NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 9, 2010

3:27 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 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: We are honored today to have His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy Michael Dolan, who is the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York.

Archbishop.

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN: Thank you, Senator Breslin.

And, Senators, I can only hope you realize what a distinct honor and joy it is for me to lead you in prayer. I think the world of you. And my prayers are with you every day, especially in what I know is kind of a troubling and difficult time.

So I've been here these last two days with about 2,000 Catholic leaders from across the state, and this morning I encouraged our hundreds and hundreds of young people to consider a vocation -- and I use

that word purposely -- a vocation to public service. And I said, "You're going to meet Senators and Assemblymen and -women today, and elected officials, who will be the first to say they work for you. And it's a very noble vocation, and these men and women are examples for us." So that's the admiration and the appreciation that I have for you.

Again, I know it's tough times, but that's when we need prayer most. Heck, I've become a Mets fan. So --

(Laughter.)

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN: So it's an honor to pray with you and for you. And my prayers are very sincere, and they represent the prayers, the solidarity of the entire Catholic family within our great State of New York.

Let us pray.

We acknowledge You, Lord our God, as the Sovereign of all the nations, the Supreme Law-Giver, the Heavenly Father of all Your children, the Author of life itself, our Creator, our Sustainer, the Goal of our lives.

We ask Your gifts of wisdom,

prudence and honor of actions and decisions upon this august body, the Senate of the great State of New York, as they realize their high call of service to Your people.

Our plans, projects and proposals are second to Yours and are bound to fail if not in conformity with Your divine will. So may our dare and our dreaming be tempered by humility, our challenges always met with charity, our ways be molded to Your design, You who live forever and ever. Amen.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you very much, Archbishop.

The reading of the Journal. The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, March 8, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, March 7, 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.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Stavisky, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate Number 1384.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: So ordered.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move that we adopt the Resolution Calendar in its entirety, with the exception of Senate Resolutions 4175, 4120, 4176 and 4190.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: All those in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar in its entirety, excluding

Resolutions 4175, 4120, 4176, and 4190, 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 to take up Senate Resolution Number 4176, by Senator Savino. I ask that the resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption and give Senator Savino the opportunity to speak on her resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Savino, Legislative Resolution Number 4176, congratulating His Excellency Timothy M. Dolan upon being named Archbishop of New York by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, and welcoming him to the New York State Capitol on March 9, 2010.

"WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the citizens of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

"WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate his Excellency Timothy M. Dolan upon being" --

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: May we please have some quiet. Thank you.

THE SECRETARY: -- "His Excellency Timothy M. Dolan upon being named Archbishop of New York by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, and to welcome him to the New York State Capitol on March 9, 2010; and

"WHEREAS, Timothy Michael Dolan was named Archbishop of New York by Pope Benedict

XVI on February 23, 2009. He was installed as Archbishop of New York on April 15, 2009; and

"WHEREAS, He had served as archbishop of Milwaukee since he was named by Pope John Paul II on June 25, 2002. He was installed as Milwaukee's tenth archbishop on August 28, 2002, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio of the United States, installed Archbishop Dolan; and

"WHEREAS, Born February 6, 1950, Archbishop Dolan was the first of five children born to Shirley Radcliffe Dolan and the late Robert Dolan; and

"WHEREAS, In 1964 he began his high school seminary education at St. Louis Preparatory Seminary South in Shrewsbury, Missouri. His seminary foundation continued at Cardinal Glennon College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy; and

"WHEREAS, He then completed his priestly formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he earned a License in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas; and

"WHEREAS, Archbishop Dolan was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1976. He then served as associate pastor at Immacolata Parish in Richmond Heights, Missouri, until 1979, when he began studies for a doctorate in American Church History at the Catholic University of America; and

"WHEREAS, Before completing the doctorate, he spent a year researching the late Archbishop Edwin O'Hara, a founder of the Catholic Biblical Association. Archbishop O'Hara's life and ministry was the subject of the archbishop's doctoral dissertation; and

"WHEREAS, On his return to St. Louis, Archbishop Dolan served in parish ministry from 1983 through 1987, during which time he was also liaison for the late Archbishop John L. May in the restructuring of the college and theology programs of the archdiocesan seminary system; and

"WHEREAS, In 1987, Archbishop Dolan was appointed to a five-year term as Secretary to the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C. When he returned to St. Louis in 1992, he was appointed Vice Rector of

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, serving also as Director of Spiritual Formation and Professor of Church History. Furthermore, he was an Adjunct Professor of Theology at St. Louis University; and

"WHEREAS, In 1994, he was appointed Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he served until June 2001; and

"WHEREAS, While in Rome, he also served as a Visiting Professor of Church History at the Pontifical Gregorian University and as a faculty member in the Department of Ecumenical Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. The work of the Archbishop in the area of seminary education has influenced the life and ministry of a great number of priests of the new millennium; and

"WHEREAS, On June 19, 2001, the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, then-Father Dolan was named the Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis by Pope John Paul II; and

"WHEREAS, Currently, he is the

chairman of Catholic Relief Services and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic University of America; and

"WHEREAS, On June 29, 2009, Archbishop Dolan received the pallium, a symbol of his office as an archbishop, from His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, at St. Peter's Basilica; and

"WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate His Excellency Timothy M. Dolan upon being named Archbishop of New York by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, and welcoming him to the New York State Capitol on March 9, 2010; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to His Excellency Timothy M. Dolan."

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: May we first have some quiet.

Now, Senator Savino on the resolution.

SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

It is my honor and my privilege to introduce this resolution and to invite Archbishop Dolan to address the Senate chamber here today.

It was just about a year ago that I believe his predecessor Cardinal Egan came to address us, and he stood up there and he talked to us in his final address to the New York State Senate prior to his retirement.

Cardinal Egan had been a beloved figure among not just Catholics in New York State but all people of faith in New York State, as well as those who are not people of faith, for his commitment to the service of the Catholic faith and the population that we all care about. And we were somewhat concerned that as Cardinal Egan left us, we didn't know who was going to replace him.

