NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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3:53 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR NEIL D. BRESLIN, Acting President

ANGELO J. APONTE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Senate will please come to order.

I ask all to rise and repeat with me the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: In the absence of clergy, may we bow our heads for a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, the assemblage respected a moment of silence.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The reading of the Journal.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, March 1, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, February 28, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe there's a report of the Finance Committee at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: There is a report of the Finance Committee.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Kruger, from the Committee on Finance, reports the following nominations.

As a member of the Battery Park City Authority, William C. Thompson, Jr., of New York City.

As a member of the New York State Bridge Authority, Roger P. Higgins, of New Hamburg.

As a member of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, Philip J. Tantillo, of Elma.

As a member of the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, Frank Vitagliano, Jr., of Silver Springs.

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York, Valerie Lancaster-Beal, of New York City.

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, Ronald Ehrenberg, of Ithaca.

As members of the Correction Medical Review Board, Allison Bishop, of Freeport; Marjorie A. Blieka, of Laurel Hollow; and Bruce Howard David, M.D., of New York City.

As members of the Small Business Advisory Board, Stanley Grayson, of New York City; William J. Grinker, of Brooklyn; and Carey F. Staller, of Old Field.

As members of the State Banking Board, Wilbur Klatsky, of Shoreham; Peter Nicholas Kourides, of Rye; and Florian Strassberger, of West Harrison.

As members of the Empire State Plaza Art Commission, Cynthia B. Altman, of Scarborough; Jonathan Dale Farkas, of New York City; Louis Grachos, of Buffalo; Elizabeth Kujawski, of New York City; Christine Miles, of Albany; and Deborah Ronnen, of Rochester.

As a member of the Stewart Airport Commission, Christopher A. White, of New Paltz.

And as members of the Citizens Policy and Complaint Review Council, John Theodore Hilscher, of Hannacroix, and Thomas K. Cross, LaGrangeville.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Kruger.

SENATOR CARL KRUGER: Thank you, Mr. President. Will you please move those nominations.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The question is on the nominations. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The motion carries. The nominations are confirmed.

Returning to the order of business, reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from

state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe Senator Sampson has a resolution at the desk. I ask that the resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption. And I believe Senator Diaz wants to speak on this resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein, has this resolution been deemed privileged and submitted by the office of the Temporary President?

SENATOR KLEIN: Yes, it has, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Sampson, legislative resolution expressing sincerest heartfelt condolences to the victims of the devastating magnitude 8.8 earthquake and tsunami which hit Chile on February 27, 2010.

"WHEREAS, On February 27, 2010, a magnitude 8.8 earthquake struck the coast of

Chile. This horrific natural disaster has taken the lives of at least 700 people and has displaced more than 2 million Chileans; and

"WHEREAS, The Chilean earthquake was followed by more than 76 aftershocks greater than 4.9 magnitude and by a tsunami that struck the coast of Chile and some of Chile's Pacific island communities, causing loss of life and property damage; and

"WHEREAS, This devastating earthquake and tsunami are estimated to have caused as much as $30 billion in damage to Chile's economy, more than half of which is from the State of Santiago, which contains Chile's capital, Santiago; and

"WHEREAS, New York State and particularly New York City are home to a large and thriving community of Chileans. And this Legislative Body joins those communities in solidarity during this time of sorrow; and

"WHEREAS, The Chilean community of the State of New York maintains close ties with family and friends in their native land and are concerned about their health, safety, and quality of life; and

"WHEREAS, This natural catastrophe was 500 times more powerful than the devastating Haitian earthquake of January 12, 2010, but by great good fortune, the loss of life is thankfully much less; and

"WHEREAS, The United States has prepositioned resources to assist Chile if, or when, it asks for international assistance; and

"WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the epic devastation that has been and continues to be caused by the natural disaster that hit Chile, and particularly the City of Concepcion and the Province of Santiago, and the far-reaching loss of life and damage that has been sustained by the victims of this tragedy throughout the country of Chile; and

"WHEREAS, On behalf of the people of the State of New York, the members of this Legislative Body offer their deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who were killed or injured, and pledge their heartfelt support through this time of grief, sorrow, and rebuilding; and

"WHEREAS, Above all else, the generous people of the State of New York, as represented by this Legislative Body, will be steadfast in their solidarity with the victims of this tragedy until stability returns to their country and hope is restored to their lives; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to express sincerest heartfelt condolences to the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit the country of Chile, and to encourage New York's citizens, nonprofit humanitarian organizations, the state and governmental subdivisions to render humanitarian aid to our neighbors in Chile; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Chilean Consul-General in New York City; the Chilean President, the Honorable Michelle Bachelet; and the Chilean President-Elect, Sebastian Pinera."

