

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 February 1, 2011

11 12:11 p.m.

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14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR JOHN J. FLANAGAN, Acting President

19 FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
3 Senate will come to order.

4 I ask everyone to rise and repeat  
5 the Pledge.

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

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

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

13 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
14 reading of the Journal.

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

20 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:  
21 Without objection, the Journal stands approved  
22 as read.

23 Presentation of petitions.

24 Messages from the Assembly.

25 Messages from the Governor.

1 Reports of standing committees.

2 Reports of select committees.

3 Communications and reports from  
4 state officers.

5 Motions and resolutions.

6 Senator Libous.

7 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,  
8 Mr. President.

9 At this time could we please adopt  
10 the Resolution Calendar.

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

14 (Response of "Aye.")

15 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:  
16 Opposed, nay.

17 (No response.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
19 resolution calendar is adopted.

20 Senator Libous.

21 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,  
22 Mr. President.

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

1 read and move for its immediate adoption.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
3 Secretary will read.

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

8 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:  
9 Senator Young.

10 SENATOR YOUNG: Thank you,  
11 Mr. President.

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

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

23 Thank you.

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

1 favor signify by saying aye.

2 (Response of "Aye.")

3 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:

4 Opposed, nay.

5 (No response.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
7 resolution is adopted.

8 Senator Libous.

9 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,  
10 Mr. President.

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

16 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
17 Secretary will read.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 "WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor went  
5 to high school in Lewiston, Maine, where he  
6 was a notable athlete. After high school, he  
7 joined the New York Army National Guard in  
8 1997 and was based with the 27th Brigade  
9 Combat Team in Syracuse. He later transferred  
10 to the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery in  
11 the Bronx; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative



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

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

9               ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:  
10       Senator Hassell-Thompson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7                   Senator Larkin, on the resolution.

8                   SENATOR LARKIN:       Thank you,  
9                   Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       should never forget.

2                   I don't think it's funny, Senator.

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

7                   So I say this is a resolution.

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

14                  Thank you very much, Senator  
15      Hassell-Thompson.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:     Thank  
17      you, Senator Larkin.

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

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

23                  (Response of "Aye.")

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN:  
25      Opposed, nay.

1 (No response.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: The  
3 resolution is adopted.

4 Senator Libous.

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

7 ACTING PRESIDENT FLANAGAN: There  
8 is none, Senator Libous.

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

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

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

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

25