NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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11:24 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL, President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please stand and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance with me.

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

THE PRESIDENT: In the absence of clergy, may we bow our heads in a moment of silence.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, January 16th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, January 15th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

THE PRESIDENT: 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.

Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 3416 and 3432.

THE PRESIDENT: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 3416 and 3432, signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed?

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Resolution Calendar is adopted.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Now, Madam President, can we take up the reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 42, by Senator Croci, Senate Print 7314, an act to

amend the Civil Service Law.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the last section.

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

THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

THE PRESIDENT: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 47, by Senator Marchione, Senate Print 7319, an act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

THE PRESIDENT: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 54, by Senator Hannon, Senate Print 7326, an act to amend Part E of Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2017.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the last

section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

THE PRESIDENT: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 57, by Senator Hannon, Senate Print 7329, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

THE PRESIDENT: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 62, by Senator Funke, Senate Print 7334, an act to amend the Economic Development Law.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2017.

THE PRESIDENT: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

THE PRESIDENT: The bill is passed.

That concludes the reading of the calendar.

Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, may we now go back to motions and resolutions and take up Resolution 3432, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, read it in its entirety, and call on Senator Stewart-Cousins to speak.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3432, by Senators Stewart-Cousins, Larkin and Klein, commemorating the observance of the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the State of New York on January 15, 2018.

"WHEREAS, From time to time we take note of certain individuals whom we wish to

recognize for their valued contributions and to publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

"WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the custom of this Legislative Body to join the people of this great Empire State in proudly observing the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the State of New York, on January 15, 2018, taking note of his many accomplishments and contributions to mankind; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born the grandson of a slave into a segregated society in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, and was instrumental in formulating a policy which ultimately destroyed legal apartheid in the southern states of our nation; and

"WHEREAS, In February of 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about the inevitability of his death and hoped that when we spoke of his life, we would not concentrate on his academic achievements: that he graduated from Morehouse College, that he attended the

Crozer Theological Seminary and Boston University, where he earned a doctorate in systematic theology; and

"WHEREAS, Furthermore, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did not find it important that we mention that he won the Nobel Peace Prize and over 300 other awards; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s finest legacy of greater social justice for all Americans was truly reflected in his devotion to serve and respect others, and in his steadfast love for all humanity; and

"WHEREAS, Standing in a long line of great American black leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. represents the historical culmination and the living embodiment of a spirit of united purpose rooted in black African culture and the American dream; and

"WHEREAS, An apostle of peace, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought unrelentingly for the civil rights of all Americans and taught us that through nonviolence, courage displaces fear, love transforms hate, acceptance dissipates prejudice, and mutual regard cancels enmity; and

"WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. manifestly contributed to the cause of America's freedom, and his commitment to human dignity is visibly mirrored in the spiritual, economic, and political dimensions of the civil rights movement; and

"WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life was devoted to the liberation of his people and his courage transcended the advocates of mindless retrenchment; and

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the common and shared responsibility of governance demands an irrevocable commitment to the preservation and enhancement of human dignity as exemplified by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

"WHEREAS, Upon the occasion of the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is the practice of this Legislative Body to commemorate the heroic efforts of Dr. King, who loved and served humanity, and who was a drum major for peace, justice and righteousness; and

"WHEREAS, The 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday observance marks the 89th

anniversary of his birth, and the 33rd annual holiday celebrated in the State of New York in his honor; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize and pay tribute to the legendary life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., upon the occasion of the anniversary of his birth and the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the State of New York and throughout the nation; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus."

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Stewart-Cousins.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you, Madam President.

I rise, as I have had the opportunity and occasion to rise for over 10 years, to commemorate the memory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

And this year is just incredibly different from every other year I've had the

opportunity to speak on this occasion. Like most of my colleagues, I spent the weekend, the King weekend, not golfing, but attending events honoring Dr. King's legacy. And as I stand here, I recall how in 2008 I stood for the first time, as so many of us did, because America had elected its first African-American president and people saw that as an indication that we had moved a mighty long way and saw President Barack Obama as the embodiment of that dream that, as Dr. King said, is deeply rooted in the American dream. That occasion was coincident with one of my grandsons' birthdays. And with the election of Barack Hussein Obama, I knew that my grandson or your grandson or your granddaughter -- everyone knew they could achieve that dream.

And now I stand here after this weekend where, days prior to the beginning of this great celebration, the president of our nation, in a meeting to determine what would happen to the 800,000 Dreamers who have come to this country, who we've made a commitment to, what would happen to them -- and in the course of that, we find that the very dialogue about the Dreamers on Dream Weekend is debased by a

president who felt that disparaging remarks about people's countries of origin was really more important than respecting and fulfilling the dream. How sad.

Because this day, the 33rd celebration, 50 years after Dr. King's death, this celebration was always a reflection on how far we had come. We'd talk about how far we had to go. Rarely do we have to stand and talk about how quickly, if we are not careful, we can lose the dream.

