

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

2  
3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

5  
6  
7  
8 ALBANY, NEW YORK

9 January 10, 2012

10 10:12 a.m.

11  
12  
13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

15  
16  
17  
18 SENATOR JOSEPH A. GRIFFO, Acting President

19 FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

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

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

4 I ask all present to please rise  
5 and join with me as we recite the Pledge of  
6 Allegiance to our Flag.

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

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: In  
11 the absence of clergy, I ask everyone to bow  
12 their heads for a moment of silent  
13 reflection.

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

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
17 reading of the Journal.

18 THE SECRETARY: In Senate,  
19 Monday, January 9th, the Senate met pursuant  
20 to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday,  
21 January 8th, was read and approved. On  
22 motion, Senate adjourned.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
24 Without objection, the Journal stands  
25 approved as read.

1                   Presentation of petitions.  
2                   Messages from the Assembly.  
3                   Messages from the Governor.  
4                   Reports of standing committees.  
5                   Reports of select committees.  
6                   Communications and reports from  
7 state officers.  
8                   Motions and resolutions.  
9                   Senator Libous.  
10                  SENATOR LIBOUS:    Mr. President,  
11 on behalf of Senator Saland, on page 6 I  
12 offer the following amendments to Calendar  
13 Number 14, Senate Print 6116, and ask that  
14 said bill retain its place on the Third  
15 Reading Calendar, please.  
16                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    So  
17 ordered.  
18                  Senator Libous.  
19                  SENATOR LIBOUS:    Thank you,  
20 Mr. President.  
21                  At this time could we please  
22 adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the  
23 exception of Resolution Numbers 2801, 2883,  
24 2884 and 2902.  
25                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:    At

1     this time I would ask that all in favor of  
2     adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the  
3     exceptions of Resolution 2801, 2883, 2884,  
4     and 2902, signify by saying aye.

5                     (Response of "Aye.")

6                     ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:

7     Opposed?

8                     (No response.)

9                     ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:     The  
10    Resolution Calendar is adopted.

11                    Senator Libous.

12                    SENATOR LIBOUS:     Mr. President,  
13    I believe there is a resolution at the desk  
14    by Senator Golden. I would ask that it be  
15    read in its entirety and then we move for its  
16    adoption, please.

17                    ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:     The  
18    Secretary will read.

19                    THE SECRETARY:     Legislative  
20    Resolution Number 2884, by Senator Golden,  
21    mourning the death of Christopher J. Mega,  
22    highly respected politician, distinguished  
23    citizen and devoted member of his community.

24                    "WHEREAS, It is the custom of  
25    this Legislative Body to pay tribute to

1 public servants of the State of New York  
2 whose lifework and civic endeavor served to  
3 enhance the quality of life in their  
4 communities and this great Empire State; and

5 "WHEREAS, Christopher J. Mega, a  
6 former New York State Senator, Assemblyman  
7 and State Judge who was well-known for his  
8 prolific career, work ethic, and omnipresence  
9 at community events, died on Sunday,  
10 October 30, 2011, at his home in Saratoga  
11 Springs, New York, at the age of 80; and

12 "WHEREAS, A graduate of Fort  
13 Hamilton High School, Christopher J. Mega  
14 continued his education and studied at  
15 St. Francis College before attending Brooklyn  
16 Law School; and

17 "WHEREAS, His first job was as  
18 an attorney at a Fifth Avenue law firm, where  
19 he was a partner. In 1973, he ran for an  
20 open seat in the 50th New York State Assembly  
21 District during a special election, a seat he  
22 held until 1978. He then ran and won his  
23 first New York State Senate seat,  
24 representing Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, and  
25 Sunset Park, from 1979 to 1982 and then from

1 1985 to 1993, when he became a judge; and

2 "WHEREAS, He served as chairman  
3 of the State Senate's Crime and Correction  
4 Committee during efforts to ban the sale of  
5 serial killer trading cards being sold in  
6 stores; and

7 "WHEREAS, He also became  
8 chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee,  
9 where in the early 1990s he worked to expand  
10 state prisons to accommodate the huge influx  
11 of inmates convicted on crack-related  
12 charges. Furthermore, he was an advocate for  
13 tougher sentences for convicted sex  
14 offenders; and