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Diaz.

SENATOR DIAZ: Thank you,

Mr. President.

Mr. President, as you know, Haiti some time ago, a few months ago, was devastated by a hurricane {sic}. And the love and the humanitarian action of the people of the State of New York and this body was great. I remember that I conducted a marathon in the Bronx, and even our Governor, Governor David Paterson, showed over there to help me publicly ask for help.

So we all know that the people of the State of New York and the members of this body, when there is -- when we have been needed, we have been there.

Now, on February 27th, Chile was devastated. A hurricane {sic} of a magnitude of 8.8 -- that was a biggie. And I just want to ask, to all of you -- to thank you first, all of you, for your help, for your prayers, for all the things that you do when times like this come. And that the same way we have done it for every other country and every other city, now Chile and the Chilean people are in desperate need.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I thank

you one more time. And I thank you, Mr. President. And I am just asking, I'm trying to encourage the people of New York, the not-for-profit humanitarian organizations, the state, and governmental agencies to render whatever humanitarian help we could do for Chile and for the Chilean people.

There is many, many, many Chilean people living in the State of New York. And this body has always, has always been there for the needy people.

So thank you for this opportunity. And one more time, I thank you all, ladies and gentlemen, and I ask you to join me in this resolution and to be part of it, and to help and to pray, to pray for the people of Chile that are going through difficult times.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Diaz.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN:

Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Sampson has indicated that he would like to open this resolution up to the entire body for cosponsorship. Any Senator wishing not to be on the resolution please signify that fact by coming to the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe Senator Sampson has another resolution at the desk. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein, has this resolution been deemed privileged and submitted by the office of the Temporary President?

SENATOR KLEIN: Yes, it has, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator

Sampson, Legislative Resolution Number 4040, memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim March 6, 2010, as Lymphedema Awareness Day in the State of New York.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senators Sampson and Adams have indicated that they would like to open this resolution up to the entire body for cosponsorship. Any Senator wishing to not be on the resolution please inform the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe Senator Stavisky has a resolution at the desk. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN:

Senator Klein, has this resolution been deemed privileged and submitted to the office of the Temporary President?

SENATOR KLEIN: Yes, it has, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Stavisky, Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly providing for the election of six Regents of the University of the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will call the roll on the concurrent resolution.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, will you please recognize Senator Larkin.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Excuse me. Senator Larkin.

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, to be appointed to this position is very, very important to all the members of our state. It's also important that they, in their capacity as this appointed

official, that they positively respond to the constituents.

Now, in my district, the Hudson Valley, Mr. Phillips met with us and the Chancellor, and she assured us that not only would things change but they would be at the next meeting of the whole Hudson Valley, seven counties. It came and it went, and we got nothing from Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Phillips has never showed up at one of our meetings, our annual or quarterly, never has responded to correspondence I sent to him. And so I'm offended that they want to reappoint somebody who just cast aside seven counties in the Hudson Valley.

This is a serious appointment. This is a very responsible appointment. But there's no positive response of what the people of the Hudson Valley need. The commitments that were made by the Chancellor, when she said "We will be there, we will answer you, and we will do this, this, this" -- fine. Talk is cheap. People in the Hudson Valley are asking a lot of questions: What do you do with Congress? What are you

doing with the state? But there was nobody there to respond.

So in all good conscience, if we're putting all of them on the same ballot, I have to vote no. Why? Because we've been let down. We've had someone who was appointed, now wants to be reelected, and he hasn't fulfilled his obligations.

And everybody said, "We will. We understand that we weren't there, but we'll make it." Mr. President and my colleagues, how do you vote for someone who doesn't fulfill his responsibilities? I say no.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Larkin.

Senator Maziarz.

SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

A little bit of the opposite end of the spectrum of my good colleague Senator Larkin.

I rise to speak in favor of one of these appointments, Bob Bennett from Western New York, a former chancellor of the Board of Regents.

Bob Bennett is extremely positive for the Western New York community. Whenever you want to meet with Regent Bennett, invite him into the schools, he's always been extremely accommodating in just returning phone calls, willing to meet with individual constituents, entire school districts. He visits schools throughout Western New York.

I don't think there's any request that I have ever made of Regent Bob Bennett that he has not responded to in most instances, when he could, in a very favorable and positive way.

So, Mr. President, we have to vote on all of these individuals together, and I just want to put in a very positive word for Robert Bennett from Erie County for his reappointment as a Regent to the State Education Department.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Maziarz.

Senator Marcellino.

SENATOR MARCELLINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I also rise in a positive vein, although I do recognize my learned colleague Senator Larkin's comments and I do appreciate his point of view. If you have someone who has said that they will do certain things and then don't fulfill their obligations, I agree you want to speak up and, in his case, vote against.

I, on the other hand, have a Regent, Roger Tilles, who is from Nassau County and has been just the opposite -- been attentive, been outgoing, willing to meet with every school group and PTA and school board that you could name, has been around the district, been around the state, thoroughly enjoys his job and I think does it with honor and with credibility.

He, I believe, is the only Regent with children in the school systems, actually has children in the public schools. So I think that's a grounds alone to keep him there, because it brings the perspective of a parent to the situation and to the Board of Regents.

Roger is a very capable fellow, and

I know him for a long period of time. He's honorable, he's capable. His family have been well-known. He used to be the president of Long Island University, so he is known for his attention to educational matters both at the secondary, elementary, and the upper levels.

He is an excellent Regent, has acquitted himself well and I know will acquit himself in the future very well. He is an excellent appointment, and I'm proud to support him.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Marcellino.

Senator Ranzenhofer.

SENATOR RANZENHOFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd also like to rise in support of one of Regents, Robert Bennett, who is a resident of my district.

I've only been in the Senate here for a short time, but in the 13 months that I've been working with Mr. Bennett, he is very attentive to the needs of the district. We had a meeting just a couple of weeks ago where

he didn't have to attend, but not only did he attend but he was one of the leaders at the forum.

He is known throughout Western New York for his leadership, for his expertise. He has been a Regent for a number of years and just has a reputation that is beyond reproach, will continue, in my judgment, to do an excellent job representing the State of New York.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Ranzenhofer.

Senator LaValle.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I think it has been a long time since this house has passed a concurrent resolution to deal with the election of the members of the Board of Regents. I think Warren Anderson was the majority leader the last time that this was accomplished.

I want to speak on the reelection of Roger Tilles, who has spent a good part of his life, both in the State of Michigan and

here in the State of New York, dealing with education issues.

Roger has distinguished himself in many ways. One, I believe we in the Tenth Judicial District are very, very fortunate to have such a hardworking and dedicated Regent.

A lot of people in the State of New York do not know that there is a Board of Regents and that they have, in their judicial district, a Regent. We, on Long Island, I think a high percentage of people know of the work of Roger Tilles. Whenever there's a meeting, a gathering on education issues, Roger is there, articulates on the board point of view for the people in the Tenth Judicial District.

He is a smart guy who brings a lot of class to the Board of Regents, and we are indeed fortunate to, by concurrent resolution, reelect Roger Tilles.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator LaValle.

Senator Little.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you,

Mr. President.

I rise in support of Regent James Dawson, who is from the town of Peru and has been a member of the Board of Regents -- I believe this will be his fourth term, at least his third term, if not his fourth term, in office.

And in that time, despite the fact that his Regents school district I believe covers 170 school districts or something and is one of the largest in the state, he visits each of those schools every year and has certainly been available to anyone who wanted to talk to him about issues that were important to their school.

So I appreciate his attentiveness, and I also appreciate his experience in the elementary and secondary schools as well as he has served as a professor at SUNY Plattsburgh in their geology department and certainly knows the issues at our SUNY system as well.

So I thank him for his work in the past, and I am proud and pleased to stand in support of him for another term on the Board of Regents.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Little.