This weekend one of the speakers, Dr. Marx, at the Nepperhan Community Center celebration -- again, well attended. So many people went to all of these events. So many people wanted to stand and say I get this, we are still America. But this one speaker was talking about, Are you a thermometer or are you a thermostat? And that's where we are right now. He said that when you're a thermometer, you just measure the temperature. But when you're a thermostat, you regulate the temperature, you regulate the surroundings.

In this chamber we have an opportunity to not be thermometers, but to be

thermostats. We have an opportunity to look at our policy decisions, look at our budget, look at what's coming from Washington, D.C., and look at what we can do to be the thermostat, to make sure that New York, in all of its diversity and all of its greatness and all of its promise, stands strong in the vision of Dr. King.

We have been practicing what the King legacy has been about year after year and feeling that we are making incremental progress. This is the time to stand and really deliver on what the promise of Dr. King is and must be for our country.

You know, when the president, who defends the KKK, who has found ways to sow hatred and division for his own dangerous agenda, when he came to the public and addressed people -- not in my community directly, but directed his comments to communities of color and said, "What do you have to lose?", he's answering that question. We have not only the dream to lose, we have the fabric of our country. We have the basis and the root of why we are America and why so many people dream our dream.

And it's not just what people of

color have to lose, it's what all of us have to lose if we allow these yearly celebrations to just be a time to play golf or pat ourselves on the back. In this place, we are thermostats. In this place, we are dreamers and the children of dreamers. In this place, we have so much to stand for and so much to stand against. In the spirit of Dr. King, let us do just that.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Madam President.

The leader has spoken well, and I just want to underline.

I'm very happy to be here to speak for the drum major, for a person who said that he wanted to be remembered not for all of the degrees, not for all of the honorary titles, but as a drum major for justice -- some person, in military terms, who's sitting with their drum and calling people to arms, calling all of us together that the battle is not over, that the war is not won, that the enemy is still out there and sometimes the enemy is within us, that we

have to get out there and challenge.

We could speak of how Dr. King and the entire civil rights movement led to incredible journeys in America. Everyone made progress. We can speak of the senior rights movement, the gay rights movement, the Latino rights movement, the Native American rights movement, the Asian rights movement, just to name a few.

But I must say that I was amazed at how President Trump could actually sign the proclamation the very next day. After making such racist statements, I'm amazed that the pen didn't jump out of his hand and just refuse -- the ink would refuse to come out. I'd have to applaud such a person for having such ability to think one way about a situation and to write -- you're turning the truth on its very head. It's the inversion of every single thing that Martin Luther King, the Reverend Doctor, stood for.

It's not just pretty words that we put on a proclamation; it has to be something that we believe in. It has to be American values that we commit ourselves to and say that, you know what, we're going to see this great American

experiment through. And it is an experiment. At the very beginning, even in this great chamber, many of the people now in this chamber were never conceived of being in here, except perhaps to bring some water or to clean it up.

But this experiment has gone beyond the very beginning and has moved to a greater place. And we need to see ourselves as being part of that.

America today is fighting for its very soul. What is America? Is it worth fighting for? Is this the place that we say give us your tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free? Or is it the place that we're going to build a wall? Is it the place where we are going to say that we are great and something for everyone, or is it the place we're saying "us four and no more"?

We have to decide. We in our actions every day are deciding what America will be. And I would contend that that is the best reward that we can do, the best honor that we can give to Martin Luther King, where we commit ourselves to say we're not going back, that all of these folk with sheets and without sheets

talking about stuff, that's not America and that's not what we're fighting for. We're not going back. All of us need to say it together and say it loud and say it proudly -- perhaps holding hands and perhaps not -- but to say to all of those guys, We're not going back. We beat you guys in World War Two, and we'll beat you again if need be.

So I just want to underline my speaker who gave all of the good points that I possibly could come up with, and I too want to commit myself to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend Doctor, to say I still hear the drum major, I still hear the beat. This battle is not over, this war is not over, and I'm still in the fight.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Madam President.

It's very difficult to bat third in an all-star lineup and the bases are clear, but I will attempt to hit a home run.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would have led with a scripture, Luke 12:48: To whomsoever much is given, much is required. The life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was squarely based upon that verse. He understood that there was a lot required of him.

And one of the most striking things about Dr. King's life -- and I said it last year -- and actually, this is the one-year anniversary of my first speech on the floor. As you know, I'm very shy now, I don't speak too often. But I noticed something last year, as the youngest member of the Senate right now: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the age of 39 when he died.

When we look at his life and his legacy and all that he accomplished, a voluminous record that would be much larger than this, we'd think that he was a man who lived to be 139. Thirty-nine years old.

We look at our intern class of this year, many who are ambitious and bright and talented college students. We look at me at the age of 35 -- and I understand that I have four years to do what Dr. King did? That's a lot of

pressure.

