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REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JOSEPH GRIFFO, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Senate will come to order.

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

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Today's invocation will be offered by Mashhud Iqbal, Imam, North Bronx Islamic Center & Jame Masjid, Bronx.

IMAM IQBAL: Assalamu Alaikum.

All praise and thanks to Almighty Allah, the Sustainer of the world, and also sending peace and blessings upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad, Sallallaho Alaihe Wassalam (peace be upon him).

Today we are gathered here in the Capitol of New York State, in Albany, with thanks to all our guests and especially to all the respectful, distinguished guests and community leaders of the United States. Also we thank our organizers and coordinators. And thanks to our brothers and sisters, those who

gather here with us.

I will try to recite only one simple verse from the Holy Quran, which are related with human aim of their life, service of life.

Almighty Allah is saying, in the Quran, in Surah Anbiya {chanting in Arabic}: I want the safety of Almighty Allah from evil, and also I want Allah's help and mercy, by the name of Allah, who is All Wise and All Merciful.

{Chanting in Arabic.} Almighty Allah is saying: Verily this nation of yours is a single nation, and I am your Sustainer and Cherisher. Therefore, serve your duty to Me, for Me.

{Chanting in Arabic.} And human beings by their own ways have divided themselves. But in the end, all will return to Me.

We remember the 26th of the month of March. It is very important in the history of Bangladesh because the 26th of March, 1971, was independence in Bangladesh. The 26th of March is celebrated as the Independence Day of Bangladesh. We achieved victory after prolonged

struggle and the loss of 3 million people, and at the sacrifice of virginity of thousands of moms and sisters and children.

We remember them. We are praying for them. Today is a national holiday in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a glorious, wonderful, and peaceful country in the world.

Thank you to all of you {in Arabic}.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, March 27th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, March 26th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: On page 31, Senator Young moves to discharge, from the Committee on Finance, Assembly Bill Number 3002A

and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 2002A, Third Reading Calendar 438.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The substitution is so ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports of state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

May I have some order in the house.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Mr. President, I move that the following bill, 5423, by Senator Young, be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: It is so ordered.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 1179.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar before you, with the exception of Resolution Number

1179, signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Resolution Calendar is adopted as indicated.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you now take up previously adopted Resolution 1046, by Senator Díaz, read it in its entirety, and call on Senator Díaz to speak, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 1046, by Senator Díaz, celebrating March 28, 2017, as Bangladesh Day.

"WHEREAS, March 26th is the national independence day of Bangladesh; this day is celebrated in Bangladesh and also all around the world in honor of its country's Declaration of Independence from Pakistan in the late hours of March 25, 1971, and the start of the Bangladesh Liberation War; and

"WHEREAS, This day is also a memorial to the deaths of thousands of students,

civilians, political leaders, and unarmed Bengali people; the Bangladesh Liberation War started between West and East Pakistan; and

"WHEREAS, West Pakistan believed they were far superior to those in East Pakistan; they gave East Pakistan no privileges; they had a bad economy, and no rights; and

"WHEREAS, The first election in the history of Pakistan was held on December 7, 1970; there were 300 seats in the parliament; East Pakistan won 160 seats, and West Pakistan won 81 seats; instead of handing over the power to the winning party, they imposed martial law on East Pakistan; and

"WHEREAS, East Pakistani leader Mr. Bongu Bondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged the Bengali people to turn their homes into resisting forts; he said, "Our struggle is for our freedom. Our struggle is for our independence"; this speech is what mainly inspired the nation to fight for freedom; and

"WHEREAS, The West Pakistani Army sent a military plan known as Operation Searchlight; it was planned to curb the Bengalis' movement by taking control of major cities, and

eliminating all opposition, political or military; and

"WHEREAS, At that time, Ziaur Rahman broadcasted a message that the Independent People's Republic of Bangladesh had been established; and

"WHEREAS, At this point, March 26, 1971, the Bangladesh Liberation War had broken out in the whole country; this was the day the Bengali people stood up to the Pakistani Army; and

"WHEREAS, After a nine-month-long war, the Pakistani Army finally surrendered unconditionally; many lives were lost, but Bangladesh, as a country, gained its freedom, its independence; and

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the great contributions which the Bangladesh community have brought to our state and nation; and

"WHEREAS, Many Bangladesh people have made New York their home, and this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is pleased to thank the Bangladesh people for their contributions to this

great Empire State; and

"WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate March 28, 2017, as Bangladesh Day."