And on April 15th, we were

privileged and blessed with the appointment of Archbishop Dolan. Who came from Milwaukee -- and we won't hold that against him -- but he came to New York and we immediately found him to be not just a priest and a spiritual leader, but a real New Yorker under the skin. He understands the communities that we represent. He understands the difficulties that working families face. He understands the mission of the Catholic Church.

And while he is the leader of the New York Archdiocese, with about 2.5 million Catholics, in many ways he is the titular head of all Catholics in New York State, which is about 7.5 million people.

He came here in a difficult year, a year of change, a year that has been hard on everyone in New York State. He's leading Catholics and non-Catholics alike in a very difficult time. And we are grateful that he is here to offer his words of blessing to the State Senate, as we've had a difficult year and a year of change as well.

And so I would hope, Archbishop Dolan, that you come often, you offer your

blessings. And perhaps today you might want to offer a little general absolution to the Senate for its past transgressions.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR SAVINO: Welcome to the Senate. Welcome to New York.

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN: Thank you, Senator. I appreciate you.

SENATOR SAVINO: And I appreciate you too.

This resolution is open to any of my colleagues who wish to cosponsor it.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Savino.

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

Senator Smith.

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

And I just wanted to join and congratulate Senator Savino and all of my colleagues for honoring His Excellency Archbishop Dolan at being named the archbishop in 2009, and welcome him to the State Capitol.

You were gracious when you welcomed me to your home. And as a person who was raised in the Catholic Church from elementary school to high school to Jesuit college, I have never had a finer lunch than the one that you gave me.

But most importantly, to my colleagues, the man that you see over there -- notwithstanding his representation of Catholics throughout this state and quite frankly throughout this country and throughout this world, when you look over his resume -- stands for what I believe all of us stand for, and that is decency and also wanting to serve.

As you know, from week to week I will put a theme up in front of my office. And the theme of this week is "Service is a gift," to serve is a gift. And I believe it's only fitting that you would come to the Capitol this week, which I believe epitomizes that statement, which is the gift of service.

And it is my hope, it is our hope that the prayer that you offer today for us is one that will cloak us as we move forward in the challenging times that we face here in the

state -- not because of the issues that we take up, but because of the circumstances that we find ourselves in.

None of us would have predicted that we would be in this challenging moment at this time, given all that the people of the State of New York are fearful of and concerned about. However, as you know, God places individuals in a place at certain times for certain reasons. And it is my firm belief that each and every one of us have been placed at this moment in time for service, and the service is to bring about a better state, to bring about a better understanding of our purpose in life.

And I am just happy and joyful that you are here today. I appreciate the blessing that you passed to us. And we also will pray for you as you continue to do what you do for the State of New York.

Thank you and God bless.

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN: Thank you, Senator.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Smith.

Senator Padavan.

SENATOR PADAVAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Archbishop Dolan, it's a pleasure and a delight to have you with us. And may I, on behalf of Senator Skelos and my colleagues on this side of the aisle, extend to you our best wishes. We look forward to the day when another title will befit you -- it will begin with "C" -- and then we'll have another occasion to congratulate you.

You know, in the letter from James in the New Testament, he admonishes the leaders of the church at the time, in effect saying: You can give all the admonitions for faith that you want, but without producing the goods, it doesn't mean anything. Those are the words, paraphrased somewhat in a more common vernacular.

In your prayer today, I think you expressed the view that we have a responsibility in this state to be concerned about those who need to be clothed, need to be housed. And we understand that. And it's a difficult, difficult time we're in.

We hope that you will continue to pray for us. We need prayers now more than ever. And while you're praying, you know, keep your fingers crossed and give us that Irish blessing.

Thank you.

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN: Thank you, Senator.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Padavan.

Senator Diaz.

SENATOR DIAZ: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

Today is a glorious day here in Albany. We have Archbishop Dolan from the Catholic Church and the leader, the leader, the maximal leader of the Catholic Church in New York.

I am not a Catholic; I am a Protestant. I am a pastor of an evangelical church. But being an evangelical, not being a Catholic, I am so proud to have Archbishop Dolan here today. Because it is his leadership, it is the Catholic Church's leadership that have me inspired.

It is not to go on Ash Wednesday and get the ashes on my head, it is not to go every Sunday to Mass, if I'm not going to follow their teaching. Following the teaching is more important than to get the ash on the head. And this leader and this church has sacrificed for many years, teaching, teaching what's right, teaching what's moral, teaching what it is that the church stands for.

So Archbishop Dolan, I'm an evangelical ministry. But you could go to my office, all my staff have been strictly instructed: Don't vote for anything before you consult the Catholic Conference. And whatever the Catholic Conference says, that's what I'm going to vote.

So, ladies and gentlemen, we have the leader of the Catholic Church. Follow, follow his leadership, follow the church instruction, follow to what they teach and be a good Catholic and God will bless all of you.

Thank you, sir, for being here today.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank

you, Senator Diaz.

Senator Stewart-Cousins.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I also rise to greet the wonderful archbishop here in Albany.

I have the privilege of having seen Archbishop Dolan so many times in our district, whether it was to celebrate a church anniversary, whether it was at St. Cabrini with the opening of the extension for our seniors in that nursing home -- the archbishop was there to bless a very, very small, small group of very grateful seniors. And the joy that he brought really just made the whole environment and the whole event special.

And of course with Firefighter Joyce and that incredible day. The family was here just last week. But he took time to be there to offer the blessings and the condolences of not only the church but the entire community.

We have here an archbishop who has found it not robbery to give of his time, whether it's the smallest or the largest. We appreciate that level of leadership. I'm

certainly happy to see you here and look forward to seeing you in the district, as you always are.

Thank you.

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

Senator Hassell-Thompson.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: I thank you, Mr. President. I just want to join my colleagues in welcoming the archbishop to our chambers.

I'm Baptist, but that does not mean that I don't follow the leadership of the church.

We're welcoming you here today because many of your followers are here. But we're followers of your word. And hopefully what you bring to these chambers will be an enlightenment so that thinking happens and the way that we process the laws for the people of the State of New York will be what's in the best interests of their spirit as well as their souls.