15 "WHEREAS, Senator Christopher J.  
16 Mega helped bring pre-kindergarten programs  
17 to his district and sponsored the bill that  
18 required restaurants to display posters  
19 showing Heimlich maneuver instructions in  
20 their eateries; and

21 "WHEREAS, In 1993, Christopher  
22 J. Mega attained his ultimate career goal; he  
23 was appointed to the New York Court of  
24 Claims. And in 1995 he was elevated to Chief  
25 Judge of the State Court of Claims, a panel

1     that hears lawsuits filed against the State  
2     of New York. He served in this capacity  
3     until stepping down in 1998. He was then  
4     appointed to the New York Supreme Court,  
5     serving until his retirement in 2006; and

6                 "WHEREAS, With a strong belief  
7     in his community, Christopher J. Mega donated  
8     his time and energies to numerous civic and  
9     charitable organizations, such as the Dyker  
10    Heights Civic Association and the Bay Ridge  
11    Lions Club; and

12                "WHEREAS, Christopher J. Mega is  
13    survived by his loving wife, Madelyn; twin  
14    sons, Christopher and Jeffrey; and two  
15    daughters, Valerie and Jacqueline, as well as  
16    his grandchildren; and

17                "WHEREAS, The legacy of  
18    Christopher J. Mega will long serve as a  
19    model of integrity and devotion to public  
20    service, and it is now the intent of this  
21    Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records  
22    this somber and grateful tribute to his  
23    memory, hopeful that future generations may  
24    understand and appreciate the benevolence of  
25    the man, the merit of his causes, and the

1 caliber of his service to all the citizens of  
2 the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

3 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
4 Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the  
5 death of Christopher J. Mega, highly  
6 respected politician, distinguished citizen,  
7 and devoted member of his community, and to  
8 express its deepest condolences to his  
9 family; and be it further

10 "RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
11 resolution, suitably engrossed, be  
12 transmitted to the family of Christopher J.  
13 Mega."

14 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
15 Senator Golden.

16 SENATOR GOLDEN: Thank you,  
17 Mr. President.

18 I rise today to introduce this  
19 resolution and to remember the life of one  
20 who served the New York State Senate, to  
21 posthumously honor the late Christopher J.  
22 Mega, a man who I was so privileged to have  
23 known and worked with for so many years.

24 Chris Mega, a former New York  
25 State Senator, Assemblyman, State Judge, died



1 this past fall. With his death, the state  
2 lost a giant, a true public servant, a man  
3 who, like no other, served the people of  
4 Brooklyn, New York City, and the Empire State  
5 with dignity and goodwill.

6 Chris is survived by his wife,  
7 Madelyn, of 59 years. Their twin sons, Chris  
8 and Jeffrey, and their daughter Jacqueline  
9 could not be here today, but we're joined by  
10 their daughter Valerie and their  
11 granddaughter Victoria. And that was so much  
12 to Chris Mega, was that granddaughter and the  
13 grandchildren.

14 And to the Mega family, I say  
15 welcome back to the New York State Senate.

16 Today I proudly offer this  
17 tribute to remember the good works and the  
18 extraordinary record in public service of the  
19 one and only Chris Mega.

20 Chris Mega was a man who did so  
21 much for the community that he lived in and  
22 represented, and for two of the three  
23 branches of state government, the judiciary  
24 and the legislative.

25 The people who were represented

1 by Chris Mega were very lucky. They had one  
2 of the best legislators I have ever known, a  
3 man who truly gave it his all. If you called  
4 upon Chris to help you, he tried everything  
5 possible to make sure you got the assistance  
6 that was necessary. And when Chris Mega sat  
7 on the bench, he was an honest jurist and  
8 truly believed in the Constitution and  
9 dedicated himself to the practice of the good  
10 of the law.

11                   Personally, I will never forget  
12 Chris Mega. He taught me an awful lot. He  
13 said to me: "People want to see you, to be  
14 part of you, and to know that you're going  
15 respond to their needs." I have never  
16 forgotten those words, and I continue to live  
17 by those words today.

