NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

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12:11 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JOHN J. FLANAGAN, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone to rise and repeat the Pledge.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: In the absence of clergy, I would ask that we bow our heads in a moment of silence.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, January 31, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, January 30, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: 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 Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

At this time could we please adopt the Resolution Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The resolution calendar is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I believe that there's a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Young. May we please have the title

read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Young, Legislative Resolution Number 412, commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Chautauqua County, New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: Senator Young.

SENATOR YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's with great pride that we pass this resolution today. As you know, Chautauqua County is the furthest county west in the State of New York. It's a land of great lakes and beautiful lakes, and it's a place where people are just wonderful.

So I just want to say to everyone, thank you for your support today. We are looking forward to an entire year of celebration honoring our 200th birthday in Chautauqua County.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The question is on the resolution. All those in

favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I believe there is a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Hassell-Thompson. Could we please have it read in its entirety and then please call on Senator Hassell-Thompson, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Hassell-Thompson, Legislative Resolution Number 411, honoring Sergeant Deon L. Taylor posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Army National Guard.

"WHEREAS, Members of the armed services from the State of New York, who have

served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

"WHEREAS, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sergeant Deon L. Taylor posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Army National Guard, to be celebrated at its Black History Month Kick-Off celebration on Tuesday, February 1, 2011; and

"WHEREAS, This year's national theme is 'An African-American Tribute to Our Troops and Their Families'; and

"WHEREAS, This special celebration will include the name of Sergeant Deon Taylor as a recipient of state recognition. This particular award was established as one of the Empire State's highest honors for community service; and

"WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor grew up in the Bronx, New York, dreaming about making a difference in other people's lives. According to his grandmother, Shirley Taylor,

'he always wanted to be a cop, ever since he was a little boy he always wanted to help'; and

"WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor went to high school in Lewiston, Maine, where he was a notable athlete. After high school, he joined the New York Army National Guard in 1997 and was based with the 27th Brigade Combat Team in Syracuse. He later transferred to the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery in the Bronx; and

"WHEREAS, In 2003 Sergeant Deon Taylor graduated from Old Westbury College in Long Island with a degree in sociology and criminology. He joined in New York Police Department in 2005 as a transit cop, and a year later he was promoted to the Narcotics Division in Brooklyn; and

"WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor faced danger daily as an undercover narcotics operative. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said 'Deon Taylor made a difference in his short time on the force. He took the most dangerous drugs off the streets, along with obtaining crucial evidence that led to search

warrants. He did it all while remaining modest, polite and respectful of others'; and

"WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor was a dedicated family man who lived upstate with his 8-year-old son, DaRue. He was truly a devoted, hands-on father. He also cared for his mother, Pamela; and

"WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor was a fire-direction specialist, zeroing in on terrorist targets when he was killed in Western Afghanistan on October 22, 2008, just as he was nearing the end of his deployment and planning an August wedding to his fiancee, Caitlin Casey. Sergeant Deon Taylor courageously served his city at home and his nation abroad; and

"WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved with great respect and reverent esteem, and on behalf of all of the citizens of the Empire State, to renew its tribute to the men and women of New York State who so courageously served their state and nation in defense of freedom and democracy; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative

Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sergeant Deon L. Taylor posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Army National Guard; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant Taylor's parents, Leon and Pamela."

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: Senator Hassell-Thompson.

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

I rise to thank this body for allowing this resolution to be read in its entirety.

The parents of Deon Taylor are from my district, and they are so pleased tonight that the Governor is going to honor his memory at the African-American recognition ceremony.

And I wanted to be able to present this resolution on behalf of the State Senate, in thanks to him for the life that he lived and for the service that he gave to his country and certainly to the State of New York. He made us proud.

So I thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to opportunity to address his memory and to congratulate his family on being the recipient of this award posthumously.

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

Senator Larkin, on the resolution.

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I want to thank Senator Hassell-Thompson for putting this resolution in.

Too often we forget that young men and women are sent daily on a mission in harm's way. I see our good Deputy Minority Leader looking here; he can tell you his own experience with his brothers. His brother was a very well decorated Vietnam veteran, highly decorated, Silver Star and others.

But this is a case of a young man that we're seeing on a regular basis. Last weekend there were eight Americans that were killed. There was a NATO group killed. And, you know, sometimes we as individuals and as group fail to sit and take a moment and

reflect on what commitment these young people have made for this great country of ours.

If you look at Senator McDonald, combat veteran, Vietnam, Cambodia. And then we have young kids today, Iraq and Afghanistan, some of them on their third and fourth time. They've been wounded the first time, maybe the second time. But on the third and fourth, the mailman comes up and says "Your son was killed in action."

It isn't an easy thing. We don't sometimes grasp what the nation we have is doing and how we're treating our young people. This is a National Guard person. A lot of people say to me, Well, the National Guard, well, they're not in combat. Listen, I remember them in combat in World War II and in Korea and in Vietnam.

This is a young life that has been taken away from us. And you never really understand it.

My first killed in action was August the 4th, 2:30, 1950. I will never forget it. And some commander of Taylor's group will never forget it. And we as a body

should never forget.

I don't think it's funny, Senator. I don't think it's very funny at all. This is a very serious matter. You might not think it is, but I do. I'll never disrespect you when you're on the floor. Don't disrespect me.

So I say this is a resolution. Maybe we all ought to get a copy of it and think about what he did for us that makes us the greatest nation in the world, because we have men and women who volunteer, raise their right hand and say "I will serve my country, and I will defend and protect you."

Thank you very much, Senator Hassell-Thompson.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: Thank you, Senator Larkin.

Is there any other Senator wishing to be heard on the resolution?

Seeing none, the question is on the resolution. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: There is none, Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, at this time I ask that we all join together, those who wish to go as a group or individually to the Hart Theater for the Governor's budget presentation.

And there being no further business, Mr. President, before the Senate today, I would ask that we adjourn until Monday, February 7th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, February 7th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 12:22 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)