NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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3:22 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER, Acting President

ANGELO J. APONTE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The Senate will come to order.

(Color guard presents.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: I would like to welcome the cadets: Zin Han, Albaro Pillco, Thomas Macrini, and Jason Chan, from the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, along with Major Mac Brice, Captain Valerie Ricchiuti, and Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Liddle, who will be presenting the colors today.

I also would like to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Vandon Williams, Major Stephen Samuels, Major Sharon Williams, First Lieutenant Audrey Dayton, Cadet Jaretsky Chino, senior member Virginia Ricchiuti, Cadet Ryan Dayton, and Russell Macrini, who are in the gallery with us today.

I would ask everyone present to please rise while they lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

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

(Color guard performs.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you very much.

The invocation today will be delivered by Rabbi Haskell Lookstein of the Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and the principal of the Ramaz School of my district in Manhattan.

Welcome, Rabbi.

RABBI LOOKSTEIN: The Talmud states: Rabbi Hanina Segan ha-Kohanim Omer. Rabbi Hanina, the deputy high priest, said: {in Hebrew} Pray for the welfare of the government, {in Hebrew} for were it not for respect for it, people would swallow one another alive.

Eternal God, in these very difficult days when so many of our citizens are suffering from all kinds of deprivations, we thank You for those who dedicate their lives here to the peaceful ordering of society in New York State.

We thank You for their commitment to justice, fairness and equity for all, for

their devotion to the American ideals of democracy, freedom, opportunity, and equality for all regardless of race, religion, or national origin, and for their concern for the safety of our citizenry in a world in which the opponents of those ideals use violence and terror to, in the words of Rabbi Hanina, swallow us alive and destroy our way of life.

{In Hebrew} Dear God, bless this State Senate and all its members with health and well-being. May their deliberations and decisions help us all to live in a world of happiness, prosperity, and peace.

And let us say amen.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you very much, Rabbi Lookstein.

Call for the reading of the Journal.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, January 10, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Saturday, January 9, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER:

Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Madam President, I have two motions.

First, on behalf of Senator Foley, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate Number 4663.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: So ordered.

SENATOR KLEIN: Next, on behalf of myself, I move that the following bills be discharged from their respective committees

and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate Numbers 1182, 1363C, 1827, 1832, 1841, 1844A, 1854, 2654, 2582, 4164, 4202, 5622, 5754, 5770A, 5931B, and 5934.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: So ordered.

Senator Libous, why do you rise?

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Madam President.

I too, on behalf of Senator DeFrancisco, move that the following bills be discharged from their respective committees and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause. And they would be Senate Bill Numbers 1494, 2038, and 2424.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: So ordered.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Madam President, I believe Senator Volker has a privileged resolution at the desk. I ask that the resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Volker, legislative resolution mourning the death of Joseph A. Tauriello, former New York State Senator.

"WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Joseph A. Tauriello, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

"WHEREAS, A lifelong West Side Buffalo resident, Joseph A. Tauriello attended Grover Cleveland High School and was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point but instead enrolled at the University of Buffalo; and

"WHEREAS, In 1958 Joseph A. Tauriello began a 10-year stint with the Buffalo Fire Department as a firefighter. He eventually rose to the position of arson investigator in the Fire Prevention Bureau; and

"WHEREAS, Inspired by his uncle, a

former councilman and member of Congress, Joseph A. Tauriello won the 27th Ward seat of the Board of Supervisors in 1965, where he was a key figure in bringing off-track betting to Erie County, in Erie County Community College Affairs, and in the long controversy that eventually established the home of the Buffalo Bills in what is now Ralph Wilson Stadium; and

"WHEREAS, In 1973, Joseph A. Tauriello was elected to the New York State Senate and emerged as a major Buffalo voice in the Legislature and served as the minority whip. He was nominated to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in 1980 by former Governor Hugh L. Carey; and

"WHEREAS, A major figure in local and state Democratic politics for more than four decades, Joseph A. Tauriello never lost his political touch. He continued meeting and talking every day with voters in the coffee shops and gathering places in his long-time West Side political base; and

"WHEREAS, Joseph A. Tauriello also had a long relationship with the military,

joining the United States Army and graduating from Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, as a first lieutenant. He later served as company commander of the Third Brigade Headquarters of the New York National Guard's 27th Division; and