18                   Nobody ever had a bad word to  
19 say about Chris Mega. But I tell you, when  
20 he walked down that avenue, on Fifth Avenue  
21 or Third Avenue or Thirteenth Avenue in the  
22 Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights area, they knew  
23 Chris Mega was on that street. He had a  
24 smile from ear to ear. And when the people  
25 would walk up, they'd say, "Senator, Senator

1 Chris Mega, how are you today?" And he'd  
2 throw his hand out there and he'd shake their  
3 hands.

4 He stayed in great shape, too.  
5 I don't know who sat next to him, but the guy  
6 used to do like 50 pushups every morning and  
7 at night. And he'd love to give you a little  
8 shot in the arm or a shot in the chest just  
9 to let you know that he was there.

10 He was truly a great leader. He  
11 brought a lot to our community. He did a lot  
12 for our community besides pre-K and all the  
13 other good things that were discussed here in  
14 the resolution.

15 That was the real tough years in  
16 the City and the State of New York. In 1991,  
17 1992, 1993, we were having homicides at over  
18 2,000 a year. And it was Chris Mega that  
19 said and came up with the policy we've got to  
20 come in with some money, we've got to get the  
21 police, we have to get more overtime, we have  
22 to get that police department working and  
23 give them those resources to bring that crime  
24 down.

25 And he, along with the good

1 mayor and the good police commissioner, were  
2 able to put a policy together that was able  
3 to bring down at that point -- just as Rudy  
4 Giuliani started as the mayor of the City of  
5 New York, the new SOP, standard operating  
6 procedure, for bringing down crime not only  
7 in the city and the state but around the  
8 nation and the world.

9           Upon his death he was described  
10 in the local media and reports by former  
11 colleagues in government by phrases such as  
12 "very decent guy," "forthright, honest and  
13 industrious," "the perfect elected  
14 politician," "a gentleman's gentleman." The  
15 definition of integrity was Chris Mega.

16           For all that Chris Mega did for  
17 the people of Brooklyn and for the people of  
18 the State of New York, I urge the passage of  
19 this resolution. He was truly a giant, truly  
20 a great man, and truly accomplished an awful  
21 lot in his life, not just for his family and  
22 for his community but for the city and the  
23 state as well.

24           Today we remember a statesman  
25 who answered the call to public service, and

1 for that we are all better off.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:

3 Senator Farley.

4 SENATOR FARLEY: Thank you,  
5 Mr. President.

6 I rise to speak about a Senator and  
7 a friend of mine that our careers crossed the  
8 same time.

9 And he was a dear friend of mine  
10 and actually a roommate and a very dear  
11 friend of the late Senator Charlie Cook.  
12 They lived together, both coming from  
13 different backgrounds, but -- and I used to  
14 go out to dinner with them a lot,  
15 particularly when we had all these late-night  
16 sessions and so forth, and we went to the  
17 finest diners and truck stops in the area.  
18 Chris was not a man of pretensions.

19 And his wife Madelyn told me I  
20 should tell this story. He wasn't much of a  
21 connoisseur of jewelry, but there was a  
22 jewelry store that was going out of business  
23 down here in downtown Albany. And it was  
24 just before Christmas, and Charlie Cook and I  
25 were waiting for him at Jack's.

1                   And he went into I think it was  
2   Adels-Lobe and said, "Do you take credit  
3   cards?" And they said yes. He says, "I'd  
4   like to see some pearls and some diamond  
5   earrings." Well, they pull out the pearls,  
6   he says "How much are those?" They said  
7   "Eight-fifty." He says, "Could I see  
8   something a little better?" And they pulled  
9   out another one. "How much are those?"  
10  "Nineteen-ninety-five."

11                   He says, "I'd like to see some  
12  diamond earrings." And they showed him these  
13  diamonds. "How much are those diamond  
14  earrings?" They said "\$800." He says,  
15  "Well, I'll skip the diamond earrings." And  
16  he says, "I'll just take the pearls." And he  
17  pulled out a \$20 bill.

18                   (Laughter.)

19                   SENATOR FARLEY: Needless to  
20  say, he said, "I had to schlep out of the  
21  place."

22                   But Chris also had a great sense  
23  of humor. And his bride of almost six  
24  decades, I'll tell you, what a remarkable  
25  woman. And, you know, for anybody that's in

1 public service -- and he served it all -- you  
2 have to give credit to the family. And they  
3 were so proud of him, and he was so proud of  
4 his family.