So I thank you, Archbishop, for being with us today. And I thank Father

Gorman, who is one of our stalwart leaders in the Bronx who is accompanying you today, and some of the other leaders that I have met in the past and the new ones that I've met today.

We are in a period where we need prayer from whatever quarter it may come. So keep the candles lit for us that we may do that which is in the best interests of our people in the State of New York as well as in the eyes of God.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Hassell-Thompson.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Savino has invited everybody in the Senate to be cosponsors of this resolution. Anyone not wishing to be a cosponsor please notify the desk.

Thank you very much, Archbishop Dolan.

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN: Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, can we return to the order of standing committees.

I believe there's a report of the Finance Committee at the desk. I ask that it be read at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Yes, Senator Klein. Returning to the order of standing committees, there is a report of the Finance Committee at the desk.

The Secretary will read.

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

As Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Colleen Crawford Gardner, of Schenectady.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Kruger.

SENATOR CARL KRUGER: Thank you, Mr. President. May we please move that nomination.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Farley, on the nomination.

SENATOR FARLEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to support enthusiastically Colleen Crawford Gardner for Commissioner of Labor.

Let me just say there's nobody that I've seen that's been appointed commissioner who's had a better career in labor than Colleen. She's a graduate of the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, one of the most academically aggressive schools in the country, and has had a career that has absolutely been spectacular, and she's been a leader in the labor movement throughout her career.

She's also been a constituent of mine. And as I mentioned earlier, she's been a softball coach for the Colonie Girls' Softball Team and has really been a great community person and somebody that really will

serve this state well.

It's an outstanding appointment, because she's had a lot of experience in this area. She's also married to one of the most distinguished attorneys in Schenectady County, Christopher Gardner, who is the County Attorney and renowned for leading the Schenectady County Legislature and Schenectady County Redevelopment.

Now, I rise in support of Colleen and congratulate the Governor on this outstanding appointment because she's really running one of the largest agencies that we have, and is somebody that I'm confident is going to do a great job. And I again am pleased to move her nomination.

Thank you, Senator Kruger.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Onorato.

SENATOR ONORATO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to thank the Governor for this wonderful, wonderful nomination. And I'm very, very pleased to second this nomination.

I met with Colleen Gardner as the

chairman of the Labor Committee. We had a very, very nice conversation. And she's got a world of background. And she's so highly qualified for the job that I urge everyone in this chamber to work very closely with her, because she's going to do an outstanding job as the commissioner.

She was the deputy commissioner for many years there, so she knows the job inside out. And I look forward to working with her over these many years.

God bless you and your family and your husband, Christopher, who's with you today.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: As an aside, if I was out there, I would be saying the same things as Senator Farley and Senator Onorato.

The question, then, is on the nomination of Colleen Crawford Gardner to become Commissioner of the Department of Labor. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN:

Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The nomination is approved.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: the commissioner is joined by her husband, Chris, and her daughter, Caroline. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will continue to read.

THE SECRETARY: As a member of the Administrative Review Board for Professional Medical Conduct, Peter S. Koenig, Sr., of DeWitt.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Kruger.

SENATOR CARL KRUGER: Thank you, Mr. President. Can we please move that nomination.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The question is on the nomination of Peter S. Koenig as a member of the Administrative Review Board for Professional Medical Conduct. All those in favor please signify by saying

aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The nomination is confirmed. Congratulations.

The Secretary will continue to read.

THE SECRETARY: As members of the Advisory Council to the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, Dale R. Angstadt, of Gansevoort; James H. Bopp, of Garrison; Mary Hope Derby, of Geneseo; Judith Eisman, of Great Neck; Loretta Goff, of Westbury; Andrea Haenlin-Mott, of Cortland; Richard P. Johnson, of Schenectady; Deborah S. Lee, of Flushing; Jeffry Luria, of Central Bridge; Loretta H. Murray, of Brooklyn; and Regis Obijiski, of Kingston.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Binghamton Psychiatric Center, Kathleen Ann Calvey, of Binghamton; Frances Felice, of Binghamton; and John J. Wiktor, of Binghamton.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Brooklyn Psychiatric Center, Judi Dolgow, of the Bronx, and Marilyn Doris Rodriguez, of New York City.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Broome Developmental Disabilities Services Office, Alvern Gelder, of Binghamton, and Luella Rogers, of Walton.

As a member of the Board of Visitors of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, Tadeusz S. Pietrzak, of Buffalo.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Capital District Developmental Disabilities Services Office, Katherine T. Less, of Scotia; Elizabeth J. Pieper, of Scotia; and Linda E. Sartoris, of Clifton Park.

As a member of the Board of Visitors of the Elmira Psychiatric Center, Joanna M. Papontos, of Schenectady.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Helen Hayes Hospital, Wellington Y. Liu, of New York City, and Martin C. Wortendyke, of Upper Nyack.

As a member of the Board of

Visitors of the Hudson Psychiatric Center, Patricia C. Colbert, of Fishkill.

As a member of the Board of Visitors of the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center, Beverly Piechowicz, of Marcy.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Rochester Psychiatric Center, Barbara Bates, of Bergen, and Hilda R. Escher, of Rochester.

As members of the Board of Visitors of the Rockland Psychiatric Center, John A. Murphy, of Orangeburg; Marra Lori Schneider-Wendt, of Monticello; and Gerry Trautz, of Suffern.

As a member of the Board of Visitors of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, Patrick R. Rourk, of Norwood.

And as a member of the Board of Visitors of the Sunmount Developmental Disabilities Services Office, Wayne P. Rogers, of Malone.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Kruger.

SENATOR CARL KRUGER: Thank you, Mr. President. On these nominations, can we

please move them.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The question is on the motion to confirm 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.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time can we please recall Senate Resolution 3593, by Senator Seward. I ask that the title only be read and allow Senator Seward to speak on his resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Seward, Legislative Resolution Number 3593, congratulating the Marathon Girls' Field Hockey Team and Coach Karen Funk upon the occasion of winning the New York State Class C

Championship.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Seward.

SENATOR SEWARD: Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

I appreciated a few weeks ago all the members of the Senate joining with me in passing this resolution honoring the Marathon Girls' Field Hockey Team. And today I'm very, very pleased to welcome our New York State Class C Champion Marathon Girls' Hockey Team and their Coach Karen Funk to the chamber here today. The team is up in the gallery.

