth that we  
4                   all enjoy, to enjoy each other. And she  
5                   provided it in such rich measure. She was  
6                   always a joy to speak with.

7                   And I believe that we someday will  
8                   be in that unknown country, which we will know  
9                   much better, but she can see us. And she must  
10                  be gathering a lot of joy and happiness out of  
11                  the fact that a spark of that eternal  
12                  eventuality that awaits us all is being  
13                  shared. And she must be smiling right now.

14                  THE PRESIDENT:        Senator Golden.

15                  SENATOR GOLDEN:        Thank you, Madam  
16                  President.

17                  I'm one of the newer senators to  
18                  the conference here. And I'm here -- this is  
19                  my second term, my third year. And I had the  
20                  privilege of sitting two seats away from Pat  
21                  McGee.

22                  And if Jim thought that she wanted  
23                  to be next to him, it really had nothing to do  
24                  with Jim. You see, the chair was always like  
25                  this. Do you know why the chair was always

1       like that? We thought she didn't like us,  
2       that she didn't want to talk to me.

3                 But she was a very engaging woman.  
4       She would always want to know about Brooklyn,  
5       about the people in Brooklyn, how could you  
6       represent Brooklyn. And I used to tell her, I  
7       used to get from one part of my district to  
8       the other part of the district, I used to do  
9       it in 30 minutes. She said: "In 30 minutes  
10      you go through your whole district?" She  
11      couldn't understand, she couldn't fathom that.

12                And she loved certain pieces of  
13      legislation. I tried to take a keg-beer piece  
14      of legislation. I thought she was going to  
15      kill me one day. She said, "You can't take  
16      that. That's my legislation." I said, "Okay,  
17      it's yours."

18                And she talked about my -- she  
19      always liked to get into my kids and my  
20      heritage. And that's the type of person, she  
21      wanted to get to understand you and to know  
22      you.

23                But the reason she kept the chair  
24      this way and she always wore the sweater is  
25      because the air conditioner hits her right

1 here on this spot.

2 So what I used to do, I used to  
3 turn the chair around on her, and she used to  
4 come in and she'd be flipping. "Who turned my  
5 chair?" And I used to do it to her all the  
6 time.

7 She was a great lady, she had a  
8 great sense of humor, and she served her  
9 family and her community very, very well and  
10 distinguished well.

11 May God bless her. She served  
12 well. And I think it's Lincoln's quote, by  
13 the people, for the people. By the people --  
14 it's by the people, for the people. She  
15 definitely was that person. She worked for  
16 the people, and she did a great job. God  
17 bless her.

18 THE PRESIDENT: Senator Balboni,  
19 to close.

20 SENATOR BALBONI: Madam  
21 President, this is a fine tradition. This is  
22 a very unique opportunity for us, as we write  
23 history, to put a point on the pencil, to give  
24 color to the personalities that shape our  
25 history of this state. It is a fine

1 tradition.

2           And for the 20-some-odd years that  
3 I have been in this town -- yes, it's been  
4 that long -- you come to take these moments as  
5 opportunities not to judge but, rather,  
6 evaluate the characters that have come through  
7 our lives. And there are moments that give  
8 you a real insight into people, and they don't  
9 change.

10           Patty McGee had qualities that I  
11 think single her out as a model for all of us.  
12 In 1993, I started working out really hard,  
13 because I had to do something with this body.  
14 And I would show up at the gym at 6 o'clock in  
15 the morning. Six o'clock in the morning. I  
16 thought I was the early riser. And so I would  
17 walk -- and one morning I got there, I didn't  
18 have my key. So I went wandering through the  
19 halls of the LOB looking for someone with a  
20 key. And sure enough, there was one office  
21 open. Only one. Pat McGee.

22           And through the years I realized  
23 she always gave her time like that towards  
24 this job.

25           I always judge a legislator by how

1           they treat their staff. Her staff adored her.  
2           Always presenting them with the best  
3           opportunities.

4                       I also judge a person who  
5           represents a district not by how flashy they  
6           are, but by what type of enthusiasm they have  
7           for the district. And lastly, I always judge  
8           a legislator by showing up and not whining.