"WHEREAS, A member of the Western New York Reserve Officers Association, 74th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association, and the Holy Name Society of Holy Angels Catholic Church, Joseph A. Tauriello was part of a group of politicians, judges, newspapermen and others who gathered each Saturday for lunch and conversation about the affairs of the last week, where his political predictions proved almost always 100 percent accurate; and

"WHEREAS, Joseph A. Tauriello is survived by his brother, Daniel, a sister, Lucille Mancinelli, and his long-time companion, JoAnn R. Joyce, all of whom felt privileged to be part of his life and rejoiced in his many accomplishments; and

"WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and

comforted by a loving family, Joseph A. Tauriello leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Joseph A. Tauriello, former New York State Senator; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph A. Tauriello."

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Volker.

SENATOR VOLKER: Madam President, Joe Tauriello was a wonderful gentleman, a personal friend who I knew even before he was a State Senator. He was a man who was part of a major political family in Western New York. His uncle was a highly rated Congressman who was very close to my father.

And Joe kept in contact with me even after he left the Senate. He was a friend of some people in this chamber, because

it's been a number of years since he left after his appointment by Hugh Carey. But he was the kind of fellow who, if he was your friend, he was your friend.

In fact, he was my friend -- I don't believe there was a political fundraiser that I had that he ever didn't contribute to, even though Joe Tauriello was very much a Democrat.

And he was a good man. His brother Dan many of you would know although you may not have realized it. Dan Tauriello was a Buffalo police officer who was one of the top security people for the governors, starting out, I believe, with Mario Cuomo, going through obviously George Pataki, and retired just a few years ago. But Dan was also one of the highest-ranking intelligence people in the Northeast.

By the way, we notified the family but the family was unable to come up here. Of course most of the family is a little older.

But Joe Tauriello is a guy that people in Buffalo -- I believe many -- will

never forget.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you, Senator Volker.

Senator Farley.

SENATOR FARLEY: Yes, I rise to pay tribute to Joe Tauriello.

He was probably one of the sweetest, nicest men I ever knew. You know, in this house, the collegiality and so forth, Joe Tauriello epitomized that. Everybody loved him on both sides of the aisle.

He was a real dear friend of mine. I kept in touch with him from the day he left the Senate until almost his last few days on this earth.

Joe Tauriello was such a gentle, kind, great guy. He was the epitome of what a good politician should be. Because he really never offended anyone. He believed in his principles. And he was a moderate. And he was a type of guy that I think represents what is the best in public office.

He was a great guy. I really feel bad that the Buffalo area is poorer without

him. And I wish he and his family all the very best. And my sympathy to his brother and to all of his family on this great loss. Joe Tauriello was a great guy.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator Bill Stachowski.

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Yes, Madam President. I too rise to say a few words about Joe Tauriello.

Obviously, Senator Tauriello was gone before I got here, but I knew Joe Tauriello from the city. He was a wonderful human being, a great person to go to for information, always supported you, was a real strong Democrat.

But he always came back to Senate Club dinners, and you could see from the reaction from people on both sides he was a well-liked individual. Didn't make enemies, as Senator Volker stated earlier.

And most important of all is Joe Tauriello was my friend, and I'll miss him.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator Antoine Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Let me just say that it is with a humble heart that I stand today to also offer some kind words for a very distinguished colleague in government and also in the civic community as well.

As a number of folks have stated, that even after he left public service he was very involved civically and professionally. Even as recent as about a year and a half ago, he was out and about doing different things.

So I really had a chance to meet him on other folks' campaigns over the last 10 to 15 years when he would pop in, as Senator Volker talked about. I probably didn't get as much money out of him as Volker probably did, but he did make a couple of deposits.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR THOMPSON: But I am very privileged to serve in the seat now that he held as well, and so many others that he provided a good legacy for as well. So I just

wanted to offer those kind words.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Any other Senators wishing to be heard on the resolution?

Senator Volker.

SENATOR VOLKER: Madam President, may I offer the cosponsorship to anybody that wants to cosponsor it, to the entire chamber, unless somebody says they don't want to. Okay?

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: We will get to that further down the list. Thank you. Certainly, Senator.