5                   They live now -- Madelyn and he  
6 in his last few years lived up in Wilton, in  
7 my district, where Roy McDonald came from  
8 originally. And we're just delighted to be  
9 able to pay tribute to not only a great  
10 Assemblyman and a great Senator and a great  
11 judge, but, more important, a great human  
12 being. That was Chris Mega.

13                   Thank you, Mr. President.

14                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
15 Senator LaValle.

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

18                   Senator Golden said Chris Mega  
19 was a giant, and indeed he was. He left an  
20 imprint here in the Senate. He was an  
21 institutional guy. The Senate meant a lot to  
22 him, and how the Senate performed was very  
23 critically important. As a matter of fact,  
24 he headed the Senate Club for a number of  
25 years.

1                   His demeanor, quiet but  
2 effective. He was honest, he was -- I think  
3 Senator Golden just laid out all the  
4 adjectives. And he was all of those things.

5                   He started rooming with Charlie  
6 Cook, and they became a famous odd couple,  
7 upstate-downstate. And, well, maybe that  
8 doesn't mean a lot to people. It does,  
9 because it shows that people from various  
10 parts of the state can get along, can be  
11 effective, can do good government and still  
12 be friends.

13                  So I remember when the  
14 opportunity came for Chris to go to the  
15 bench, he was very conflicted, because being  
16 in the Senate, being a Senator meant a lot to  
17 him. He carried on on the bench in the same  
18 effective way that he did here in this  
19 chamber.

20                  So, Senator Golden, your remarks  
21 for history portray Senator Chris Mega very  
22 accurately, and I'm sure the family in  
23 perpetuity will be able to see those remarks  
24 defining a real giant in our state.

25                  Thank you, Mr. President.



1                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:

2       Senator Libous.

3                   SENATOR LIBOUS:     Thank you,  
4       Mr. President.

5                   I rise with my colleagues to  
6       honor a great public servant in Chris Mega.  
7       When I got elected in 1988, I was 33 years  
8       old. I came to this chamber and Chris right  
9       away called me "kid," "Libous kid."

10                  And he had a quiet but very  
11       forceful way about him. When he wanted to  
12       get something done, you knew he was in the  
13       room. Otherwise, he would listen. He'd sit  
14       on this floor in the chamber, he'd listen.  
15       He'd be very respectful to each colleague  
16       that was here.

17                  And I learned something from  
18       that. I learned from Chris Mega that when  
19       your colleagues were speaking or debating  
20       that you keep your mouth shut and your ears  
21       open. And although you may disagree with  
22       them, you have to be respectful to them. And  
23       that's -- probably "respectful" is the word  
24       that I can think of the most.

25                  I can tell you that my left arm

1 in conference could get sore because I'd get  
2 that punch that -- I think Mrs. Mega just  
3 smiled and could understand. Because he  
4 always would do that, he'd come up to me and  
5 say, "Hey, Libous kid, how are you?" And  
6 he'd give me that rap on the shoulder and I'd  
7 kind of just smile and walk away like it  
8 didn't hurt, but it hurt. He was a tough  
9 guy.

10 He was a giant among us, and he  
11 will be missed. And he left an impression on  
12 my life that I will always be grateful for.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
14 Senator Larkin.

15 SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you very  
16 much, Mr. President.

17 You know, if you met Chris,  
18 you'd never forget him. If you met him today  
19 and didn't see him for 10 years, you'd know  
20 him.

21 Of course I was always under the  
22 impression that he and Charlie Cook were  
23 brothers, because wherever you saw one, you  
24 saw the other.

25 And one day we were talking here

1 about armed services. And he said, "How long  
2 have you served?" I said, "23 and a half  
3 years, and retired as a colonel." He said,  
4 "Gee, pretty soon you'll be as important as  
5 my son. He's a Marine pilot." And I was  
6 just like, wow, 23 years and he's going to  
7 kick me like that.

8 Chris had so much respect for  
9 this chamber and for the armed forces. One  
10 day he said to me, "How often do you go by  
11 West Point?" I said, "It's in my district.  
12 Quite a lot, because I'm retired." He said,  
13 "You know, we're going home someday, I want  
14 to stop and I want to go to this cemetery."  
15 And I said, "You know, you're going to use a  
16 couple of hours. He said, "For what they  
17 gave?"