SENATOR PARKER: Hurry up.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: You'll be waiting for a long time, Senator Parker. You're waiting for me to be the dreamer.

When we speak about Dreamers, my legislative director, Angelica, is a Dreamer. And that dream seems to want to be taken away by a White House who -- well, they're going to say one of my favorite Dr. King quotes, and the embodiment sometimes of Washington, that nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. When you make references and remarks about people from certain areas being certain types of holes, I wonder what kind of sheer ignorance that you are displaying.

But this isn't all negative, this is to commemorate the life and legacy of a legend. I learned a lot from Senator Larkin, who is not present right now, about his experiences. And I understand more now than ever that -- I know if I'm sick, I don't care if it's a Republican doctor or a Democratic doctor or a white doctor

or a gay doctor or a black doctor or a straight doctor, I just want the best health.

I understand now more than ever that we must realize that the dream of Dr. King has not been sufficiently realized, but we can realize it through my daughters and your daughters and your children and your grandchildren.

You know, we talk about Dr. King's legacy and how the holiday was created in 1983, when I was celebrating my first birthday. They voted 338 to 90. One would think that such a man with such a record and such a legacy would be unanimous. Not so. It's been there and it shall remain there. Sheer ignorance, conscientious stupidity.

Sometimes we talk about resistance. And we must resist -- we must realize that resistance is far more than a hashtag in social media. We must register, register to vote. It should be easier for us to get to the polls, get our souls to the polls, as my preacher friends in the South would say.

You know, we must remove -- not just remove nonsense, but remove barriers that we

often put in the way ourselves. My friends, and I say this sometimes in my district, if you like bacalao, then that means you like salt fish, because it's the same exact thing. You're just saying it in a different way.

Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that. The more we realize that we have more in common, the better off we will be.

SENATOR ROBACH: Preach now, Jamaal.

SENATOR SANDERS: Amen.

SENATOR BAILEY: Well, I'll leave that to my clergy friends to actually preach.

But I just want to drive this point home that when we remove these barriers, when you remove side versus side, person versus person, you get an understanding of who people actually are and how they live their lives.

Now, we're not going to agree on everything, and quite frankly I like it like that. That shows that we have the ability to think. And that is what Dr. King would probably have wanted us to do.

But Dr. King also was somebody who was known for his nonviolent and silent protests.

And in 1990, the National Football League made the decision to move the Super Bowl from Arizona because the State of Arizona refused to celebrate MLK Day. I wonder, in the current iteration of the NFL, if they would do the same thing, because they seem to have a problem with silent protests in the NFL nowadays. Just a thought.

But as I come to an end of this, life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others? And I want us to continue to think about that as we go through budget season, as we go through our committees, as we go through everything that we do in this legislative body, that we realize who it is for: It is for the people we represent.

I thank you, Madam President, for allowing me the time. I thank you, Madam Leader, for introducing this resolution. And Senator Sanders, thank you for coming before me, there is nothing else that I can say.

Long live the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kennedy on the resolution.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam

President.

First of all, let me start by thanking my colleagues who spoke so eloquently -- Senator Bailey, Senator Sanders, of course our great leader, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins -- about this auspicious occasion as we celebrate an extraordinary human being that came before us in this great chamber and we celebrate and commemorate the life and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

You know, this past weekend out in Buffalo I had the opportunity to celebrate at various different occasions, and I have to tell you each and every one was unique, but each and every one had the same common denominator: It was a call to action. And as we recall the life and the legacy of Dr. King, he was not a man of words, he was a man of action. And he used his words to promote the action not only of himself but of others, to help to cultivate the nation and the world. The eyes of the globe were on him, the eyes of the globe were on the United States.

And if you think about where we've come from as a country in the last 50 years since

he passed -- and this April 4th marks the 50th anniversary of his passing -- I would say that Dr. King would be proud, but I would also say that Dr. King would be very, very concerned, maybe more so today than at any other moment in time over the course of the last five decades.

Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King was tragically stolen from this world. Thirty-nine years old, and think about what he accomplished. Not only a visionary and a leader in our nation, but across the globe. I had the opportunity on Sunday night to stand on the same stage that 50 years earlier this past November, in 1967, Dr. King stood on, amid the riots happening across the nation. And Dr. King came to Buffalo as he went around the nation preaching nonviolence, preaching peace, preaching the advancement of our nation's morals and goals in a nonviolent manner. An inspirational human being by anyone's account.

He made such a mark on this nation that we celebrate his life and legacy and are reminded every year. But it shouldn't be just once a year that we're thinking about his vision and his goals, it should be the other 364 days as

well. And it shouldn't just be what we do outside of this chamber; it's just as important, if not more important, what we do in this chamber. And think about the bills that we're passing and how they have an impact on people's lives, how they have an impact on people that are living in poverty, how they have an impact on a child's education, how they have an impact on unemployment, how they have an impact on race relations, on religious relations, on all relations.