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Díaz.

SENATOR DÍAZ: Thank you, Mr. President.

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Today, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President, you should know that today I take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to the leaders of this chamber -- Senator John Flanagan, the leader of the Republican Conference; Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the leader of the Democratic Conference; Mr. Frank Patience, the Secretary of the Senate -- and to all my colleagues, the members of the Senate, for

granting me this opportunity to introduce this resolution.

It is important for you to know, ladies and gentlemen, that today this Puerto Rican is proud to be here one more time to introduce and recognize the contributions of the Bangladesh community in the State of New York and the City of New York.

As you remember, ladies and gentlemen, just last week on Tuesday, March 21st, I brought and introduced more than 50 members of the Garifuna community to celebrate the Garifuna-American Heritage Month in this chamber. And today, ladies and gentlemen, this proud Puerto Rican, from a town called Bayamón, is proud to be able to sponsor this resolution celebrating Bangladesh Heritage Month for the sixth consecutive year in this chamber.

As you can see, Mr. President and my fellow colleagues, today we are joined in the Senate gallery -- not only that side, but also on this side -- by more than 150 members of the Bangladesh community from the City of New York who came here to witness this special day.

Eight leaders of the Bangladeshi

delegation are joining me here in the Senate chamber. They are the Consul General of Bangladesh here in New York, the Honorable Shameem Ahsan, and his spouse, Mrs. Guley Ferdousi Forhad. Also joining us in the chamber are Islam Mamun, Shamim Miah, Rexona Mujumder, Shahed Ahamed, Abdur Rod Dola Miah, and Imam Muhammad Mashhud Iqbal, who gave the invocation.

Thank you for being with us here today, ladies and gentlemen.

It is important -- you might be seated now -- it is important for you to know, ladies and gentlemen, that March 26th is the Bangladesh National Independence Day. This day is celebrated in Bangladesh and also around the world in honor of the country's declaration of independence from Pakistan.

Mr. President, my friend, how are you doing? Mr. President and my fellow Senators, ladies and gentlemen, it is important also for you to know that today we commemorate and remember the thousands of people who lost their lives in the Bangladesh Liberation War, a war that started on March 26, 1971. This was the day that the Bengali people stood up to the Pakistani

Army.

Another important moment in the history of the Bangladesh community is that the first election in the history of Pakistan was held on December 7, 1970. December 7th is a very special and important day for me. On December 7, 1941, the United States of America was attacked by the Imperial Forces of Japan at Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1954, my mother passed away. And on December 7, 1970, Pakistan held its first election.

Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen, on that election that took place in Pakistan on December 7th, there were 300 seats in the parliament. East Pakistan won 160 seats, and West Pakistan won only 81 seats. But instead of handing over power to the winning party, they imposed martial law on East Pakistan.

The leader of East Pakistan, Mr. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, urged the Bengali people to turn their homes into resisting forts. He inspired the nation to fight for freedom with the following words: "Our struggle is for our freedom. Our struggle is for our independence."

You must also know that on this

important occasion, Ziaur Rahman proclaimed to all the Bangladeshi people that the Independent People's Republic of Bangladesh had been established.

Ladies and gentlemen, you should know also that after nine long months of war, the Pakistani Army finally surrendered unconditionally. And while many lives were lost, Bangladesh as a country gained its freedom and independence. And that is why we are all here today, to remember the suffering of the heroes and heroines.