18 We stopped, we went in the  
19 little, little chapel at the cemetery and we  
20 walked around someplace. And we were  
21 finished, and he was crying. He said, "Do  
22 you know, Bill, the names there, many people  
23 don't know anything about them. But the  
24 soldiers, both officers and enlisted, that  
25 walk through here, remember some of these men

1 as the great leaders."

2 If you think about Chris -- I  
3 remember when he was going to the bench. I  
4 don't really think he wanted to go to the  
5 bench, because this was his home. Anybody  
6 who didn't respect Chris Mega had their hat  
7 on the wrong way. Chris was a gentleman, he  
8 was a leader, respected. And I think his  
9 love and respect for the armed forces was  
10 second to none.

11 You had a great husband.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: I  
13 want to acknowledge today the presence of the  
14 Mega family. Senator Mega's wife Madelyn is  
15 with us, his daughter Valerie Racchuia, his  
16 son-in-law Joe Racchuia and granddaughter  
17 Victoria Racchuia.

18 I now will call the question on  
19 the resolution. All in favor of the  
20 resolution signify by saying aye.

21 (Response of "Aye.")

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:

23 Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The

1 resolution is adopted.

2 I would ask all to please rise  
3 and pay a moment of silent tribute to the  
4 late Senator Christopher Mega.

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

7 (Sustained applause.)

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
9 Senator Libous.

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

12 Mr. President, before we go on  
13 to the next resolution, I believe there was a  
14 resolution that passed on the calendar that  
15 Senator Stavisky would like to make a comment  
16 on. Could you please call on her, please?

17 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Yes.  
18 Senator Stavisky to speak on Resolution 2844.

19 SENATOR STAVISKY: Yes, thank  
20 you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator  
21 Libous, for your courtesies.

22 Let me just say that I am proud  
23 to represent more than 100,000  
24 Asian-Americans who live in the 16th Senate  
25 District. And together as a community, we're

1 going to be celebrating the Year of the  
2 Dragon this year. And the Year of the  
3 Dragon, it's the year 4017, I believe.

4           The Year of the Dragon  
5 symbolizes a great many things to the  
6 Asian-American community, and particularly --  
7 it's 4710. And that's a long tradition  
8 representing an amazing culture. And yet  
9 even today we come together and celebrate  
10 with all sorts of ceremonies. And  
11 particularly in Flushing we have a large,  
12 large Lunar New Year Parade, as I believe  
13 they do in Lower Manhattan as well.

14           But last year we celebrated the  
15 Year of the Rabbit. Which is interesting  
16 because the rabbit symbolized calm and  
17 tranquility, caution -- and the Year of the  
18 Dragon is just the opposite. It's  
19 excitement, it's exhilaration, it's  
20 unpredictability. The Year of the Dragon  
21 represents excitement and enthusiasm.

22           And interestingly, people born  
23 in the Year of the Dragon -- and if you go to  
24 the websites, they describe the professions  
25 of people born in the Year of the Dragon.

1 And it's very interesting, because the  
2 website says they make excellent salespeople,  
3 publicists, political campaigners, lawyers,  
4 real estate brokers and politicians.

5 So I think we have a special  
6 connection here with the Asian-American  
7 community as we celebrate together in  
8 New York State the Year of the Dragon.

9 Thank you, Mr. President.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
11 you, Senator Stavisky. The Year of the  
12 Dragon sounds like a day in the Senate.

13 (Laughter.)

14 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
15 Senator Golden.

16 SENATOR GOLDEN: Thank you,  
17 Mr. President.

18 I too rise because of the number  
19 of new immigrants that have entered into our  
20 great country and into the ports of New York  
21 City. And we see so many new Asian-Americans  
22 in our communities across this great  
23 country. And today you see, especially in  
24 the City of New York, close to 1 million  
25 Asians, many of them being

1 Chinese-Americans.

2           It was my honor to be able to  
3 introduce it into the City Council when I was  
4 a City Councilman back in 1988 and 1989 to  
5 commemorate the Asian Lunar New Year, and  
6 then again here in the State Senate having  
7 the privilege of doing that here again,  
8 introducing it into the state so that we  
9 could represent and have this holiday and  
10 have it commemorated for the Asian-American  
11 community.