So I'm so honored to stand and recognize the legacy of Dr. King, but I recognize also that as far as we've come, we've got a long, long way to go. And we must use this opportunity on the 50th anniversary, but every anniversary, as a reminder to recommit ourselves as a Senate chamber, as a government, as a state, and as a nation to the goals of Dr. King.

And as my partner in government Senator Bailey articulated, 39 years, think about that. I turned around to Senator Parker, I said, Well, if I wanted to accomplish what he did in 39 years, I've already lost. I was born in 1976, nine years -- I'm sorry, eight years after

Dr. King was assassinated, so I never got to see our nation ripped apart as it was in the '60s.

I was just reminded by watching the extraordinary, revolutionary documentary on the Vietnam War by Ken Burns. I was enthralled by it, captivated by it. Where our nation was, where the globe was. People ripping each other apart because of their differences. The 1960s were some of the worst times in our nation's history. But what came of that was our nation rising up and coming together.

I'm going to quote a couple of preachers from Buffalo. The one was Pastor Brown, who I heard from this weekend. And the motto of his message was, Open your mouth. You got to open your mouth, you got to be heard.

Another preacher friend of mine, Pastor Jenkins, about four or five years ago I got to see him speak at a church service on a Sunday morning. And, you know, we go to various church services, and every now and then something sticks with you. Well, this one stuck with me. I remind him every now and then of his message. And he talked about going out and he told a story about his wife being upset that he trudged in the

house with manure on his feet from the flowers she had planted. And then he told a story about the fact that these beautiful flowers have to come from the dirt, that manure. And the story was about the difficult times that we must endure individually and, I would argue, as a nation today and as a state, and from that, depending on how we act, will come a beautiful flower. We will rise up.

So our nation has risen up from the difficulties of the 1960s when an American hero, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., walked this great earth. But we have so much more manure that exists out there, so much more dirt in society that needs to be addressed. And one only needs to turn on the television or the radio or open up the newspaper to see what I'm talking about. And the only way we're going to get there is to get there together and in a nonviolent manner.

Dr. King was not only a hero here in the United States, but every year I'm reminded about something new, I'm educated on something else that he taught this world while he lived here. And so I read a story on an Irish blog

over the weekend. And in the north of Ireland in October of 1968, six months after Dr. King was assassinated here, the Irish Catholics who were living in what had been promoted as a Protestant state for Protestants, Northern Ireland at the time -- in 1922 it was referred to as such -- and the Catholics were segregated into the ghettos, and they were deprived of jobs, and they were deprived of voting rights, and they were oppressed. Sound familiar?

Well, they used the message and the tactics of Dr. King, the peaceful protests, and they were violently encountered on their civil rights marches through the streets of the north. So today in the north of Ireland there are murals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on walls and promenades throughout the communities, to remind the northern Irish of the struggles of the past, of the hope of the future. But for Dr. Martin Luther King, it is said that the north of Ireland would still be considered that segregated state, that secret segregated state of England. But no more. Now we have the peace.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: If you can't fly, run. If you can't

run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you've got to keep moving forward. That is what we have to do as a community, across this state, it's what we have to do as a chamber as we walk into this budget. And we have to send a message to the rest of the nation that New York is the special place that we all know that it is. And we have to be, as a state, the beacon of hope for the rest of the nation.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Savino on the resolution.

SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you, Madam President.

I also want to thank Senator Stewart-Cousins for sponsoring this resolution and all of my colleagues for cosponsoring it.

This is the 14th year that I am speaking on this resolution since I was elected. And it's one of my favorite moments in the Senate chamber, Madam President, because we get to experience Dr. Martin Luther King through other members. Normally this would be the day when we would hear from Senator Larkin about his personal

experience with the historic moment that he shared with Reverend King in Selma.

I remember when Senator Hassell-Thompson was a member of the Senate, she would talk about her personal interaction when she was a young woman and she got to meet him, and how profoundly it affected her.

Senator Bailey, we are getting to the point where the rest of us are old now, and thank you for reminding me. Senator Kennedy, too. But there are less and less of us here who can claim a personal interaction with the Reverend Martin Luther King. Most of us learned about him in history books.

But in spite of that, a man who has been dead for 50 years, who lived a very short period of time, had such a profound effect on all of us -- whether we ever knew him, whether he personally affected us or not -- because of his legacy and what he was committed to.

And I always like to remind people of where he was and what he was doing on the day he was assassinated. He was in Memphis, Tennessee. Because two months before he was assassinated, two sanitation workers in the City

of Memphis, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, two black sanitation workers who belonged to a union, an AFSCME local in the City of Memphis -- the city would not recognize them, wouldn't recognize their union, wouldn't recognize their humanity at all.