To conclude, Mr. President, once again, I want to acknowledge the delegation and express my appreciation to the Bangladesh community that came all the way from the City of New York today.

Also I would like to note that some of the leaders, many of the Bangladesh leaders of the community from Queens, from the Bronx, they're here today. And from the Bronx we have Mr. Mohammed Mujumder, he's in the gallery; we have Mr. Muhobob Alom, Farida Yeasmin, and many other leaders of the Bangladesh community.

To all of you, ladies and gentlemen,

on this side and on the other side, I would like to express my appreciation. Thank you very much for being here today. This chamber today is Bangladeshi. We honor you, and we welcome you today. And I say As-salamu Alaikum! Dhanno-baad!

This is Senator Díaz, Mr. President, and this is what you should know. Thank you very much.

(Applause from gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Bailey.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

A tough act to follow. Reverend Díaz, thank you for introducing this resolution to honor the Bengali people. {In Bangla; response from gallery.}

SENATOR BAILEY: Absolutely.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: The Bengali community is relatively new to me. Throughout my travels and my quest to become the State Senator, I ventured to the western portion of my district, which I'm not an inhabitant of. There I have a

thriving Bengali population -- store owners, business owners, homeowners, voters. Most importantly, people -- the fabric of our community.

I began to learn so many things about your community. Most importantly, a member of your community actually reminded me of what my name meant in Arabic. And, you know, my parents named me aptly, you know -- so my wife believes. Jamaal means "handsome" in Arabic. Some people are laughing.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: I hope, if my wife is watching, she's not.

But these are things that were instructional, things about your community -- your cohesion, your togetherness. Things that I've learned from your community. My first interview on television was on Time TV, a Bengali TV station. So your commitment to me is important, and thus it should be returned to you threefold and tenfold.

So I want to thank you all for coming up today. I want to encourage you all to continue to come up and make your voices be heard

here in the Capitol.

And again, I thank Senator Díaz for bringing this resolution, and Dhanno-baad!

(Applause from gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Hamilton.

SENATOR HAMILTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise for the resolution of Senator Díaz, the father of Bronx politics, for doing a phenomenal job. And I want to thank the brothers and sisters from the Bangladesh community for coming here today to the State Capitol. So I'm going to say {in Bengali; response from gallery}.

And the State of New York wants to recognize the Bangladeshi community for being a hardworking people -- store owners, construction, retail. Many own small businesses in the community -- as far as Dunkin' Donuts, which I go to frequently.

I want to say to the delegation that is here today, I want to say Dhanno-baad, Dhanno-baad, for coming here and letting us people know that we are a diverse state, a diverse people, and we must respect each other's

cultures, we must respect each other's religions, to make this state the best state in the country.

So what we're seeing here is the melting pot of America. We're seeing the melting pot of New York State. And when we have troubling times, we must come together as people and fight as one.

And so I say to you, thank you for coming here today. I want to say I hope everything is going well, kibhalo, everything is going well for you, and I want to say Dhanno-baad.

Thank you so much. God bless you all.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Serrano.

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

And I too would like to thank Senator Reverend Díaz for once again bringing diversity, color, and good cheer to this chamber with the Bengali community and Bengali Heritage Day.

And it really is, I believe, very

important that now more than ever, when we hear so much unfortunate intolerance throughout our nation, that we remind ourselves that communities like the Bengali community, many other immigrant communities, made the United States what it is. This country would be nothing without a strong immigrant community. We are built on the backs of immigrants.

You have a perfect example in the Bengali community of folks who came to this country with their skills, with their hard work, and with their determination and with their love, to create a country like no other in the world. One in which we celebrate the diversity, the multiculturalism, the different foods, the different sights, the different sounds. This is what makes the fabric of our society so unique, different than any other country in the world.

So it is, I think, important that we take a step back and be grateful and thankful to live in a nation like this where we have this level of diversity, and celebrate that diversity -- not merely tolerate it, but celebrate it for what it is. And it is a gift, and it is something that makes America so great.