12           The Year of the Dragon is great,  
13 a great year, a lot of fun. We will be out  
14 there marching in many parades and going to  
15 many events. It is one of the better times  
16 of our year.

17           And I say congratulations to the  
18 Asian community as we celebrate the Lunar  
19 New Year 4710.

20           ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
21 Senator Squadron.

22           SENATOR SQUADRON: Thank you.

23           And I want to thank Senator  
24 Golden for introducing the resolution and add  
25 my voice to the chorus welcoming the Year of



1 the Dragon. It promises to be a year full of  
2 prosperity and good fortune and a year in  
3 which both the Chinese-American community and  
4 the entire New York State community will  
5 hopefully take some important steps forward.

6 As Senator Golden said, I look  
7 forward to seeing all of my colleagues in the  
8 Chinatown area and also in Flushing and  
9 Sunset Park many, many, many times over the  
10 next weeks as we celebrate with all of the  
11 different civic organizations that come  
12 together.

13 One of the great things about  
14 the Chinese-American community in New York is  
15 just what a community it is and the extent to  
16 which members of the Legislature, the Senate  
17 and the Assembly, the City Council, really  
18 are now fully engaged with the community,  
19 which empowers the community itself.

20 So it's looking forward to the  
21 Year of the Dragon. I thank Senator Golden  
22 again for his leadership, Senator Stavisky,  
23 and I look forward to the celebrations.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank  
25 you, Senator Squadron.

1                   The previously adopted  
2 resolution for honoring Senator Chris Mega  
3 will include all members of the Senate as  
4 cosponsors.

5                   Senator Libous.

6                   SENATOR LIBOUS:   Mr. President,  
7 I believe there's a resolution by Senator  
8 Ranzenhofer at the desk. Could its title be  
9 read and we move for its immediate adoption.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
11 Secretary will read.

12                  THE SECRETARY:   Legislative  
13 Resolution Number 2801, by Senator  
14 Ranzenhofer, mourning the death of  
15 Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman, Nobel Prize winner,  
16 distinguished citizen and devoted member of  
17 his community.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The  
19 question is on the resolution. All in favor  
20 signify by saying aye.

21                         (Response of "Aye.")

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:

23 Opposed?

24                         (No response.)

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   The

1 resolution is adopted.

2 Senator Libous.

3 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,  
4 Mr. President.

5 I believe there's a resolution  
6 at the desk by Senator Serrano. Could we  
7 have its title read and move for its  
8 immediate adoption.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
10 Secretary will read.

11 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
12 Resolution Number 2902, by Senator Serrano,  
13 commemorating the 35th Annual Parade of Three  
14 Kings Day.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
16 question is on the resolution. All in favor  
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Response of "Aye.")

19 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
20 Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
23 resolution is adopted.

24 And the resolution is available  
25 for cosponsorship. If you choose not to be

1 on it, please notify the desk.

2 Senator Libous.

3 SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President,  
4 I believe there's a resolution by Senator  
5 Skelos at the desk. Could I ask that it be  
6 read in its entirety and then call on Senator  
7 Farley before we move for its adoption.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
9 Secretary will read.

10 THE SECRETARY: Senate  
11 Resolution Number 2883, by Senator Skelos,  
12 providing for a Senate Select Committee on  
13 Libraries.

14 "WHEREAS, New York State  
15 currently has over 7,000 libraries, which  
16 serve as the treasure trove of our state's  
17 knowledge, maintaining nearly 250 million  
18 volumes and circulating over 160 million  
19 items per year; and

20 "WHEREAS, New York State's  
21 libraries serve all of the people of  
22 New York, from childhood to senior  
23 citizenship, and provide universal access to  
24 books, periodicals, public records,  
25 electronic documents, presentations, movies

1 and other educational materials, in addition  
2 to answering over 27 million customer  
3 reference questions each year; and

4 "WHEREAS, New York State's  
5 libraries provide access to over 13,500  
6 computers across the state, permitting  
7 customers to gain access to the Internet and  
8 perform job searches and personal inquiries  
9 to advance themselves and their communities;  
10 and