They were denied the opportunity to sit in the employee break room -- it was pouring rain outside -- because they weren't allowed inside because they were black sanitation workers. White sanitation workers weren't treated much better, but at least they could come in from out of the rain. Denied the opportunity to take shelter in the break room, they sat in the back of a sanitation truck to get out of the rain. And that sanitation truck malfunctioned and killed the two of them in the back of the truck.

And over the course of the next two weeks, the City of Memphis did what the City of Memphis did back in the Jim Crow South -- treated them as less than human, treated their families as less than human, wouldn't even acknowledge their existence.

And at that, 1300 sanitation

workers, mostly black, went on strike in the City of Memphis. And they walked around carrying signs that had nothing to do with wages, even though they didn't barely earn enough to survive, and had nothing to do with the unsafe working conditions. It didn't say anything about the things that unions usually carry signs that say in a strike. It had a simple message: "I am a man," an acknowledgment that the City of Memphis would not convey upon them.

And after two weeks of a strike that caught national attention, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King went to Memphis to lead that strike, to help negotiate. It was there where he delivered his famous "I have been to the mountaintop" speech, maybe prophetically knowing that he wasn't going to get there. And on the next day, he was assassinated in the City of Memphis.

He was a true leader for working people. He understand the power of the labor movement, that no organization, no political party will ever advance the interests of working people the way an organized, well-funded labor movement can.

And so here we are 50 years later. What can we do to acknowledge his legacy and where he was the night he died? Fifty years after that strike, AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, still struggles in the South. But they're launching a campaign called Iam2018.org, asking people to enroll and join and participate, whether locally or online or nationally, to remind people that the enemies of labor never sleep, they are actively working across the country to undo the benefits that working people have, trying state by state to pass "right to work" laws.

As we speak, before the United States Supreme Court is a landmark case that could upend workers' rights in this country. It's called Janus vs. AFSCME. If Dr. King were alive, I believe he would whisper in the ear of every Supreme Court justice, Don't go down this road. Don't defund organized labor, because no organization can protect workers the way the organized labor movement can. I believe that is one of his most profound legacies.

And as long as I'm a member of this

Senate, I will get up and tell the same story every year. And I hope that you will all join me this year and join the Iam2018.org, and let's strike a blow for working people and an advancement of Dr. King's legacy.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Parker on the resolution.

SENATOR PARKER: Thank you, Madam President. On the resolution.

First let me join my colleagues in thanking our intrepid leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for living the dream. And not just for sponsoring this resolution, but the leadership she's provided to this conference. And she has been King-esque in the way that she has led us -- the intelligence, the grace, the vision, the moral uprightness. But in the face of that, always having opposition to the things that are wrong.

And so I typically wanted to bring to everybody's attention really two points, one of which is that King -- everybody likes to talk about the nonviolence and the peace, but they rarely say nonviolent direct action or nonviolent

constructive action. The notion of what King was about was about action. It was about directly engaging people, and particularly, in this particular case, white supremacy where it stood at that place and at that time.

And the second part is that he called all of us to listen to our better angels and to dig deep and to be not just leaders involved in direct action, but moral leaders, to really -- to look within whatever moral compass, whether it was religious or not, but to look at that compass and go towards the way that provided a moral upliftment, not just to yourself but to the people around you. He very much believed that it was the only way that the world was going to be better and that the U.S. was going to be better.

And I want to thank my colleagues, all of which made some fantastic points. And Senator Savino, I'll tell you now, I'll be joining that movement with AFSCME. It's critically important. I come from a family of union activists and union leadership, and certainly that was important to Dr. King and the work.

And what you see in Dr. King's legacy is everybody was touched. You see -- and Senator Sanders touched on this point -- that the antecedents of almost every single group's civil rights march, not just here in the U.S. but around the world, comes out of King. Right? And you see it with labor, you see it amongst Latinos, you see it amongst the Irish, you see it amongst gays and lesbians, you see it amongst many, many groups.

And so I think that we remember that, we honor that legacy, but we also must remember that that legacy did not come without risk and without peril. That it is -- you know, it's easy now to talk about peaceful demonstrations because we perceive it to be in the way that we in fact encounter it in 2018. All right? Or 2017, right? We think it's Black Lives Matter, like you go out, the police are protecting you, you have signs. And it actually quite was not like that.

That in fact in the 1950s when these protests were happening, they were actually in opposition to the actual police department. And it was in fact the police department who were

beating people, hosing people down with high-powered fire hydrants, you know, setting dogs on people, you know, using mace and other kinds of techniques to immobilize groups.

And literally part of the conversation that you heard that Senator Savino harkened on is Senator Larkin's story about how he was sent as part of the U.S. federal government to stop the police from brutalizing protesters. Right? And that's not quite what we see the vast majority of times nowadays. That we have really no context to understand what black and white protestors were going through facing white supremacy, especially in the Deep South, in the '40s, the '50s, even in the '60s. That for a person to go to jail in one of these small, sometimes rural communities, you could wind up missing or dead, as we saw with the civil rights workers who were bussed from New York to Mississippi. Right?