The question is on the resolution. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Volker has indicated he

would like to open this resolution up to the entire body for cosponsorship. Anyone wishing not to be included as a cosponsor please notify the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Madam President, I believe there's a resolution by Senator Seward at the desk. I ask that the resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Seward, Legislative Resolution Number 3608, honoring the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard upon the occasion of capturing the 2009 National Color Guard Competition.

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements have inspired and brought pride to our majestic Empire

State; and

"WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard upon the occasion of capturing the 2009 National Color Guard Competition; and

"WHEREAS, From July 9 to 12, 2009, the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard competed in the National Color Guard Competition at Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon, taking first place in five events -- inspection, outdoor practical, indoor practical, the mile run, and written exam, as well as second place in the standard drill and third place in the panel quiz; and

"WHEREAS, In addition, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Macrini won the male Fleetfoot Award for the fastest time in the mile run, and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Albaro Pillco for the highest score in the

written exam; and

"WHEREAS, The first team from the New York Wing and the Northeast Region to win the National Color Guard Competition, the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard were comprised of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Macrini, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Zin Han, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Albaro Pillco, and Cadet Staff Sergeant Jason Chan, and escorted by Major Mac Brice and Captain Valerie Ricchiuti; and

"WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard now stand honorably, with just pride in their accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by their teachers, coaches, family and friends; and

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when young people of

such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, This that Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard upon the occasion of capturing the 2009 National Color Guard Competition, and to extend to them its best wishes for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of their response to a promising future and appreciative of the model they represent for all aspiring young people from the Empire State; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard."

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Seward.

SENATOR SEWARD: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

It's certainly an honor and a privilege for me to rise today to support the resolution that recognizes the members of the New York City Group of the New York Wing Civil Air Patrol Color Guard for capturing the 2009 National Color Guard Competition.

Now, this team, as we saw so well demonstrated here before us as they presented the colors, no doubt and no question in my mind how and why they won first place in five events, second and third place in two other events. It's an impressive team.

This is especially significant because it represents the very first team from the New York Wing and the entire Northeast, for that matter, that has won the National Color Guard Competition. So this is a very special group.

Now, as many of you know, there are a number of our colleagues who are involved in the Civil Air Patrol in one way or another. This is a volunteer, nonprofit auxiliary of

the United States Air Force.

We mainly think of the Civil Air Patrol in their role as providers of a whole array of emergency services to the people of the State of New York, including forest fire protection, disaster relief services, guaranteed communications, aircraft emergency assistance, such as search and rescue missions, those types of things.

But in addition to all of that, the Civil Air Patrol also encourages the activities to help develop young people into responsible citizens, which is primarily done through what I'd have to call the phenomenal cadet program.

Now, the color guard team that we are honoring today is comprised of exceptional young adults from the Civil Air Patrol's cadet program. Now, this program is designed for young adults between the ages of 12 and 18. It aims at essential life-skill development and instills values including teamwork, personal integrity, leadership, respect, self-confidence, just to name a few. And

we've seen all of those characteristics demonstrated by our team today.

You know, Lieutenant Colonel Andy Liddle, who comes from my district, is the regional governmental affairs advisor, and he has gotten me involved in the Civil Air Patrol. And I have come to not only respect and admire the organization but to fully recognize that the Civil Air Patrol is a tremendous asset to the people of the State of New York, and the cadet program is certainly an important part of that.

So I just want to rise and congratulate our outstanding team as well as all of those who are involved in the Civil Air Patrol throughout the State of New York. You have our heartfelt not only congratulations, but our thanks.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you very much, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator Seward, for

acknowledging these young men who have been a prime example of excellence for all of us.

Winning a nationwide competition, coming in at first place obviously sends a message to us as adults and other young people that there are young people who are disciplined and understand what it means to make their communities, their families, and their instructors and officers very proud.

I have the distinct pleasure of knowing that all of them come from Queens, New York. And not to be proprietary, Senator Seward, but it's nice to know that we have good stock.