So thank you, Reverend Díaz. Thank you to the Bengali community for being here.

(Applause from the gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Alcantara.

SENATOR ALCANTARA: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Reverend Díaz. Every week you bring different New Yorkers to our chambers, people like the Garifuna, now the Bengali community, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to be here in these chambers in the State of New York.

I want to congratulate the Bengali community. You are adding to the fabric of what New York is. Thank you for choosing New York as your home. As an immigrant, I appreciate the contributions that you make to the State of New York. I love that we had an imam here preaching and teaching all of us that this is what makes New York, and that Islam is peace, Islam is love.

Thank you, Senator Díaz, for bringing us here. And you as a Christian minister is very symbolic that you bring members

of our community that are Muslim-American to show the rest of us that this is what makes New York so great, this is what makes New York so fantastic.

Thank you again to the Bengali community for choosing New York as your home, for adding more to make our city more diverse. Because of immigrants like yourself is that people want to come to New York. And thank you for choosing the United States as your home.

Thank you so much, and happy Independence Day.

(Applause from gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The resolution was adopted on March 21st of this year.

We extend the courtesies and the welcome of the Senate to the consul general, the delegation from Bangladesh, and the Bengali community. Welcome.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The sponsor has requested that the resolution be opened for cosponsorship. Should you choose to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: The next resolution is a privileged resolution by Senator Jacobs. Read the title only, and please call on Senator Jacobs to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution by Senator Jacobs, mourning the death of Colonel Patrick J. Cunningham, distinguished citizen, meritorious veteran, and devoted member of his community.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today in tribute to the passing of an individual who served his country and his community with great honor and distinction, Retired Army Colonel Patrick J. Cunningham. For the last 26 years, Colonel Cunningham served as the executive director of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, taking what was once a noble idea and a fledging organization and, with his leadership,

transforming it into a park that proudly lives up to its mission of honoring veterans and inspiring citizens.

Through his vision, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park has become a major tourist attraction on Buffalo's waterfront, a jewel of the community that attracts 80,000 visitors annually.

Sadly, Colonel Cunningham passed away one day before the park's official opening for this season on Buffalo's waterfront, succumbing to an illness attributed in part to his exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

So great was Colonel Cunningham's dedication to the park that in lean times he would loan the park money to meet payroll, without telling anyone or expecting any thanks in return. With his vast knowledge and military experience, Colonel Cunningham was a major figure in the military community of Western New York and a tremendous advocate to fellow veterans. Our country, all of Buffalo, and those in Western New York owe Colonel Cunningham a great debt of gratitude.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Jacobs.

Senator Kennedy on the resolution.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

First of all, let me thank our colleague Senator Jacobs for bringing this privileged resolution to the floor today to honor a true hero in our community in Western New York, in our state, and in our great nation.

Last Saturday I attended the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park season opening, a yearly tradition often marked with celebration. But this year when we gathered together, we were without one of the visionaries who led the park for nearly a quarter of a century. As mentioned, on the eve of the season opening, we lost Colonel Patrick Cunningham, the park's executive director.

Colonel Cunningham devoted his life to serving his country and community, first in active military service for 30 years, later serving Buffalo and Western New York through his

dedication to the Buffalo Naval Park, the Boy Scouts of America, the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, and youth football and basketball.

Colonel Cunningham served our country in Vietnam, and for his service was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

After Vietnam, Colonel Cunningham supervised the Army's budget while assigned to the Pentagon, before returning home to Western New York.

And when he became executive director of the Naval Park in 1993, he was taking on an immense challenge. The City of Buffalo was a much different place than it is today. There was little reason to visit the waterfront of Buffalo. Attendance was low, and interest was waning.

But Colonel Cunningham immersed himself in the park's resurgence. In a demonstration of his enormous character and the giant that this gentleman was, he secretly paid other workers' salaries to help ease the park's early financial problems, while often refusing to

taking a paycheck himself. He created new displays, updated existing exhibits, and worked to improve the overall experience.