9                       Pat McGee just showed up ready to  
10          do work without any complaint. I remember  
11          showing up one time, there was a bad rainstorm  
12          and I was in the Assembly and I said, "Oh,  
13          boy, it was so tough getting up here from Long  
14          Island." She said, "Yeah, I had four feet of  
15          snow." Okay, thanks for the perspective.

16                      (Laughter.)

17                      SENATOR BALBONI:        You know, in  
18          this body we get a chance to put everything  
19          aside. We've been here for more than an hour  
20          now, and we are doing now something that's  
21          much, much more precious than money. We're  
22          giving our time. And that's so appropriate,  
23          because that's what Patty did. She gave her  
24          time.

25                      And after all, at the end of the

1 day, that's how we're going to be remembered.  
2 Not by what we wore, not necessarily by what  
3 we said, but the job we did. And this is a  
4 wonderful opportunity, as colleagues, to sit  
5 back and put everything aside and say: Well  
6 done.

7 Thank you, Madam President.

8 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you,  
9 Senator Balboni, for closing for the members.

10 I would be remiss before the vote  
11 if I didn't express, briefly, my deep respect  
12 and great mourning for the loss of my friend  
13 Pat McGee. Her Irish twinkle.

14 As I got to know her, there was no  
15 question in my mind that she was a person to  
16 be reckoned with. Her simple way of getting  
17 her point across never was lost. Neither was  
18 the fact that she always understood the issues  
19 before her. But in her quiet way, she moved  
20 to accomplish what she wanted to do.

21 I will miss her very poignantly  
22 because she's been the lone voice, how many  
23 times, when I say "All in favor please say  
24 aye." I miss her terribly. Because with her  
25 Irish sense of humor, it would always be

1 "Aye," and she'd smile at me and make me  
2 laugh.

3 When I received the call that she  
4 died, I cried. And my husband said to me,  
5 "What happened?" I said, "Pat McGee has  
6 died." He said: "Pat McGee? I've never  
7 heard you mention her." And I said to him,  
8 "Now that she's gone, I appreciate how much we  
9 have lost."

10 And so many of you have said that.  
11 In her quiet way, she never commanded our  
12 attention unless it was to get something done.  
13 But I'm so impressed today and learned so much  
14 about each of you because of your deep respect  
15 and appreciation for a woman whom I will  
16 always hold now, in memory, in the greatest of  
17 esteem.

18 I think the greatest honor we can  
19 give to her memory now is to let her be an  
20 example to all of us of professional public  
21 service.

22 All in favor of this resolution  
23 please signify by saying aye.

24 (Response of "Aye.")

25 THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

1 (No response.)

2 THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is  
3 adopted.

4 Senator Bruno.

5 SENATOR BRUNO: Madam President,  
6 I suggest that we open the sponsorship of this  
7 resolution to all the members in the chamber.  
8 And if anyone would prefer not to be added,  
9 would you just quietly approach the desk.

10 And I would also suggest that we  
11 will adjourn today's session in memory of our  
12 colleague departed, Senator Pat McGee.

13 And thank you, colleagues and  
14 Madam President.

15 THE PRESIDENT: Any member who  
16 does not want to cosponsor this resolution in  
17 memory of Senator Patricia K. McGee, please  
18 notify the desk.

19 Senator Bruno.

20 SENATOR BRUNO: Madam President,  
21 can we stand at ease for just literally a  
22 couple of minutes, and then we'll resume the  
23 Senate procedures.

24 THE PRESIDENT: The Senate stands  
25 at ease.

1                   (Whereupon, the Senate stood at  
2 ease at 4:42 p.m.)

3                   (Whereupon, the Senate reconvened  
4 at 4:48 p.m.)

5                   THE PRESIDENT:       The Senate will  
6 come to order, please.

7                   Senator Skelos.

8                   SENATOR SKELOS:       Madam President,  
9 if we could now go to the noncontroversial  
10 reading of the calendar.

11                  THE PRESIDENT:       The Secretary  
12 will read.

13                  THE SECRETARY:       Calendar Number  
14 251, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 910, an  
15 act to amend the Social Services Law, in  
16 relation to the return of a child.