And so I appreciate the officers for what they've done. Cadet Zin Han, who is from Corona, attends Aviation High School. We have Cadet Albaro Pillco, from Jackson Heights, who attends Aviation. I'm pausing on the next one, because Cadet Thomas Macrini, I told him that I had some reservations on acknowledging him because he went to Holy Cross. And Holy Cross is a direct rival of Christ the King High School, where I went. So

for the record, all my high school friends are probably asking me why I'm acknowledging somebody from Holy Cross.

But Cadet Macrini, good to see you. And also Jason Chan, from Fresh Meadows, from Bayside High School.

You have distinguished yourselves. This is a nice day for you. You've made your officers and those who are here with you very proud. But you have made us proud. And you also allow us to know that the future is great and we have some tremendous opportunity for young people as yourself.

Congratulations to each and every one of you, to your parents, to your friends. And when you leave here, on me, your officers are going to treat you to some nice dinner.

Take care and God bless.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator Farley.

SENATOR FARLEY: Unlike Senator Smith and Senator Seward, I have no connection with the team. But as somebody that watched

them perform and having been in the military and seen a lot of honor guards perform, I never saw such precision in how well you -- I can see why you're national champs. Because I could never perform the way that you did and with your precision as a team.

I congratulate you. It's really something to watch. And we're honored to have you here. Congratulations and thank you for coming.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard on the resolution?

The question is on the resolution. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Seward has indicated he

would like to open this resolution to the entire body for cosponsorship. Anyone wishing to not be included as a cosponsor please notify the desk.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, Madam President. I believe there is a resolution by Senator Thompson at the desk. I ask that the resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Thompson, legislative resolution mourning the death of Dr. William R. Greiner, a man of singular distinction and extraordinary accomplishment.

"WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay proper tribute to those individuals of extraordinary character whose lives exemplified the highest ideals of humanity and whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in the great State of New York; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. William R. Greiner, who went from the first person in his family to attend college, to Yale Law School, to the presidency of the University at Buffalo, died on Saturday, December 19, 2009, at the age of 75; and

"WHEREAS, A native of Meridian, Connecticut, the only child of a blue-collar family, Dr. William R. Greiner worked his way through Wesleyan University and Yale Law, where he earned both a law degree and a master's degree in economics; and

"WHEREAS, After his first job as a professor at the University of Washington, Dr. William R. Greiner came to the University at Buffalo as a law school professor in 1967; and

"WHEREAS, A distinguished educator, Dr. William R. Greiner gradually rose through the administrative ranks at the university, serving as associate provost at the law school, associate vice president for academic affairs, and acting vice president for academic affairs; and

"WHEREAS, In 1984, Dr. William R. Greiner was named provost of the University at Buffalo, becoming the institution's chief academic officer. Seven years later, he became the 13th president of the University at Buffalo; and

"WHEREAS, Throughout his presidency of the largest university in the state system, Dr. William R. Greiner continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence, and diligent leadership in his unwavering service to the University at Buffalo and the local community; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. William R. Greiner directed the comprehensive review of the University at Buffalo's academic mission and administrative structure, made significant advances in the recruitment and retention of quality students and faculty, increased external support, and established corporate partnerships including those developed with IBM and Xerox; and

"WHEREAS, Furthermore, under his luminous direction, five student apartment

complexes, a new Student Union and Commons retail center, an expanded UB Stadium, and a new natural sciences complex, mathematics building, and comprehensive health sciences education center were all completed, greatly improving the campus environment and student life as well as the university's academic and research capabilities; and

"WHEREAS, President Greiner's initiatives to both develop the university and aid in the improvement of the Western New York economy included renewed ties to the region's businesses and industries through the creation of the UB Business Alliance, the Center for Computational Research, the Institute for Research on Lasers, Photonics and Biophotonics, and other organized research and service programs; and

"WHEREAS, In addition to his academic responsibilities, Dr. William R. held numerous positions in local, state and national higher education organizations including the University at Buffalo Foundation, American Council on Education

Commission on Women in Higher Education, New York State Senate Higher Education Advisory committee, Western New York Consortium of Higher Education, Western New York Health Sciences Consortium, Association of American Universities, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. William R. Greiner retired as president of the University at Buffalo in 2003, and from teaching in October of 2009, after 42 years as a brilliant educator and a superlative administrator; and