This past November, the Olympians captured the state title, defeating Port Jefferson, from Senator LaValle's district, in the championship game 3-1. Now, this is the eighth state championship in field hockey, girls field hockey, on behalf of Marathon. So they have a true dynasty at Marathon Central School.

The Marathon girls are synonymous with excellence both on and off the playing field. Along with compiling a very impressive record of 18-2-1 during the 2009 field hockey

season, this group of outstanding young women also stands out in the classroom as well. The Marathon Girls' Field Hockey Team was named a New York State Scholar Athlete Team, with a combined average of 91.977. That's an impressive record. They truly epitomize the term "student athlete."

Now, these girls are also very much outstanding citizens of the Marathon community and find the time in their busy schedules to give back to their community that has been supportive of their endeavors. Under the very steady guidance of Coach Funk, they have spent time raising funds for the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They have also conducted food drives to help support the Marathon Food Pantry.

And these fine young women are true champions in every sense of the word. They are fine sportswomen, wonderful students, and exceptional community ambassadors. The Marathon community and all of us in the State of New York are very, very proud of your accomplishments. This outstanding group epitomizes all the best in New York State's

young people. And as they embark on even more accomplishments in their young lives, they certainly represent all the best for the future of the State of New York.

So, Mr. President, I would ask that you formally welcome this outstanding team to the chamber and give us all an opportunity to recognize them.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you very much, Senator Seward.

Before that, Senator LaValle.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to congratulate the Marathon Field Hockey Team. I live in the Village of Port Jefferson, and I know we had sugarplums dancing in our head that we were going to win a state championship.

But what is probably so important is that you have demonstrated your prowess both on and off the field in the academic scholastic area by the achievement that Senator Seward mentioned. And it also hopefully shows that we in the Legislature, whether we win or lose, we recognize winning

teams here in the New York State Senate and their accomplishments.

So, ladies, congratulations on a great victory.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you very much, Senator LaValle.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I also want to rise and congratulate you on your state championship.

Being from Syracuse, New York, the home of the champions, we have team after team after team come through here. And it's so nice that you would do this for Senator Seward. And it's nice that you would do this for him year after year after year. Because if it wasn't for your team, he would be a very depressed, despondent Senator.

So by your great work, you have helped this Senate move forward and your Senator do the best work he can possibly do. So keep that in mind next year when you're going for your next state championship.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank

you, Senator DeFrancisco.

This resolution was previously adopted on January 12th. But the field hockey team from Marathon, Senator Seward, please rise and we'll give you a big round of applause.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, can you please recognize Senator Libous.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, thank you for recognizing me.

On page 9, on behalf of Senator LaValle, I offer up the following amendments to Calendar Number 147, and I believe that is Senate Print 3632A, and ask that the said print be retained on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: So ordered, Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, sir.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN:

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time there will be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in Room 332.

Pending the return of the Rules Committee, can we please stand at ease.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: There will be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in Room 332.

Pending the return of the Rules Committee, we will stand at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 4:07 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 4:29 p.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe there's a report of the Rules Committee at the desk. I move that we accept the report at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: There is a report of the Rules Committee at the desk.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Smith, from the Committee on Rules, reports the following bills:

Senate Print 3555, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Public Officers Law;

And Senate Print 6924B, by Senator C. Kruger, an act to amend the Legislative Law and the State Finance Law.

Both bills ordered direct to third reading.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The question is on the adoption of the Rules Committee report. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Rules Committee report is adopted.

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.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: We will return to the order of motions and resolutions.

Senator Klein, has that 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 commemorating the 99th Anniversary of International Women's Day and celebrating New York State's women leaders, past and present.

"WHEREAS, International Women's Day, March 8th, is a global day of celebrating the economic, political, and social achievements of women, past, present and future; and

"WHEREAS, In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay, and voting rights;

and

"WHEREAS, One year later, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on February 28th. Women continued to celebrate National Woman's Day on the last Sunday of February until 1913; and

"WHEREAS, In 1911, International Women's Day was officially honored for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, on March 19th. More than 1 million women and men attended International Women's Day rallies campaigning for women's rights to work and vote, and to end discrimination and to run for and hold public office; and

"WHEREAS, Less than a week later, on March 25th, the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous event drew significant attention to working conditions and labor legislation in the United States, which became a focus of subsequent International Women's Day events and particularly so in the State and City of

New York; and

"WHEREAS, New York State has been the birthplace and home of countless numbers of accomplished and famous women who have been leaders in academia, eleemosynary institutions, industry and politics; and

"WHEREAS, New York State's famous women leaders have included Susan B. Anthony, who was a leader in the abolitionist and temperance movements in her late 20s and founded the National Women's Suffrage Association, along Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and was chosen to be the first American woman and one of only two New Yorkers depicted upon United States currency; and

"WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was one of the founders of the women's movement, when she and other New Yorkers convened the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, bringing more than 300 individuals together, including the great orator Frederick Douglass, to fight for women's equality; and

"WHEREAS, Shirley Chisholm was elected to the New York State Assembly in

1964, and Congress in 1968. She was a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus, and in 1972 became the first woman and first African-American to have her name placed in nomination by a major political party for the office of president; and

"WHEREAS, The great State of New York is honored to have been the birthplace and home of countless influential women leaders, among whom were Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Blackwell, Eleanor Roosevelt, Zora Neale Hurston, Margaret Mead, Althea Gibson, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 99th Anniversary of International Women's Day and to celebrate New York State's women leaders, past and present; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body calls upon its members and fellow New Yorkers to observe International Women's Day as a day in service to our families, friends, neighbors, and those less fortunate than ourselves, to moral causes greater than

ourselves, and to the ongoing work of the women's movement; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, the National Women's History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia, and to the National Organization for Women."

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Senator Hassell-Thompson, on the resolution.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to thank Senator Sampson for his resolution and the acknowledgment of International Women's Day.

For nearly a century, parts of the world have been celebrating International Women's Day on the eighth day of every March. Around the globe, hundreds of events have occurred to commemorate the economic, political, and social achievements of women.