And we also think about Dr. King as being Dr. King. Right? So you think about if anybody knows a freshman in college this year, for them, there's always been a King holiday. Right? So for them, King has always been on that

plateau, right, to the degree that they know King. But many of us remember the fight. you know, Jamaal Bailey was probably three -- two when the holiday was created, right? Some of us remember the fight that we had.

You know, it's interesting, I was in a restaurant this weekend, it was a young lady's birthday, she had to be about 16 or 17, and her friends were singing "Happy Birthday" to her, but everybody was singing the version from Stevie Wonder, right, that was actually written for the King holiday. And I didn't ask them, but I knew, dollars to doughnuts, they did not know that that song was for King. But it actually, particularly in African-American communities, has been the way that "Happy Birthday" is now sung. Right?

And so, you know, it's important that we continue to pass the understandings, all of our understandings of what King means to all of us, but more importantly, for us to live those understandings. And so I want to remind everybody in this chamber -- not just the members, but every single one of us -- that we are Dr. King's dream, that Dr. King's dream wasn't limited to African-Americans. Right? And

it wasn't limited just to people who are oppressed. But it was really a notion that not only are the oppressed hurt by the oppression, but so are the oppressors.

That in fact we ask everyone to look into their better selves -- and this is something that has to be done by all of us daily, to look into our better selves and live our better selves as we engage in the work that we do in our communities, as we look towards the work that we do here in this chamber, in the way we engage with each other, in the way that we interact, particularly with those of us that we disagree with. That it's important for us to rise to our higher selves and to find a way to be more King-esque and use that moral courage to get to a place where we can have some common understandings and lift not just our community, not just our municipalities, but lift this entire state.

And as I close, let me remind us that we need every single day to bring good into this world and let no good be lost.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Hoylman on the resolution.

SENATOR HOYLMAN: Thank you, Madam President.

And thank you to my colleagues for their inspiring words, and particularly to our leader. It is such an honor to serve alongside you, because we in the conference -- and I know others have felt this when they served alongside Dr. King -- feel that history is being made. So thank you for your words.

Senator Parker is right, and my colleagues are as well, when they say that we each view Dr. King's legacy through our own lens. And of course for me, being the only openly LGBT member of this body, I do take constant inspiration from Dr. King's struggle and desire to fulfill that precept that all men and women are created equal.

And to me every day when I serve here, Madam President, my staff and our team here in Albany reminds us of the work that's yet to be done in terms of civil rights, and I want to mention two areas in particular.

The first is transgender New Yorkers. Over a decade ago when this body,

to its credit, passed the sexual orientation nondiscrimination law that granted civil rights and liberties specifically to the LBG population, they left off the T. They left out transgender New Yorkers specifically because it wasn't politically tenable. And to this day, even though there have been efforts by the Governor, very admirable, to include transgender people in our Human Rights Law, that's only by executive order, so any future governor could overturn those executive orders.

We have to codify the rights and civil liberties of transgender people. We could do that in this body, but we have not yet found it politically tenable to do so. And I wonder what Dr. King would say about that.

I wonder what Dr. King would say that transgender New Yorkers are not protected, even with the Governor's executive actions, from hate crimes in the entire State of New York. So although you have many local governments, municipalities and counties, that have done what we haven't done -- give transgender people their civil liberties -- nowhere in this state are transgender people protected under the hate

crimes law.

And that stands alongside the facts that transgender people, more than any other population, are more likely to be the victims of hate crimes. That is an enormous disparity that we should fix in this chamber, and I think we should fix it right away. After all, what would Dr. King say?

And secondly, I want to dial the issue a little more locally, in my district, where there is a church called Judson. I don't know how many people are familiar with it. But it's a beautiful church that sits on the south side of Washington Square Park. And since 2007, Judson has been the home of the New Sanctuary Movement. Under the leadership of Dr. Donna Schaper and others in the community, including a local Democratic district leader, Keen Berger, they have fought to protect undocumented New Yorkers from detention and deportation.

And one individual who has come to Judson over the years is a man named Jean Montrevil. He's Haitian, he has -- in 1990, he was convicted of a cocaine illegality, at age 21. But since then, he has founded a small business

and he's had a model record.

But the folks of ICE, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the U.S., have tracked Jean for all those years. He's reported every year according to the rules of ICE and has been, as I suggest, an upstanding citizen. He has, in fact, raised four children in the United States since he's been here. But he was detained last week for no reason, apparently, other than the fact that perhaps he's Haitian, perhaps he's suspect, perhaps the federal administration doesn't look kindly on folks like him.