"WHEREAS Dr. William R. Greiner exhibited uncommon leadership and commitment to making quality educational programs and opportunities available at the University at Buffalo for the benefit of all its students and faculty, the Western New York region, and the State of New York; and

"WHEREAS, Despite his busy professional life, Dr. William R. Greiner was active in several organizations which work to promote economic development throughout

Western New York. He served on the board of directors and the executive committee of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise and served on the Empire State Regional Economic Development Council, the Western New York Economic Development Corporation, and the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council; and

"WHEREAS, Additionally, Dr. William R. Greiner served on several citizens advisory committees and boards related to the healthcare concerns of the Western New York region; and

"WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father, Dr. William R. Greiner embodied countless attributes and truly exemplified the virtues of family, sacrifice, and excellence. He was a beautiful light in the lives of many and served as a constant source of inspiration for his loved ones through his loving, hardworking and selfless example; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. William R. Greiner is

survived by his wife, Carol Morrissey Greiner, one daughter, Susan Keenan, and three sons, Kevin, Terrance and Daniel, as well as 13 grandchildren; and

"WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Dr. William R. Greiner leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Dr. William R. Greiner, a man of singular distinction and extraordinary accomplishment, and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. William R. Greiner."

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes, Madam President. You look so lovely up there. Happy New Year.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Let me just take a brief moment to say a few kind words about a very distinguished gentleman, Dr. Greiner.

Under his guidance, UB became the first American university to establish a branch in China. Under his guidance, UB developed the reputation of one of the nation's best research-intensive public universities. In addition, under his leadership UB developed a world-class medical campus in downtown Buffalo which is growing by leaps and bounds with the help of many members of this body as well.

Under his leadership as well, UB went to Division 1 in sports -- go, UB Bulls. Under his leadership, UB also became really expanded with his tremendous investment in the college dormitories as well, and in fact the student population has grown by leaps and bounds.

I'd like to thank my colleagues

today. I'm grateful to be joined on this resolution by my colleagues from Western New York, Senator Stachowski, Senator Volker, Senator Maziarz, and Senator Young, and invite any of my other colleagues in the Senate to join onto this resolution.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator Stachowski.

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Yes, Madam President. I too would like to rise to say a few words about Dr. Greiner, who did a remarkable job at the University of Buffalo.

He was a terrific law professor at one time, at least so my brother tells me, and I'm sure Senator Volker will add to that. He was an outstanding provost. And then he did just an outstanding job as the president.

He obviously was at the helm when UB made a lot of the growth that they are now enjoying. The medical corridor that Senator Thompson mentioned is one of the really shining lights of the city. It now has spun

off approximately 1250 biotech companies, some very small but some larger, and they are now on a website where people can look and develop a pathway to a job. And I'm sure that that made him very proud.

But one of the things he did that was especially good for the community is he tried to get UB more into the community and he also tried to get the community more interested in UB by taking its sports program to Division 1. And he did it in one big bold step. And everybody thought they're crazy, you know, they're going to take quite a few down years. But fortunately the UB Bulls have had a pretty good run in the MAC.

And I know that Dr. Greiner still went to the games while he was healthy. He enjoyed all the football games and the basketball games. And the fact is that that program is on the map, and it's really through his effort and his push.

And the area lost a really distinguished citizen, a wonderful human being, and his family lost a wonderful loving

father and husband to his wife. His wife Carol is a wonderful person. My best to his family, and I will miss my friend Bill Greiner very much.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you, Senator.

Senator LaValle.

SENATOR LaVALLE: I yield to Senator Volker first.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Volker.

SENATOR VOLKER: Thank you. I was going to yield to Senator LaValle first.

Bill Greiner was a close personal friend, and Carol Greiner both. My wife and I, who's also a Carol, spent a lot of time with the couple at various events, university events, business events, sporting events.

Bill Greiner probably was the first president, certainly the only president in my time that was really involved directly in not just university affairs but in the entire community. He was considered by most people

to be one of the top five or six leaders in the entire Western New York area.

He had an interesting sense of humor. He was very articulate. He knew how to deal with people. And sometimes in Buffalo you'd better know how to deal with people because we have a few problems there occasionally between groups and so forth.