This year, Women for Women International sponsored peace demonstrations on 70 bridges throughout the world, including New York's very own Brooklyn Bridge. On a

bridge between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, thousands of women gathered to support peace movements. These events were to honor the resilience of millions of women survivors of war around the world.

While we must be proud of how far the women's movement has progressed, we cannot ignore the hardship that many women still suffer throughout this state, the nation and overseas, whether they be victims of domestic violence, discrimination in the workplace, religious and political turmoil, or lack of education.

Women have always been and always will be the backbone of our society. They are the foundation of our future.

Marianne Williamson said: "Our deepest fear as women is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us most. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and famous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There

is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it's in all of us. And when we let our light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our own presence automatically liberates others."

Thank you for today, Senator Sampson, because sadly, in this great country and across the world, women are still victims of unequal systems of justice and of discrimination at work and in their paychecks. Women continue to struggle for equality in male-dominated fields such as politics. Women make up 51 percent of the population, but in the U.S. Congress, only 17 percent of its members are women.

As we celebrate today the accomplishments of women, we cannot ignore the trials and tribulations that women still face. We must take a stand against inequality in our lives and in the lives of our mothers, sisters, friends and colleagues every day.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Hassell-Thompson.

Senator Liz Krueger, on the resolution.

SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I too rise in support of the recognition of International Women's History Day. And in fact, there are other resolutions that move through this house. One is on Women's Equality Day, wherein I often say to people I'd actually like to be alive when we have all 365 days of equality.

So on this honorable day and in recognition of John Sampson highlighting the importance of women, and my colleague Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson just having laid out very eloquently how much further we have to go, I stand to say women need to be represented at every table.

They need to be the voices of power in the Legislature representing the interests of all 19 million New Yorkers. They need to have their voices in every room, whether it's

a corporate room, a religious institution, a governmental room, a community room. Because in fact we are such a significant part of the population and we do bring to the table, no matter what the table is, a different perspective.

And so I am honored to be among the small group of women who serve here in the New York State Senate -- and a slightly larger group who serve in the New York State Assembly on the other side of this hallowed building.

But I look forward to the day where we can say there is full equality for women in this country, there is full equality in our legislative bodies, there is full equality on equal pay and equal rights, there is full equality in our membership in every organization and institution of this great country.

And so it is true this state has been the home to many great leaders for women's equality. Eleanor Roosevelt is the woman who comes to mind for me most often, although I'm very proud to have Geraldine Ferraro as a constituent in my own district,

who was the first Democratic woman candidate for Vice President.

But for our sisters, our daughters, those who come after us, our young men, to understand the importance of where we need to go -- and we're not there yet. I was delighted to see my colleagues speaking out in support of a young women's sports team just a few minutes ago in this chamber. Even the argument of making sure that young women in our school system have equal funds for them to participate in sports is still a fight to this day.

So it's great that we have women champions on the sports fields, but let's not forget we have a lot of work to do to ensure that those young women who stood before us today, and every young woman in the State of New York, is growing up in a state and a country where they have full equality and full ability to share in the greatness of this country and in the State of New York.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

Senator Parker, on the resolution.

SENATOR PARKER: Thank you very much, Mr. President. On the resolution.

I really am just rising to add my voice to the chorus of my colleagues who are celebrating International Women's Day, its 99th anniversary.

And this day is important because internationally we really want to spend some time and take a moment to honor those women who don't have a voice, and really a lot of those women who did have a voice and wouldn't use their voice to take no for an answer.

We all come from women. It is the most, you know, kind of prime thing in most of our life. For most of us, you know, as children, "mother" was the name for God for us. That our mothers become our models for what womanhood is.

Obviously, here in the halls of the Legislature, we focus on political accomplishments. And we're fortunate here in New York to have history on our side. New York has been at the forefront of women's equality for centuries in terms of the

historical women's rights movement. The Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls here in New York. At that 1848 convention, more than 300 people came together, alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Frederick Douglass, lending their voice to a movement that was just born.

New York has also been the leader for protection of women in the workplace. Nearly a century ago, more than 140 working women -- many immigrants -- lost their lives in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, leading to stronger regulations of working conditions that we continue to advance today.

Further, countless women who have shaped our culture have continued to call New York home, such as Shirley Chisholm, the first woman and first African-American to have her name put in nomination by a major party for the office of President, as well as Geraldine Ferraro, Liz Krueger's constituent, the first woman to be named on a national ticket for the office of Vice President.

New York is the home or the birthplace of Sojourner Truth, Eleanor

Roosevelt, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Hillary Clinton, Margaret Mead, Elizabeth Blackwell, Althea Gibson, to name others.

Women have made great progress, but as long as women remain without a voice, there is work that we must commit to. And I think I stand here with the rest of my colleagues recommitting ourselves to the work of creating, as Liz Krueger again, you know, talked about, 365 days of equality for women.

But still in our country women remain the victims of domestic violence, unequal systems of justice, and labor market discrimination. Women continue to struggle for equality in a male-dominated field such as politics, where women are 51 percent of the population but in the U.S. Congress only 17 percent of the members are women. And I think far less here, definitely, in the State Senate and not much higher in the State Assembly.

And so we have to recommit ourselves to the important work of making sure that everyone has a place and opportunity here

in our society. And how can we call ourselves a just society when 51 percent of the population are the victims of discrimination every single day?

And so we are just remembering and calling on some of our ancestors and some of the sheroes whose shoulders that we all stand on, particularly those sheroes from New York State. And some of them I mentioned.

Sojourner Truth, born in 1798 to 1883. She was an abolitionist and a women's rights activist. She was born into slavery in Swartekill, New York. Her best known speech, "Ain't I A Woman," was delivered in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

We have Elizabeth Blackwell, born in 1821, passed in 1910, who became the first woman doctor of medicine in the United States and set up practice for her sister, Emily Blackwell, in New York State.

We have Eleanor Roosevelt, of course, born in 1884 and passed in 1962. And she was the First Lady and wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She spent her

adult years working in politics and social reform. Her warmth and compassion inspired the nation. And she later became the U.S. delegate to the United Nations. The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights was largely her work, and she chaired the first ever Presidential Commission on the Status of Women in the United States.