Every year, though, he's lived under the specter of being detained and deported. Every year. Every year his four children, his four American children, have feared for the future of their dad. In fact, one of his kids, Jahsiah, who's aged 14 years old, has written about attending all the protests and living with the uncertainty of his father's presence. He wrote recently, "He had to go to annual check-ins with ICE. Before every check-in, I always try to spend as much time as possible with him and try not to think about the fact that it may be the

last time I see him." That's what Jean Montrevil and his family have lived under for the last decade plus.

Well, he was detained two weeks ago, sent to Newark, transported to Miami, and we just learned today that Mr. Montrevil has been deported to Haiti. What would Dr. King say?

So I think we all view the legacy of Dr. King through our own lens, but we certainly have a shared experience, we certainly have a shared sense of morality that we as Americans and as New Yorkers and as state senators need to put into action.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

If no other members wish to be heard, the question is now on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Floor Leader.

SENATOR RITCHIE: This resolution is open for cosponsorship. If you wish to be on the resolution, please see the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Any member who wishes to be a cosponsor should notify the desk.

Floor Leader.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Can we please take up Resolution 3416, by Senator Funke, read the title only, and call on Senator Funke to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read, title only.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3416, by Senator Funke, celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Douglass, the noted African-American orator, journalist, and anti-slavery leader who was a long-time resident of New York State.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Funke.

SENATOR FUNKE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Robach and I will tell you

that in Rochester we claim rights to everything and everybody who has spent any time in our town. We gave you Kodak cameras and Xerox machines and contact lenses and John Lithgow and Chuck Mangione, and of course Susan B. Anthony. And now we're about to celebrate the 200th birthday of someone who is uniquely ours as well.

Frederick Douglass had no record of the exact date of his birth in 1818. So it was in the life of a slave. He chose February 14th, Valentine's Day. Douglass taught himself to read and write on that plantation and proved to the world that no matter where you start in life, where you finish is up to you.

He escaped slavery in Maryland by hopping a train headed north, disguising himself in a sailor's uniform, with papers given to him by a free black seaman, and he eventually made his way to a safe house in New York City. And the rest is a beautiful history of a brilliant American.

Frederick Douglass became one of the most important, most effective orators and writers of his time and in Rochester, where he lived for 25 years, published The North Star, the

first abolitionist newspaper. The paper's motto, "Right is of no sex, truth is of no color, God is Father of us all, and we are all brethren."

He was the only African-American to attend the first women's convention in Seneca Falls, where he stood with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and said he could not accept the right to vote as a black man if women were not afforded the same right.

He was an early advocate for desegregation, noting that a good education above all else was critical, and saying "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

Douglass believed in dialogue. He refused to paint everybody with the same brush. He believed in forging relationships across racial and political divides. And when radicals criticized his willingness to hold meetings with slave owners, he said, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

The first statue in this country to memorialize an African-American citizen was that of Frederick Douglass, who is buried in Rochester's Mount Hope Cemetery. Sadly, that

statue was moved from a business intersection downtown to a less visible spot in a county park in 1941. And thankfully, it will be moved back downtown this year as part of his birthday celebration.

And so it is with great pride that on the day we recognize the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King we also recognize the legacy of Frederick Douglass today, a man who advised presidents, a man who became the first African-American to run for vice president and lectured thousands, Frederick Douglass, a Rochesterian for a third of his life, a leader, a fighter for justice, an intellectual, an American hero -- and still today, 200 years later, an inspiration and role model to the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Funke.

Senator Robach on the resolution.

SENATOR ROBACH: Yes, Mr. President, let me too rise and thank Senator Funke for this resolution.

It is true, Frederick Douglass was not only a great man, but we do take great pride

that the majority of his writing, the starting of his newspaper, The North Star, where he got so many great ideas out and had such a great impact, was done in his 30 years, the majority of his adult life, in the town where my family has lived our entire life, Rochester. It's significant to us on this 200th anniversary of his being.

And I can't help but think how extraordinary this is that we're doing resolutions and memorializing both Dr. King and Frederick Douglass, and the saying that, you know, whose shoulders we stand on and that we remember what great things have been done to get us to where we are today.

And I would really say that what was so remarkable about Frederick Douglass was that when he got freedom in those days, many people who did left, took off and took advantage of it only for their own well-being. Clearly, Frederick Douglass did exactly the opposite. He took that opportunity for freedom to go against a lot of norms, create a newspaper, which was unheard-of at that time, and came to the north from Maryland to try and change the things that he endured that were unfair for other people, not

only like him but across the board.

And so it is really a very fitting thing on this 200th anniversary that we would commemorate both these great people who did very, very good things. I say it in the most simple terms; I think you can put King, you can put Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, so many people in that category that they simply took action to try and make sure that everyone -- which is the American dream -- that everyone, no matter what, got the ability to pursue life, liberty, happiness and be treated equally. And it is very important that we do commemorate those people.