He was a man who I really enjoyed being with, as I enjoyed being with his wife, Carol. In fact, I must confess to you that the best academic dinners that I was ever at were dinners where Bill and Carol Greiner were the hosts. And they always were able to get everybody to speak together and talk about what was going on in the community.

As Senator LaValle will tell you, it was Bill Greiner who, against the wishes of a lot of the old academics, stood up for athletics. And many people thought that he was very over-optimistic and that he would fall on his face and that the university would be embarrassed.

But the truth is that the two

universities surged forward, one happens to be in Senator LaValle's district and the other one, of course, is in Western New York. That's Stony Brook on Long Island and SUNY in Buffalo. Probably the two most important people -- this is in my opinion -- in the development of SUNY sports was Bill Greiner and of course Senator Ken LaValle, because I was right there with him and listened to some of the board meetings, which were really something to listen to many of the old timers say it's not good, it's bad for education.

Bill Greiner will be badly missed not just by the university community but by the entire Buffalo community. And I wish Carol and their entire family the best for the future.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you, Senator Volker.

Senator LaValle.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you, Madam President.

During the years that I was chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher

Education, I had really a great privilege in getting to know both Bill and Carol Greiner. Bill was a very, very interesting individual because he was very outspoken. He had only one agenda, and that was to move forward the UB agenda.

Bill came as dean of the law school and was provost and then became president. And there were a lot of people that were skeptical that a law school professor and dean would lead UB.

It is under Bill Greiner's watch that he moved the agenda from one of undergraduate to graduate programming and to build a synergy between UB and the business community. So that all of the things that we see today in Western New York began under Bill Greiner's watch.

And it was very controversial, because when you move an agenda from one program, meaning undergraduate, to the graduate program, that becomes disruptive with some of the stakeholders or faculty at the university.

Bill Greiner was a real person, loved to play golf, talked about golf, talked about sports. Was able to build the stadium, a 30,000-seat stadium at UB that held the World Games and then was able to -- with very little cost, if any, to the state -- to have a stadium that would move his football team into Division 1.

So he was truly a person who was in the right place at the right time and moved the agenda to where it is today. And we owe Bill Greiner a great debt for doing the things that he did.

Thank you, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Any other Senator wishing to be heard on the resolution?

The question is on the resolution. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Thompson has indicated that he would like to open the resolution up to the entire body for cosponsorship. Anyone wishing to not be included as a cosponsor please notify the desk.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Madam President, before I call up the next resolution, from time to time we are visited in this chamber by very distinguished individuals. Today we have the pleasure of having one such of those individuals with us.

I would like to acknowledge Arturo Vargas, who is the executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials.

Mr. Vargas, good to have you in the chamber with us.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Welcome, Mr. Vargas.

SENATOR SMITH: And I'm not sure why he's standing next to Senator Dilan, but that's okay.

But, Madam President, I believe there's a resolution by Senator Maziarz at this desk, and I ask that that resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption by my friend Senator Maziarz.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Maziarz, Legislative Resolution Number 3540, congratulating the North Tonawanda High School Football Team and Head Coach Eric Jantzi upon the occasion of capturing the 2009 New York State Class AA Championship.

"WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

"WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of

the young people of this state, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success, and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

"WHEREAS, The Section VI champions, the North Tonawanda Lumberjacks High School Football Team, defeated New Rochelle High School 14-7 in the Syracuse Carrier Dome to finish the season with a perfect 13-0 record and capture the 2009 New York State AA Championship; and

"WHEREAS, The athletic talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of Head Coach Eric Jantzi and his team of outstanding assistant coaches, skilled and inspirational tutors, respected for their ability to develop potential into excellence; and

"WHEREAS, The team's overall record is outstanding, and the team members were loyally and enthusiastically supported by family, fans, friends and the community at

large; and

"WHEREAS, The North Tonawanda High School Football Team benefited especially from the constant support and encouragement of a dedicated and talented cheerleading squad, who rooted the team on with great enthusiasm both at home and on the road; and

"WHEREAS, The hallmarks of the North Tonawanda High School Football Team, from the opening game of the season to participation in the championship, were a brotherhood of athletic ability, of good sportsmanship, of honor and of scholarship, demonstrating that these team players are second to none; and

"WHEREAS, Athletically and academically, the team members have proven themselves to be an unbeatable combination of talents, reflecting favorably on North Tonawanda High School; and