You have Zora Neale Hurston, one of my personal sheroes, born in 1891 to 1960. She was born in Alabama, raised in Florida, educated in D.C., where she got a Ph.D. from Howard University. Hurston came to New York City in 1925, where she joined many others in the movement now known as the Harlem Renaissance. She studied at Barnard with Franz Boas, Ruth Benedict, and Gladys Reichard.

Many of you who are Alice Walker fans and who have seen the play and read the book The Color Purple, Alice Walker really has much of her inspiration due to Zora Neale Hurston. That technique, if you've ever read not the screenplay of The Color Purple but the actual novel, of actually writing in the way

that the people spoke in the period that she was trying to cover, comes from Zora Neale Hurston's technique. And really, really important.

She actually did, as an anthropologist, did a great deal to talk about Southern black towns that were governed by black people, many of which don't even exist anymore. But she grew up in one of those towns in both Alabama and in Florida.

Other sheroes include Margaret Mead, born in 1901, who passed in 1978. And of course Margaret Mead was an anthropologist whose career included the study of numerous peoples and nations, as well as extensive fieldwork. Margaret Mead really is one of the architects of modern anthropology.

Althea Gibson, born in 1927, passed in 2003. And in 1957 Althea Gibson became the first African-American tennis player to win at Wimbledon and Forest Hills. Her influence as a role model for aspiring athletes has been profound, including the Williams sisters, who now frequently win at Wimbledon -- but they stand on the shoulders of Althea Gibson.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, born in 1933, is a Supreme Court justice. She's spent her career working to eliminate gender-based stereotyping and discrimination. Justice Ginsburg is the second woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court in its 212-year history.

And of course the Bronx's own Sonia Sotomayor. Born in 1954 in the Bronx, Justice Sotomayor is the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice and the third woman appointed to the Court.

And so we want to remember all of these sheroes for all of their great works, and use them not just for women but also for men. Young boys need to know that there are women who have been part of the development of this nation, part of -- you know, outside of just the work that they've done in the home, that they have been part of the development of our constitutional system, our business lives, you know, science. In almost every endeavor that we engage in, women have been at the forefront.

But I want to go back and just

remind us about the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. And it was founded in 1900 in New York City by seven local unions with a few thousand members between them, and it grew up in those years.

And I will be creating a bill to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in New York City that took the lives of over 140 working women. That fire led to legislation requiring the improving of factory safety standards and helped spur the growth of the ILGWU, which fought for better and safer work conditions for sweatshop workers in that industry.

And so we say congratulations to all the women of this house and the women of our great state as we remember International Women's Day.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Parker.

Senator Montgomery, on the resolution.

SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise with my colleagues, and I

want to thank Senator Sampson for this resolution honoring International Women's Day.

And I join my colleagues who have already spoken so eloquently to honor and to acknowledge and to thank all of the sisters that have gone on before us and who have fought for many aspects of freedom for many of us in this room, men and women.

And, Mr. President, I happened to be present at the 150th anniversary of the celebration in Seneca Falls. And it was very, very interesting, because I stayed in a hotel in Auburn, New York, and right up the street from the hotel was one of our prisons, one of our first prisons, the Auburn prison facility. And in the other direction, a little ways over, there was the homestead of Harriet Tubman. And a ways up the road, at Seneca Falls, was the site where Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass came together in 1848 to create a women's movement, a suffrage movement.

And I could just imagine how exciting it must have been -- all of these people who were so determined that women

should have rights and that African-Americans should have rights.

And Harriet Tubman walking and making all of those trips to help free her brothers and sisters from slavery. And how they must have had many midnight journeys in that region, moving from the South, where Harriet Tubman originated, into Canada, where people could raise their hands in freedom if they were African-American and moving away from slavery.

How wonderful it must have been to be part of that movement. And how they had real arguments -- because, Mr. President, there was a divide even back then. Because they had to decide if it was suffrage first or if it was freedom from slavery for African-Americans, if they were going to fight for rights of women to vote or African-American men to vote.

So who won? Who won? The African-American men. They got the vote before women. However, the women did not give up.

So I'm thankful to these women. So

many of them originated here in New York. I think my colleague Senator Parker has called the names of many of them. Shirley Chisholm, sister, who was right from Brooklyn, where I represent now. As a matter of fact, her district was part of what the district is that I represent today.

I'm thankful for the women who decided at some point that it wasn't enough just to be comfortable. Because I think many of these women in fact were very comfortable. They did not have to worry about where their next meal was coming from. But they cared enough about all of the sisters and the brothers that they continued to wage a very, very significant battle.

And I have been asked and it is my pleasure to name a number of women who have served in this body as Senators, women who happen to be Senators. But I warn that there has only been 29 in total since the beginning.

However -- however, in the words of Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I A woman" -- I'm in the Senate, but ain't I a woman.

And of course I honor my sisters

who are here today. My congratulations to each of you, Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Senator Shirley Huntley, Senator Liz Krueger, Senator Diane Savino, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, chair of our conference, Senator Betty Little, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Catharine Young.

Congratulations to all of us. We all know what we go through each day, but still I rise -- Senator Toby Stavisky. Toby Stavisky. I owe you a special thanks, Toby.

And can I just mention some past Senators who have come before us, who left before we did, but nonetheless we can thank them and we owe them, many of them. Because when they came, there wasn't a toilet on this floor for women. So they made that happen. That was big for us.

Senator Rhoda Fox Graves, elected in 1934. She was the first woman elected to the New York State Senate. There was Senator Constance Baker Motley, the first African-American woman elected to the Senate. Senator Mary Ellen Jones. Senator Karen Burstein. Senator Carol Berman. Senator

Carol Bellamy. Senator Linda Winikow. Senator Mary Anne Krupsak. Senator Anna Jefferson. Senator Mary B. Goodhue. Senator Catherine Abate. Senator Janet Hill Gordon. Senator Nancy Larraine Hoffmann. Senator Patricia McGee. Senator Olga Mendez. Senator Mary Lou Rath. Senator Nellie Santiago. And Senator Ada Smith.