11 "WHEREAS, It is recognized that  
12 an open forum is needed to properly ascertain  
13 the future needs of our state's libraries and  
14 library systems in order to enhance learning,  
15 improve quality of life, and provide equal  
16 opportunity for all New Yorkers; and

17 "RESOLVED, That a Select  
18 Committee on Libraries is hereby established,  
19 to conduct meetings, conferences,  
20 examinations and public hearings to gather  
21 information and make legislative proposals  
22 and recommendations, and to provide outreach  
23 to and interaction with private organizations  
24 that assist libraries, and to make  
25 recommendations on library-related

1 legislative proposals and resolutions before  
2 the State Legislature; and be it further

3 "RESOLVED, That the Select  
4 Committee shall consist of nineteen Senators,  
5 to be appointed by the Temporary President of  
6 the Senate. Of the Senators appointed, no  
7 more than ten Senators shall be enrolled in  
8 the same political party. The chairperson of  
9 such committee shall be designated by the  
10 Temporary President of the Senate; and be it  
11 further

12 "RESOLVED, That such committee  
13 shall have the same authority as committees  
14 constituted under Article 4 of the  
15 Legislative Law and Senate Rule VII."

16 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
17 Senator Farley.

18 SENATOR FARLEY: Thank you,  
19 Mr. President.

20 You know, one of the thrills of  
21 my Senate career has been working on behalf  
22 of libraries since the very first day that I  
23 came in here in 1977. And I'm very pleased  
24 that the Senate Select Committee on Libraries  
25 is being established, and I'd like to thank

1 Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos for his  
2 leadership and for his understanding of the  
3 importance of libraries and making libraries  
4 a priority here in the Senate. Because if  
5 there's any house that has stood for  
6 libraries, it's been the New York State  
7 Senate.

8               The Select Committee on  
9 Libraries will be a new 19-member bipartisan  
10 body -- incidentally, one of the largest  
11 committees in the Senate. It will supplement  
12 and assist the Education Committee on its  
13 efforts.

14              The purpose of this select  
15 committee is to gather information and to  
16 make legislative proposals and  
17 recommendations. Through this committee, we  
18 will work to address the needs of our  
19 libraries.

20              I've been a lifelong advocate of  
21 libraries. They're the cathedrals of  
22 learning, in my judgment, and very much part  
23 of the education process of our state and  
24 nation. They are a valuable asset and they  
25 provide important services to their

1 communities.

2 I'd also like to acknowledge  
3 Michael Borges, executive director of the  
4 New York State Library Association. And Mike  
5 has been a tireless advocate for libraries.  
6 And I know that this committee will look  
7 forward to working with him.

8 I'm very, very excited about  
9 this new challenge. And we'll work together,  
10 all of us, to improve the libraries of our  
11 state because they are a major priority in  
12 our education system.

13 Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. President.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
16 question is on the resolution. All in favor  
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Response of "Aye.")

19 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:  
20 Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The  
23 resolution is adopted.

24 Senator Libous.

25 SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you,



1 Mr. President.

2 Mr. President, there will be a  
3 meeting of the Education Committee immediately  
4 following session in Room 332. That's the  
5 Education Committee.

6 There will be a meeting of the  
7 Health Committee as scheduled at noon in  
8 Room 124. That's the Health Committee as  
9 scheduled at noon in Room 124.

10 The Higher Education Committee  
11 will meet immediately, immediately following  
12 session in Room 807 in the LOB.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There  
14 will be an immediate meeting of the Education  
15 Committee in Room 332 of the Capitol. The  
16 Health Committee will meet as scheduled at  
17 12 noon in Room 124 of the Capitol. And the  
18 Higher Education Committee will meet  
19 immediately following session in Room 807 of  
20 the Legislative Office Building.

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

23 ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There  
24 is no further business before the desk,  
25 Senator Libous.

1                   SENATOR LIBOUS:    There being no  
2 further business, I move that we adjourn  
3 until Wednesday, January 18th, at 3:00 p.m.,  
4 intervening days being legislative days.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO:   On  
6 motion, the Senate stands adjourned until  
7 Wednesday, January 18th, at 3:00 p.m.,  
8 intervening days being legislative days.

9                   Senate adjourned.

10                  (Whereupon, at 10:45 a.m., the  
11 Senate adjourned.)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25