17                  THE PRESIDENT:       Read the last  
18 section.

19                  THE SECRETARY:       Section 3. This  
20 act shall take effect on the 30th day.

21                  THE PRESIDENT:       Call the roll.

22                       (The Secretary called the roll.)

23                  THE SECRETARY:       Ayes, 59.

24                  THE PRESIDENT:       The bill is  
25 passed.

1                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
2     311, by Senator Larkin, Senate Print 2346, an  
3     act to amend the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering  
4     and Breeding Law and the Tax Law.

5                   THE PRESIDENT:     Read the last  
6     section.

7                   THE SECRETARY:     Section 5. This  
8     act shall take effect on the 120th day.

9                   THE PRESIDENT:     Call the roll.  
10    (The Secretary called the roll.)

11                  THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 59.

12                  THE PRESIDENT:     The bill is  
13    passed.

14                  THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
15    450, by Senator Larkin, Senate Print 1398, an  
16    act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to  
17    making the operation of an ATV upon the real  
18    property of a farm operation a crime.

19                  THE PRESIDENT:     Read the last  
20    section.

21                  THE SECRETARY:     Section 2. This  
22    act shall take effect on the first of  
23    November.

24                  THE PRESIDENT:     Call the roll.  
25    (The Secretary called the roll.)

1 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58. Nays,  
2 1. Senator Duane recorded in the negative.

3 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
4 passed.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 458, by Senator Skelos, Senate Print 2392, an  
7 act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to  
8 assaults at a sports contest.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
10 section.

11 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
12 act shall take effect on the first of  
13 November.

14 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
15 (The Secretary called the roll.)

16 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58. Nays,  
17 1. Senator Montgomery recorded in the  
18 negative.

19 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
20 passed.

21 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
22 459, by Senator Libous, Senate Print 2500, an  
23 act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to the  
24 provision of large quantities.

25 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last

1 section.

2 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
3 act shall take effect on the first of  
4 November.

5 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
6 (The Secretary called the roll.)

7 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

8 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
9 passed.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 470, by Senator Farley, Senate Print 2858, an  
12 act to amend the Environmental Conservation  
13 Law, in relation to making technical  
14 corrections.

15 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
16 section.

17 THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This  
18 act shall take effect immediately.

19 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
20 (The Secretary called the roll.)

21 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

22 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
23 passed.

24 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
25 472, by Senator Marcellino, Senate Print 3248,

1 an act to amend Chapter 203 of the Laws of  
2 1999 amending the Environmental Conservation  
3 Law.

4 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
5 section.

6 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
7 act shall take effect immediately.

8 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
9 (The Secretary called the roll.)

10 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

11 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
12 passed.

13 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
14 500, by Senator Wright, Senate Print 2534, an  
15 act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to the  
16 imposition of sales and compensating use  
17 taxes.

18 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
19 section.

20 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
21 act shall take effect immediately.

22 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
23 (The Secretary called the roll.)

24 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

25 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is

1 passed.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 550, by Senator Maziarz, Senate Print 3337, an  
4 act to amend the Civil Service Law, in  
5 relation to appeals.

6 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
7 section.

8 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
9 act shall take effect immediately.

10 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
11 (The Secretary called the roll.)

12 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

13 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
14 passed.

15 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
16 557, by Senator Volker, Senate Print 3983, an  
17 act in relation to granting certain retirement  
18 benefits.

19 THE PRESIDENT: There is a  
20 home-rule message at the desk.

21 Read the last section.

22 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
23 act shall take effect immediately.

24 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
25 (The Secretary called the roll.)

1 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

2 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
3 passed.

4 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
5 564, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 3216, an  
6 act to amend the General Obligations Law, the  
7 Public Health Law and the Education Law.

8 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
9 section.

10 THE SECRETARY: Section 7. This  
11 act shall take effect immediately.

12 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
13 (The Secretary called the roll.)

14 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

15 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
16 passed.

17 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
18 567, by Senator Volker, Senate Print 278, an  
19 act to amend the Local Finance Law, in  
20 relation to the sale of bonds and notes.