Mr. President, I offer these names for your record, for our record. And I say, as a woman and representing the women in this house, as well as the women in this body, in the Senate, in the Assembly, and the women in this building, who every day have to spend many, many hours preparing for us and making sure -- and I hope that I shall never again see a young woman carrying the books of one of my male Senators. Let's just stop that today going forward. That would be a wonderful tribute to the women in the State Legislature who work for us.

So in the words of Maya Angelou, who I love, one of the poets in our wonderful state: As a woman, still I rise. There will be more to come, and we hope in very short

order.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Montgomery.

Senator Stewart-Cousins, on the resolution.

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

There's very little for me to say because my colleagues have so beautifully articulated, I think, the past, the present, and the future of what women can look forward to.

But I rise and I had to rise because my mother couldn't rise. Because she would not have ever dreamt that anyone like herself, and then even her daughter, would be able to stand in the Senate chambers.

I always talk about looking at the very earliest pictures of the chambers and seeing the women up in the gallery in little bonnets and gloved. They weren't allowed even to walk on the floors. Nor could they clean the desks.

And now, we have so many women

Senators. But as we've spoken, it's certainly less than 20 percent and certainly not representative of the number of women in this great state.

And the same is mirrored, legislature after legislature, throughout the country and throughout the world. You see progress on some levels. But what is imperative is that every International Women's Day, we who have a voice stand up for those who are voiceless, (A) to inspire and (B) to remind.

I was at my colleague Senator Klein's African-American history event, and we had an opportunity to celebrate many great people. And I had an opportunity to say a few words. And when I did, I recalled my mother and her experience of not having the opportunities. And later a young woman who was a lawyer, studying -- well, she was actually studying for her bar exam. And she came up to me and thanked me for reminding her of what my mother had gone through.

Because we can forget. We can think that it is second nature to see women in

all these places. We can think that women have always had the rights and always had the opportunity and always had say over themselves and their educational opportunities. Whatever opportunities that people assumed men could have, people think that women had.

But not too long ago, not too long ago, women even in the great, leading state of New York did not have the opportunities. And still, now, women fight every day.

So we stand because we can. We stand because we must. We stand because we are leaders and we stand to inspire the next generation to go forward and to never forget where we came from.

Thank you.

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

Senator Adams, on the resolution.

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to join my colleagues and add my voice to celebrating or acknowledging the International Women's Day.

And as you know, I have always

taken the position that we must take into account the everyday women who contribute. And they are the unsung heroes. They're not the stars, they're basically the supporting cast that is often not acknowledged.

I want to look at three areas of the International Women's Day. Because it's one thing just to pause on this day and give acknowledgement to the contribution of women, but I think we need a take a very real look at what this means.

The first area I want to look at is roles redefined. For years we criticized the mothers, we criticized the women that stayed at home and reared our children. And we see the by-product of the absence of their most important role. We compared the role of a housewife or a mother who was home every day as being insignificant. And now history has shown us, in a period of reflection, that not only was it significant, it was crucial to continue our country and nation moving forward.

I will contest and I believe that if mothers were home as children were leaving

every day, we wouldn't have a society of children that don't realize a belt loop is supposed to have a belt in it. And instead of teaching our children those very basic things, because we demonize and criticize the important roles of having a mother in the household and made it a bad thing instead of a good thing for a man or woman to play that role, I think it hurt us.

The second area I would like to look at: terms. People conceive and view life not only from that which is in front of them, but that is what impacts their subconscious. We use terms such as storms and hurricanes to name women. We use all things that are negative to name women. That plays on the psyche of people.

And as we talk about acknowledging the International Women's Day, we need to acknowledge how we consider and how we make women appear in a global sense. And that is when you start moving the entire globe in the right direction of truly acknowledging a woman for who and what she is.

Lastly, overcoming obstacles. The

only common denominator on the planet for all cultures, no matter if it's in Africa or if it's in Afghanistan, there is a common denominator of men abusing the women of their society.

In India there was a term called sati. Whenever a man died, his wife had to commit suicide by throwing herself on the fire and burning herself to death. In China, a woman had to squeeze her feet into a small pair of shoes so that she can look appealing to a man. In Africa, women were forcibly circumcised so that they couldn't enjoy any physical pleasure, so that the insecurities of their husband would be protected.

All across the globe, there was international domestic violence, where a man was allowed to kill his wife and get away with it. The laws and rules of that particular area permitted it.

So the issue of International Women's Day is not merely just to acknowledge the importance of one or two or a handful of women, some of the success that they've done in their day, it is our time to pause for a

moment and state what are we doing to change the image of what our opposite, as a man, is in life, and that are our companions and that are women.

And for those of us who think it's not important, all we should ask is how do we want our daughters to be, what type of universe do we want our daughters to grow up in. Do we want them to be forcibly circumcised? Do we want them to have to throw themselves on the flames because their mate died? Do we want them to have to squeeze into a small pair of shoes just to be physically appealing? Do we want them to feel as though they have to live through some ridiculous standard?

So it is easy to say these rules are not incorrect or not wrong when it doesn't impact you directly. I think they are wrong. And I think countless number of men have joined side by side with the women not only of America but of the globe, in creating standards and creating a lifestyle that all human beings, regardless of their gender, should have the right to participate in the

prosperity of being a member of one of the greatest races alive, and that's the human race.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Adams.

Senator Savino, on the resolution.

SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to first thank Senator Sampson for bringing this resolution in honor of International Women's Day, and of course congratulate and thank all of my colleagues, especially my women colleagues here, for pausing to recognize the importance of International Women's Day.

Senator Montgomery and Senator Parker talked about a lot of the accomplishments of women right here in New York State, whether it was leading the way for the right to vote or enacting labor laws, long before the federal government did it, that protected women and children in the workplace, or all of the other firsts that we have seen come out of New York State on issues

that were brought forward by women. And it's very appropriate that we stop and we recognize those things.

But I also don't want to just talk about the past, I want to talk about the future. Senator Adams mentioned changing the image of women. And while certainly some of the atrocities that he talked about are issues we should all be concerned about -- and we would want to change those images -- I'm a little bit more concerned about changing the circumstances for the women of New York State.