Senator Stewart-Cousins.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to, I'm sorry to say, disagree with my good friend and colleague Senator Larkin with regard to my constituent and trustee Harry Phillips.

He has been extraordinary in terms of being available. I was surprised, actually, to hear what has happened. And I can only say is that whether it is a community meeting about what's going on in the present or the future, the focus on technology, the focus on creating opportunities, the focus on keeping ahead of the curve has always been what has underscored what Trustee Phillips has brought to the Regents.

So I certainly wholeheartedly endorse his reappointment and certainly will work with Senator Larkin to make sure that he has the great experience that I've had with Regent Harry Phillips.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

Senator Stavisky, to close.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

This is a unique situation where Regents can be chosen either through a joint session or by concurrent resolution. And I'm delighted that we have chosen this pathway this year, because it makes it almost more personal.

We have six Regents being reappointed today. And if you think about it, they bring a sense of concern for young people, a spirit of volunteering. They don't get paid, they get reimbursed for actual expenses. This is an unpaid position, a position that goes back, incidentally, to the days of Alexander Hamilton, who served as a Regent of the State of New York.

The history is a long and glorious one. They have a caring attitude toward young people. But for the most part, they are available to meet with their constituencies. And I will absolutely call Regent Phillips to

find out what the problem is, because I am sure that he is as concerned as everybody else about the future of young people.

But think about the variety of the people who we are confirming here today. We have the president, for example, Karen Brooks Hopkins, who heads the Brooklyn Academy of Music, BAM. James Dawson is a geologist. Robert Bennett was the CEO of a large not-for-profit. Harry Phillips, an insurance broker.

Roger Tilles, a lawyer and an investment banker. And let me add one other job that he held; he worked for the Michigan Legislature. So he understands the role of the Legislature and the individual legislators. He's an attorney who worked I believe for the speaker of the Michigan State House.

And we have Dr. Lester Young, who lives in my district, a respected -- retired, but respected educator. He was a community school district superintendent who rose through the ranks to become a leading educator in New York State.

So I am delighted to support all six of the nominees. I think they bring dignity and grace and dedication to the office.

And all you have to do is go across the street to the State Education Department, attend one of their meetings, and everything is so seeped in history that you watch the deliberations and you realize this is a history that goes back to the founding of our nation. And I'm just delighted that today we're going to continue that tradition as we confirm, in a concurrent resolution, these six individuals.

So thank you, Mr. President, and I move the nominations.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Stavisky.

The Secretary will call the roll on the concurrent resolution.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move that we pass the Resolution Calendar in its entirety, with the exception of Senate Resolutions 3646, 4062, 4067, and 4086.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: All those in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar in its entirety, with the exception of Senate Resolutions 3646, 4062, 4067 and 4086, please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move we take up Senate Resolution Number 4086, by Senator Sampson. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senators Sampson and Adams, legislative resolution honoring New York Police Department Inspector Timothy Pearson upon the occasion of his selection as Person of the Year by the Guardians Association of the New York City Police Department on March 5, 2010.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Are there any Senators wishing to be heard on the resolution?

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move we take up my resolution, Senate Resolution 4062. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Klein, Legislative Resolution Number 4062, commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the New York State Consumer Protection Board.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you very, much, Mr. President.

I'm proud to sponsor this resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of the New York State Consumer Protection Board. Since 1970, the New York State Consumer Protection Board has worked very diligently to protect, educate, and represent the consumers of our state.

I know firsthand. One of the pieces of legislation that I'm very proud of that I worked very, very closely with the Consumer Protection Board is New York State's "Do Not Call" List. I sponsored the bill in the Assembly at the time; Senator Chuck Fuschillo sponsored the bill in this house. And it's proved to be a very, very effective

tool in curbing all of those unwanted telemarketing calls. As a matter of fact, the state law in New York was so successful that it really proved to be a model for national legislation which is now in effect.

Again, they have done such a great job over their 40 years, the Consumer Protection Board, in calling attention to a whole range of issues -- predatory lending, identity theft, personal privacy issues -- that I'm proud to recognize them on their 40th anniversary.