21 THE PRESIDENT: There is a  
22 home-rule message at the desk.

23 Read the last section.

24 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
25 act shall take effect immediately.

1 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

4 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
5 passed.

6 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
7 601, by Senator Marcellino, Senate Print 952A,  
8 an act to amend the Military Law, in relation  
9 to payment of life insurance premiums.

10 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
11 section.

12 THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This  
13 act shall take effect on the 90th day.

14 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.  
15 (The Secretary called the roll.)

16 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

17 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
18 passed.

19 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
20 676, substituted earlier today by Member of  
21 the Assembly Grannis, Assembly Print Number  
22 7708, an act to amend the Insurance Law.

23 THE PRESIDENT: Read the last  
24 section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

3 (The Secretary called the roll.)

4 THE PRESIDENT: Senator  
5 Schneiderman, to explain your vote.

6 SENATOR SCHNEIDERMAN: Thank you,  
7 Madam President.

8 I rise to support this legislation.  
9 Our workers' compensation system, a critical  
10 safety net for injured workers, has to be kept  
11 solvent.

12 But I hope that before -- now that  
13 we have some time after the budget, that we  
14 will take up the critical issue of reforming  
15 New York's workers' compensation system. We  
16 have some of the worst benefits and highest  
17 costs in the country.

18 And it sort of reminds me a little  
19 bit of the discussion we had yesterday about  
20 our health care system. It is something we  
21 have to do. It's been 13 years since benefits  
22 were increased, and yet our businesses bear a  
23 disproportionately high cost.

24 So keeping the system solvent, as  
25 we're doing with this bill, is a step. But

1 let's not let the session expire without  
2 dealing with a fundamental issue that affects  
3 the lives of hundreds of thousands of  
4 New Yorkers, workers and their families.

5 Thank you, Madam President. I vote  
6 in the affirmative.

7 THE PRESIDENT: You will be so  
8 recorded as voting in the affirmative.

9 The Secretary will announce the  
10 results.

11 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

12 THE PRESIDENT: The bill is  
13 passed.

14 Senator Skelos, that completes the  
15 reading of the calendar.

16 SENATOR SKELOS: Thank you, Madam  
17 President.

18 Is there any housekeeping at the  
19 desk?

20 THE PRESIDENT: Yes, there is,  
21 Senator.

22 Senator Marcellino.

23 SENATOR MARCELLINO: Thank you,  
24 Madam President.

25 On behalf of Senator Winner, on

1 page number 11 I offer the following  
2 amendments to Calendar Number 157, Senate  
3 Print Number 1844, and I ask that said bill  
4 retain its place on the Third Reading  
5 Calendar.

6 THE PRESIDENT: The amendments  
7 are received, and the bill will retain its  
8 place on the Third Reading Calendar.

9 SENATOR MARCELLINO: Madam  
10 President, on behalf of Senator Balboni, on  
11 page number 11 I offer the following  
12 amendments to Calendar Number 167, Senate  
13 Print Number 182, and ask that said bill  
14 retain its place on the Third Reading  
15 Calendar.

16 THE PRESIDENT: The amendments  
17 are received, and the bill will retain its  
18 place on the Third Reading Calendar.

19 SENATOR MARCELLINO: Madam  
20 President, on behalf of Senator DeFrancisco,  
21 on page number 34 I offer the following  
22 amendments to Calendar Number 592, Senate  
23 Print Number 48, and ask that said bill retain  
24 its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

25 THE PRESIDENT: The amendments

1 are also received, and the bill will retain  
2 its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

3 Senator Skelos.

4 SENATOR SKELOS: Madam President,  
5 there being no further business to come before  
6 the Senate, I move we stand adjourned in  
7 memory, respect and honor of our good friend  
8 Senator Pat McGee. We stand adjourned until  
9 Wednesday, May 4th, at 11:00 a.m.

10 THE PRESIDENT: On motion, the  
11 Senate now stands adjourned, in memory of our  
12 dear departed friend and colleague Senator  
13 Patricia K. McGee, until Wednesday, May 4th,  
14 at 11:00 a.m.

15 (Whereupon, at 4:55 p.m., the  
16 Senate adjourned.)

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