"WHEREAS, Head Coach Eric Jantzi and his dedicated staff have done a superb job in guiding, molding and inspiring the team members toward their goals; and

"WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Head Coach Eric Jantzi and the outstanding athletes on the North Tonawanda High School Football Team have clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the North Tonawanda High School Football Team, its members -- Steve Kijowski, James Aquilina, Joe Montesanti, Jake Brock, Josh Kern, Mike Tuzzo, Darrik Bloomfield, Billy Connors, Bruce Hakes, Brendan Wingrove, Tom Sell, Steve Stefanski, Rob Wiklerski, Dave DiPietro, Aaron Davis, Devan Moultne, Luke Zacher, Zach Christopher, Travis Charsley, Max Jackson, Shaun Schottmiller, Ryan Daigler, Dan Montesanti, Sean McDonough, Joe Medina, Travis Barke, Mitch Milbrand, Casey Shreve, Clayton Schmidt, Jeff Verrall, Jeff Schinaman, T.J. Haug, Nick Gonnella, Jim Rogers, Mike Grimaldi, Jesse Bradley, Jim Gigliotti, Jordan

Marrs, Randy Miskho, Ben Kanaley, Brennan Perkins, Cody Klawiter, Collin O'Donnell, Kyle Shreve, Justin Sherk, Tyler Body, Kevin VanHise, Josh Fritz, Brandon Camarre, and Andrew Mellott -- Assistant Coaches Rick Tomm, Corey Zayatz, Chris Cook, Erik O'Bryan, Dave Celeste, Kevin Pieper, Brian Hoffman, Todd O'Bryan, Archie O'Bryan and Ben Ladik and Head Coach Eric Jantzi on their outstanding season and overall team record; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the North Tonawanda High School Football Team, Assistant Coaches Rick Tomm, Corey Zayatz, Chris Cook, Erik O'Bryan, Dave Celeste, Kevin Pieper, Brian Hoffman, Todd O'Bryan, Archie O'Bryan and Ben Ladik, Head Coach Eric Jantzi, North Tonawanda School Superintendent Vincent Vecchiarella, North Tonawanda High School Principal James Fisher, North Tonawanda Board of Education President Jeff Glatz and North Tonawanda High School Football Booster Club President Paul Frye."

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER:

Senator Maziarz.

SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you very much, Madam President.

At long last we get to the resolution that I'm very proud of today congratulating my alma mater, the North Tonawanda Lumberjacks, on being the Class AA New York State 2009 Football Champions.

Now, I have to tell you that there's a colleague of mine, Senator DeFrancisco, who is in an absolute state of disbelief right now because Senator DeFrancisco can't believe that there's a championship anywhere in New York State that's not from Syracuse or Central New York.

But I do want to welcome school superintendent Vince Vecchiarella -- Superintendent, if you would please stand up -- and Coach Eric Jantzi. Coach, would you please stand up?

The North Tonawanda Lumberjacks went 13 and 0 this year, 13-0, an absolutely perfect season. And they did it with a great

team, a great team of players and a great team of cheerleaders who were equally important to this championship. They brought a great deal of pride and recognition to the City of North Tonawanda. Why don't all of you stand up?

Thank you all for being here. I am proud to call North Tonawanda my home. I'm proud to call this high school my alma mater.

You've done something that has never been done before in the history of our school and our community. You had a perfect season and you brought home a championship, which I know was historical and which will go down as a great deal of pride for everyone in the community of North Tonawanda. So congratulations to each and every one of you.

And also to my good friend Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, who has the -- I don't know, I guess you would call it the unfortunate honor of representing the New Rochelle Huguenots, who were no match for North Tonawanda, no match at all for North Tonawanda. Even though they were from

Westchester, even though they had more money than we had, even though they eat lobster and we eat chicken, we beat them anyway. Right? All right.

Congratulations, team. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Bill Stachowski, to refute the lobster reference, please.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Madam President, I too would like to rise and congratulate the Lumberjacks from North Tonawanda. They had a truly outstanding season. They obviously have a great group of young men and obviously their cheerleaders, I believe, are with them also.