Also, I want to recognize a special guest we have with us in the chamber today, Mindy Bockstein, who is the chairperson and executive director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board. I know Mindy has been, over the years, a dedicated public servant. I remember when she worked for Dan Feldman as his counsel in the State Assembly. And she's still serving our great state in her new capacity.

I thank you, Mindy.

And I thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Oppenheimer, on the resolution.

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: On the resolution, please.

Harry Phillips has been our Regent in Westchester County. And I was listening to Senator Larkin, and there may have been some disagreements there as far as perhaps him not being as available up there. But I can only say there is no one more available in my county. And whenever I call upon him, he is always available.

And his expertise in the area of computer science and his wish to see every child in the State of New York educated completely in the computer and, you know, the world that is going to be facing them in the future. And he wants every child to be totally computer literate.

So I feel he's an important member of the Regents. And his particular expertise I think is something that we have to certainly focus our attention on in coming years. So I'm very happy to support Harry Phillips.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Oppenheimer, your comments will be incorporated by reference to the concurrent resolution on the Regents.

Now we are back to Resolution 4062. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I have one brief announcement.

We were unable to do it yesterday because we didn't know it at the time, but I want to congratulate one of our colleagues from Buffalo and Niagara. Yesterday was his

40th birthday. Senator Antoine Thompson, everyone.

(Applause.)

SENATOR KLEIN: Also, Mr. President, at this time if you can recognize Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, I believe she has some special guests she'd like to introduce.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am just rising to recognize the young people from Roosevelt High School of Yonkers, New York, who are here with their teacher, Mr. Frank Leonetti. The three students -- Maneka Phiri, Dominique Seabrooks, Shanice Martin -- are part of a Skills USA program.

Roosevelt has been outstanding in participating in Skills USA and has brought their message of teen dating violence and how we must not ever, ever, ever think that we should be exposed to dating violence to their peers.

The Skills USA team has gone from Roosevelt across the country and has come in second last year. I think these young ladies will do it again and maybe even come in first.

But what's most important is that they're starting at a very young age to be advocates and to make sure that their peers understand that it is never acceptable to be abused, even -- certainly -- not in the name of love. So I wanted to congratulate them.

They're also here supporting a bill that Senator Maziarz is sponsoring, and I'm a cosponsor, with many of my colleagues, and that's Senate Bill 2537, which asks that information about dating violence be included in the curriculum.

They understand that the economics of our time might not allow for a complete curriculum change, and they are now working to create policy that will just be part of what happens when kids go to school from 7 to 12 to know that they are very precious and need never be subjected to violence.

So I did want to recognize these three young ladies and their teacher and thank

them for taking the word about teen violence and teen dating to their peers. Thank you so much for your advocacy.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

And congratulations.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move we take up Senate Resolution Number 4067, by Senator Thompson. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Thompson, Legislative Resolution Number 4067, memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim March 2, 2010, as Minority/Women Business Enterprise Awareness Day in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you,

Mr. President. I am very humbled to be here today to have the opportunity to speak on a very important resolution. Today is Minority and Women Business Enterprise Awareness Day in the State Capitol. And we have businesspeople here from all over the state, from the state line, from one end of the state to the other end of the state, from Buffalo all the way to Long Island.

And these businesspeople, both men and women, from every walk of life are in the State Capitol pushing hard for expansion of economic opportunities for minority- and women-owned business enterprise development in this state.

And so I'm really happy about today. This has been a long time coming. Many women-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses have struggled for years to have their fair share to access, to the procurement market -- but not only as contractors and construction firms but also as architects and engineers, investment companies. And so I'm really thrilled about this opportunity.

Last year we were able to work

together to make sure that we passed more than four pieces of legislation through this Senate. In one year last year we were able to do that to help minority- and women-owned businesses throughout this state.

But we still have a lot of work to do. And so today businesspeople came from throughout the state saying that they want to take advantage of the opportunities that this state has to offer. And I say to them thank you.

And to my colleagues who have worked hard -- my colleague Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who is the cochair of the MWBE Task Force in the Senate, also my colleague Ruth Hassell-Thompson, who also has been fighting this fight -- in addition to so many people in this chamber who fought so hard for so many years.

We have a big job this year. People want to reform Article 15A, we want to give it some more teeth, we want to expand the road to opportunity, we want to make sure that we increase the level of participation for qualified minority- and women-owned

businesses.