He worked to integrate the Naval Park with the redevelopment of Canalside and the waterfront, with full knowledge that doing so would attract more visitors to the park -- and he succeeded. Today the Naval Park attracts over 80,000 visitors annually, and it's the largest inland naval park in the United States. Last year alone, the park was visited by people from every single state and from over 100 countries.

Fittingly, this season at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park is dedicated in Colonel Cunningham's honor.

To Colonel Cunningham we owe a debt of gratitude. And to his sons Michael, Sean and Patrick, his daughters Colleen and Kathleen, we truly extend our condolences on your loss.

He was an extraordinary man and will be missed, Mr. President. May he rest in peace.

Thank you very much.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Croci.

SENATOR CROCI: Thank you,

Mr. President.

And I'd like to thank my colleague Senator Jacobs for bringing this resolution. I had the great privilege, as chairman of Homeland Security, Military and Veterans Affairs, of receiving an invitation from Senator Gallivan to visit the park. I've had the opportunity to meet at the park twice with Colonel Cunningham. I can tell you, he was a dynamic figure.

And one of the things that's most impressive is that regardless of his years of service in the military, he decided to come back and pay tribute to another generation of warrior, the Greatest Generation -- and that is our World War II generation -- by preserving and honoring the legacy at the Naval Park.

Anyone who has been there knows that there is a famous ship there, the USS The Sullivans. And the colonel, for being an Army guy, took great pride in the naval tradition, but particularly the Greatest Generation, who was honored at that park. He gave of himself, he was a delight to work with, and I'm very sorry.

And I'm so glad that Senator Jacobs and Senator Kennedy have brought this resolution.

So thank you, Mr. President.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The resolution is adopted.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes. Can we now take up Resolution 1179, by Senator Murphy, read the title only, and call on Senator Murphy to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 1179, by Senator Murphy, mourning the death of David Rockefeller, generous philanthropist, businessman and devoted member of his community.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to acknowledge the passing of a modern-day titan of both business and development. Last week New York State said farewell to Mr. David Rockefeller.

Mr. Rockefeller's contributions to our state in many aspects are unprecedented. He was brother to former New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller. David was a proud Army veteran serving in Africa and France during World War II. For 20 years, he grew Chase National Bank and was the founder and chairman of Downtown Lower Manhattan Association.

Acting as the driving force behind the building of the World Trade Center and a number of iconic landmarks and beyond, Mr. Rockefeller has had a tremendous impact on our great state.

I send my best wishes to his children -- David Jr., Richard, Abby, Neva, Margaret, and Eileen, and the entire Rockefeller Center. He will be surely missed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Murphy.

Senator Hoylman.

SENATOR HOYLMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to thank my colleague for the resolution on David Rockefeller.

I wanted to mention something. Rockefeller Center is in my Senate district, and another former constituent of mine, Andy Warhol, once said, "If you're a Rockefeller, New York is really your town."

And if you think about David Rockefeller and his life, he gave so much to New York City. In the early 1980s he brought together business and labor leaders to help bring New York City out of fiscal ruin. And he created something called the Partnership for New York City, which is a consortium of chief executives from all boroughs of New York, to work together with organized labor, with nonprofit leaders, to strategize how to make a stronger city.

And they have actually established, over the last several decades, a legacy in his name called the David Rockefeller Fellows Program. And since it was begun, 362 business executives aspiring to the levels of civic contribution of David Rockefeller have actually visited places like Albany and City Hall and

Rikers Island and learned how the business community can make a contribution to civic life.

So I think it's very important, as we remember and commend the Rockefeller family for their contributions to New York, that this is an individual who gave back as much as he received.

Thank you.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The resolution is adopted.

Both the previous resolution by Senator Jacobs and this resolution by Senator Murphy have been offered up for cosponsorship. Should you choose to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you now take up previously adopted Resolution Number 1161, by Senator Kaminsky, read it in its

entirety, and call on Senator Kaminsky to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 1161, by Senator Kaminsky, commending John Rigazio for his extraordinary efforts --

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Excuse me.