But the coaching staff did a great job. These kids play very, very hard. I had the opportunity to see some of their games on TV on replay, and they have a great team. They work very hard.

And one thing about North

Tonawanda's team that even if they don't happen to win their division every year is they are always known as a very tough team to play, because they're tough kids from a tough area. And they should be proud of their accomplishments.

And the one thing that maybe Senator Maziarz didn't tell you is the one thing that's most important about winning a state championship is you are now the state champions. All through your life, you will always be a member of the state championship team. No one can ever take that away from you. So it's the memory from this season, all those memories you'll share with your friends. And they will be your friends for your life. It's the greatest thing about the whole experience.

So I wish you luck in whatever you do in your future. I congratulate you again on the job well done, your coach and superintendent and all the people involved, and your parents especially, congratulations to all the people involved with the North

Tonawanda High School Football Team.

Congratulations. Great job.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Thank you.

I just want to thank all of you of the North Tonawanda Lumberjacks. You don't know how happy you've made George Maziarz. Year after year he's had to listen to these speeches that I'd make about the teams from my area, and he always would remark "Isn't there any champions from anywhere outside of Syracuse?" So he wanted me to be sure I was here today.

What I know North Tonawanda for is a great football player by the name of Rick Cassata. I don't know if anybody knows the family. Rick and I played baseball at Syracuse University together. And every time I think of the name North Tonawanda, I think of Rick, who was a great player. He played at Syracuse and then went on to Canadian football, I think, for a period of time.

The other thing, it's interesting that you beat New Rochelle. A few years ago my high school team from CBA, Christian Brothers Academy -- I don't know if you've ever played them or know of them -- but they had a game against New Rochelle as well in the Carrier Dome, and CBA won. And there was a player there, a young player that fortunately for our team -- not fortunately for New Rochelle -- had an injury about halfway through and he couldn't finish the game. CBA ended up winning with a quarterback by the name of Greg Paulus, who went on to play basketball at Duke.

But his story is yesterday if you were watching TV, that same very player, Ray Rice, broke up the center of the line in the first touch -- I think it was 80-some-odd yards. So maybe one of you will be doing that in a pro team.

But more importantly, you have shown what teamwork is all about, you've shown what hard work is all about. And whatever happens in the future, as Senator Stachowski

says, no one can take it away from you. And you'll always have these people that are surrounding you now as your closest friends for life.

So congratulations, and thank you again on behalf of Senator Maziarz.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Senator Hassell-Thompson.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to also add my congratulations to Tonawanda, and let me tell you why.

New Rochelle beats Mount Vernon ever single year historically for the last fifty years. So anybody who beats the Huguenots is my friend.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Having said that -- having said that, we all owe congratulations to whomever wins in this state. We're very proud of our young men and women who play sports and who play well. And as the state champions, I want to add my

congratulations very seriously.

But I meant that about the Huguenots.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Things are getting a little personal here.

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer.

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Whoa. Senator Hassell-Thompson. And there's good reason why the New Rochelle team has been winning all those years.

But I'll tell you something, guys. I applaud what you -- as you probably figured out, I'm the Senator from New Rochelle. But I know we've had a pretty good run. And so I'm very proud of you.

I did team sports in high school and college, and I know the work that goes in. And I know, to address what's been said earlier, the camaraderie that gets developed. And it's very meaningful to be able to have worked collaboratively in a team manner. In fact, as you go forward in life, that particular skill of being able to work

together cooperatively and collaboratively is probably the thing that's going to be the most valuable lesson you've learned.

But I am here to applaud you, to say I know the hard work you've done. It really was quite an achievement to beat New Rochelle. And I wish each one of you a very, very full future, a happy future.

Thanks.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Thank you.

Any other Senators wish to be heard to defend your teams?

The question is on the resolution. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Maziarz has indicated that he would like to open the resolution up to the

entire body for cosponsorship. Anyone wishing to not be included as a cosponsor please notify the desk.

And congratulations for your fine win. Thank you, gentlemen.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Addabbo.

SENATOR ADDABBO: Madam President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: Senator Addabbo, the desk is clear.

SENATOR ADDABBO: There being no business at the desk, I move that we adjourn till Tuesday, January 12th, at 10:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT KRUEGER: There being no further business to come before the Senate, on motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 4:18 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)