I can tell you, in closing, that this is a tremendous day. And when I look at the women builders group and I look at the various construction and investment firm business owners that are here today, I know that we are on the right track. And this is the third wave of the civil rights movement in the United States of America, and it has landed in Albany. And I'm telling you, I am so happy to see it.

Thank you, and God bless.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Thompson has indicated that he would like to open this resolution up to

the entire body for cosponsorship. Any Senator wishing to not be on the resolution please inform the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, can we please take up Senate Resolution 3646, by Senator Larkin. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Larkin, Legislative Resolution Number 3646, commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights that began on Sunday, March 7, 1965.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Larkin.

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, it just seems like yesterday when this march took place. Mr. Costa had a full head of hair. I figure I'd get somebody woke up.

You know, I look back on that march

and with thinking about what happened, you know, we talk about the 7th, we talk about the 21st when it started. But, you know, the 14th of March, 1965, a chief of police by the name of Bull Connor had a bullhorn and had hoses on a bridge. And as the marchers came to the bridge, they blew them off with the hoses, and everything was gone.

About three days later, in Washington, the Army Chief of Staff called a meeting of quite a few people and said, "We're going back." And, specifically: "Bill Larkin, you're going back tomorrow. And you'll meet with the governor and all others, and then we'll plan how this procession," as he called it, would start.

I had the fortune of going to see a full colonel in the National Guard of Alabama, told him what my mission was, that I needed to see the governor of the State of Alabama and present him.

Mr. Wallace took the proclamation from the President of the United States and he said, "Here, throw it in the fire. We won't do anything."

Well, at midnight I went back and I said, "Here are your orders, and you're activated." And the governor was very shrewd and -- arrogant is a better word, because he said "I wouldn't activate these troops for anything." But his rationale that he tried to make public was the fact that by Alabama not activating the troops, the United States government would pay for all of the troops from Alabama and every place else.

We brought units in from the State of Washington, at that time one of the largest communications centers ever. We brought people in from Stewart, 24th Division, 101st Airborne, the 11th Air Assault from Benning, Military Intelligence, and Military Police battalions.

You know, when we met with Bull Connor, he was very nice and he looked at me and he said, "You know, Major, go back there to Montgomery, to Maxwell Field. We got a lot of you over there. This is my town."

And, you know, there's things in your life you remember and you like to say. I said: "Yes. But, Mr. Connor, step out of

line and we'll put you in jail and charge you with inciting a riot."

Well, we marched, and for five days we never saw or heard of Connor. Did the march go smooth? Yes. But one of my grandchildren said, "Did you ever meet Dr. King and speak to him?" I said yes, for about ten short minutes. I dealt with Dr. Abernathy, who was a very sharp individual, knew the march, how they were going to do, looked over the plans that we worked on for the previous week, and everything moved.

You know, the sad part about it was that on the 25th, when we completed it, the marchers were going back to Selma, some marchers were venturing off the sides of the road, and what happened? A lady from the United Auto Workers, Detroit, Michigan -- Viola Liuzzo -- was killed. Sad. But other than that, the march went along as we planned.

As a matter of fact, for somebody's information, one of the marchers in the first row that day was our Governor's father, Basil Paterson.

But it's 45 years. Today, sad to say, that of those who were on the organization task force, I am the only one still living.

This really was a great event in the fact that President Johnson couldn't get the votes so that we would have the Civil Rights Voting Act in 1965. He had to go back to the Republicans, led by Senator Nolan from California, and Nolan gave him the votes in order to pass that bill.

Sad to say, a former vice president of the United States' father sat on his hands, from Tennessee, and didn't support us. But right after this, Nolan gave President Johnson the votes, and the Civil Rights Voting Act took place.

So when you all talk about how bad we Republicans are, something like this probably would have never happened, at least at that time.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Larkin.

The question is then on the

resolution. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Larkin has indicated that he would like to open up the resolution for cosponsorship by the entire house. Any Senator not wishing to be on the resolution please notify the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein, the desk is clear.

SENATOR KLEIN: There being none, Mr. President, I move we adjourn until Wednesday, March 3rd, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: There being no further business to come before the Senate, on motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 3rd, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 4:44 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)