Senator DeFrancisco, why do you rise?

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: You'll want to recognize me. Title only.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator DeFrancisco.

Secretary will reread.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 1161, by Senator Kaminsky, commending John Rigazio for his extraordinary efforts to support and raise funds for autism awareness and research, on June 10, 2016.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Kaminsky.

SENATOR KAMINSKY: Thank you so

much, Mr. President.

We have in our midst a very special young man and a very special family who really represent the heart and the spirit of the communities that I'm very proud to represent.

John Rigazio is a senior in Rockville Centre, in South Side High School, who has decided to take autism awareness and funding for autism awareness and services to an incredible level. He and his father rode on a tandem bike from Battery Park, New York City, to Westhampton, going through about 10 different Senate districts, and really extraordinarily, on his own, raising $40,000 last year.

I can't tell you how proud I am of him and how great it's been to get to know the Rigazio family. His father Joe, his mother Jackie, and their family are here today. And John is committed to doing it again this year and raising even more money.

You know, autism is such an important cause. And a lot of people talk about it, a lot of people try to commit to it. I have yet to see a commitment like this. And I'm really proud to recognize him here with this

resolution today.

So, Mr. President, I ask that you kindly welcome the Rigazio family. John, I say to you, you'll be going to college in Connecticut next year, you'll be successful in whatever you try to achieve. I know you'll put your heart into it, and my money is on you.

If you would welcome the family, Mr. President, and give them all the cordialities of the Senate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The resolution was adopted on March 23rd of this year.

I would extend a warm welcome and the privileges of the house to John Rigazio and the entire Rigazio family. Please stand and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, I believe that's also up for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you

choose to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Would you now please take up the noncontroversial reading of the active calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 180, by Senator Little, Senate Print 136, an act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 180, those recorded in the negative are Senators Alcantara, Avella, Bailey, Comrie, Díaz, Hoylman, Persaud, Rivera, Serrano and Stavisky. Also Senator LaValle.

Ayes, 47. Nays, 11.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 263, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 1065, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Some order in the house, please.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 263, those recorded in the negative are Senators Alcantara, Comrie, Díaz, Hoylman, Montgomery, Peralta, Rivera, Serrano, Squadron. Also Senator Bailey.

Ayes, 50. Nays, 10.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

279, by Senator Funke, Senate Print 1443, an act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 279: Ayes, 59. Nays, 1. Senator Díaz recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is still passed.

(Laughter.)

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 285, by Senator Gallivan, Senate Print 1981, an act to amend the Social Services Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 438, Assembly Budget Bill, Assembly Print 3002A, an act making appropriations.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59. Nays, 1. Senator LaValle recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 502, by Senator Avella, Senate Print 1271, an act to amend the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco to explain his vote.

Can I have some order, please.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I'm going to vote no.

Not to be overly technical, but I don't think we need a law to determine how to measure a thousand feet. So I vote no.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco to be recorded in the negative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58. Nays, 2. Senators DeFrancisco and Montgomery recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

Senator DeFrancisco, that completes the noncontroversial reading of today's active-list calendar.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes. Is

there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Well, before we conclude, however, I think Senator Kaminsky would like to say --

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Can I have some order, please.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: -- would like to amend his prior statement that was incomplete.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Kaminsky.

SENATOR KAMINSKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

In my excitement, I neglected to mention that John Rigazio's mother Jackie joined them halfway in the 100-mile bike ride, rode herself 50 miles. I don't think my mom has ever ridden 50 miles ever, in her life, as much as she loves me.

So thank you for raising a great young man, and thank you for your efforts for autism awareness.

And thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Therefore, I now move to adjourn until Wednesday, March 29th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There being no further business before the desk, and on motion, the Senate will stand adjourned until Wednesday, March 29th, at 3:00 p.m.

The Senate stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 3:58 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)