And we still have a long way to go in achieving real equality here in New York State. But we have opportunities. We have an opportunity this year, in this legislative session, to rectify a 75-year-old injustice that affects women when we pass the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. We have an opportunity to improve our domestic violence laws right here in New York State when we pass some of the bills that I will be bringing forward, and a bill that Senator Schneiderman introduced yesterday making choking a felony offense. We have an opportunity to strengthen

our child support laws, something that seriously needs to be dealt with here in New York State.

And we have a real opportunity in this budget process this year. The Governor has handed us a budget that is disproportionately harmful to women -- with cuts to daycare, with cuts to after-school programs, with tremendous cuts to human services -- at a time when women are suffering more than ever in New York State. Our unemployment rate is at 10 percent, and they are disproportionately women who have unemployed. They need that safety net now more than ever.

So while we pause to celebrate the accomplishments of women who have come before us, and rightfully so, we have an opportunity to rectify some injustices that exist for women right now, right here in New York State -- women that aren't seeking the spotlight, who don't want to change the world, who just want to raise a family and just want to be able to survive.

So I want to thank Senator Sampson

for bringing this forward, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to begin to write the next chapter in women's history in New York State.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Savino.

Senator Oppenheimer, on the resolution.

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: That was very well said, and I'm glad you said that, Senator Savino.

I wanted to just take a moment to say what has happened in the last few decades that I think is very positive. And yes, indeed, all the women in this chamber are standing on the shoulders of women that have come before us. But the events that I have seen I think should be noted.

And that is when I became mayor of my village in Westchester in 1977, I was the first female mayor in Westchester's history. Now we have so many female heads of government in Westchester that we outnumber the men.

So I think that is quite a nice achievement over a 30-year period. Though I

must say in the beginning when I would go around to every women's group I could find to talk about coming into government, because local government was a wonderful place for a mother to be -- because we all had kids. And I said, and you're close to your children. So if your children leave their lunch at home, you can get it over to their school. Whereas if you go back down to Manhattan, you won't be able to do that for your child.

I must say I talked a lot for about a decade. And finally, after about a decade, some people started to take my word. And also, I guess, they saw me, with five small children, managing. So that's part of being, I guess, a mentor, where people will see you and say if that person can do it, I can do it too.

So -- and also another area that has seen amazing achievement for women. When I got my MBA at Columbia, we were two women, two women in a class of a few hundred. Now, getting pretty close to half the class in the MBA program at Columbia is female.

So these are things that have

happened in the last 30, 40 years. And while I can't say that our numbers here in the Senate are extraordinary, I think the Assembly is doing a lot better than we are. And we certainly hope never to displace the men, but to just be there equally with them, sort of in the equal numbers that our population is.

So I honor the people that have been here before us. And we know the gratitude that we owe them, because we would not be here if they had not blazed the trail for us.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Oppenheimer.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at

this time could we please move to a reading of the supplemental calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The Secretary will proceed with a reading of Senate Supplemental Calendar 18A.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 218, Senator Kruger moves to discharge, from the Committee on Finance, Assembly Bill Number 9949A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Number 6924B, Third Reading Calendar 218.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Substitution ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 218, by Member of the Assembly Destito, Assembly Print Number 9949A, an act to amend the Legislative Law and the State Finance Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Klein, that completes the reading of Supplemental Calendar 18A.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time could we go back to motions and resolutions.

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 VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Sampson, legislative resolution commending the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty upon the occasion of hosting its Food For Life Awards Ceremony.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Senator Klein, was this resolution deemed privileged and submitted by the office of the Temporary President?

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

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: All those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: 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 VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator LaValle, legislative resolution congratulating

Dr. Nicholas P. Samios upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition as a 2010 Inductee of the Long Island Technology Hall of Fame.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: 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 VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Marcellino, legislative resolution congratulating ReiJane Huai upon the occasion of his designation for personal recognition as Entrepreneur of the Year by the Long Island Technology Hall of Fame.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: All in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: 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 VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator LaValle, legislative resolution congratulating Nikola Tesla, posthumously, upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition as a 2010 Inductee of the Long Island Technology Hall of Fame.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: All those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move to take up Senate Resolution Number 4175, by Senator Foley. I ask that the

title of the resolution be read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Foley, Legislative Resolution Number 4175, commending George Bloom upon the occasion of 40 years of distinguished service to Local 1104, Communication Workers of America, as he is honored by the Long Island Federation of Labor on March 4, 2010.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: All those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time can we take up Senate Resolution Number 4120, by Senator Liz Krueger. I ask that the title of the resolution be read and

move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator L. Krueger, Legislative Resolution Number 4120, memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim March 7 through 13, 2010, as World Glaucoma Week in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Senator Liz Krueger, on the resolution.

SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to briefly highlight for the record and to the people of New York that this is World Glaucoma Week.

Glaucoma is the number-two cause of blindness in the world. The earlier you catch this, the more you can to prevent blindness. There is so much more we can do to prevent blindness in this country and throughout the world, through both research and education.

And I would just like to remind my colleagues to make sure you get your own tests to see whether you have early glaucoma, so that you can avoid future blindness, urge

everyone you know to do the same.

And I would like to open this resolution for sponsorship by anybody who wishes to.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

All in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Krueger has asked that the resolution be open to cosponsorship by all members. Anyone wishing not to cosponsor the resolution should notify the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time I move we take up Senate Resolution Number 4190, by Senator Espada. I ask that the resolution be read title only and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Espada, Legislative Resolution Number 4190, memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim March 2010 as Women's History Month in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: All those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Smith, I hand up the following committee notice to be filed with the Journal.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: So ordered.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at

this time can you please recognize Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Senator Hassell-Thompson.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

Immediately following session today, there will be a meeting of the Majority in Room 332. Immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Immediate meeting of the Senate Majority in Room 332.

Senator Klein.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: The desk is clear.

SENATOR KLEIN: Are you sure?

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: Positive.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KLEIN: There being none, Mr. President, I move that we adjourn until Wednesday, March 10th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT VALESKY: On

motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 10th, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 5:21 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)