I will end with where I started, extra proud that Frederick Douglass again spent the majority of his professional time with his newspaper in my hometown, Rochester, along with Susan B. Anthony, two of the most premier people in moving all civil rights early in the history of this great country, helping put Rochester a little bit on the map. A proud day, and we thank them and remember them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank

you, Senator Robach.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to thank my colleague Senator Funke for bringing this resolution to the floor and Senator Robach for articulating what you did so wonderfully.

I don't believe in coincidences. I believe that things are the way that they are supposed to be. If we can go back to a quote from Dr. King briefly, "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor and must be demanded by the oppressed."

And I imagine when Dr. King was thinking about that, he thought of Frederick Douglass, who famously said: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, they want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters... Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it

never will."

We talk about if there is no struggle, there is no progress. That brings me to a time when I was at an awards ceremony for one of my favorite law professors, Professor Howell, and she said something so brilliant and so brief -- brilliance and brevity -- she said, "Thank you for giving me the strength to struggle."

Now, the idea of the strength to struggle is so profound, yet it's so brief. What gives us the strength to struggle? What gave Frederick Douglass the strength to struggle? What gave my grandfather the strength to struggle, or your grandfather the strength to struggle?

When I heard that speech, the strength to struggle, my wife was four months old -- excuse me, was -- no, she was not four months old.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: That would be interesting.

She was four months pregnant with my now three-year-old, Giada. What gave her the

strength to struggle with burgeoning life? And when I was running for office, she was pregnant with our second daughter, Carina. What gave her the strength to struggle?

What gives these activists -- who don't get paid to do so -- who favor freedom but don't deprecate agitation, what gives them the strength to struggle? The 63 of -- well, 61 of us now, what gives us the strength to struggle in our communities? Most importantly, what gives our constituents the strength to struggle?

I want us to think about the life and legacy of both Dr. King and Frederick Douglass when we go back to our districts, when we're voting on budgets, when we're going to the community events. What gives them the strength to struggle? I would not be here, literally or figuratively, without my father or grandfather who had the strength to struggle. And the movement would not be where it is today without Frederick Douglass giving us the strength to struggle.

So thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

What a day we have, two great Americans honored on one day. I agree with you, sir, I don't believe that this is a coincidence. I want to thank Senator Funke and of course Senator Robach for being great -- Rochesterans? I don't even know how to say it. How do you say that, sir?

SENATOR ROBACH: Rochesterians. Try it.

SENATOR SANDERS: I won't even try. But it's great. But it's great. But I want to thank you for having such a city that could try to hold such brilliance.

Frederick Douglass was a man's man. Frederick Douglass was a person who, when a slave driver came and was whipping him, he fought back and actually beat the slave driver.

But Frederick Douglass was also a great believer in women's lib. He was an early feminist. He believed in women having the right to vote way at the -- what, roughly 60 years before women did get the right to vote.

He was an incredible feminist and walked out of different meetings when they did not allow women to speak on different issues. He wouldn't speak either.

He was ahead of his time. I'm hoping that my colleague Tim Kennedy will speak of his Irish roots. Frederick Douglass also spent a lot of time in Ireland, and there were lessons that he learned there. I'm hoping that I can inspire him.

But I will close with the same speech -- or at least put him on the spot, whichever works -- but the same speech that you were reciting earlier, sir, he also said something that I've always taken to mind. He said, "The limit of tyrants is prescribed by the endurance of the oppressed." And that is certainly something that we in this country should take to heart. We too decided that we were, in the very beginning, opposed to tyranny, and we stood up to it.

I encourage all of us, in the tradition of great Americans, to continue to stand up to tyranny wherever we find it.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Sanders.

Senator Parker on the resolution.

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

Let me thank my colleagues who have spoken on this resolution. Let me thank Senator Funke for his leadership on bringing it to the floor.

And I agree with my other colleagues who believe that it is no coincidence that we are honoring, you know, two great Americans and this great New Yorker, in Frederick Douglass, today.

And some of you might wonder why Senator Funke and Senator Robach -- not just being from Rochester, but being Republicans, it's very apt that they brought this resolution, because Frederick Douglass was actually very, very active in the Republican Party. And in fact in 1888, he actually ran for president and was actually the first African-American to receive a vote for president on a major political party in the United States. And so unfortunately the Republican Party is not what it used to be, but we still honor that legacy and that history for

him and thank you gentlemen for, like I said, bringing forward the history of this great American.

I think that many of my colleagues have raised the important points that I would have highlighted, but let me just reemphasize the notion of both Frederick Douglass and Dr. King as men who resisted, in the vernacular of what we're using in 2018. That these were not people who stood by as shrinking violets, you know, going along to get along or hoping that things would get better, but they were directly engaged in the political life of their time and standing up against the wrongs of their time.

Let me make a tiny correction in language that I've heard everyone use today and talk about Frederick Douglass being a slave. And this is going to surprise you, but Frederick Douglass was never a slave. Frederick Douglass was enslaved, but never a slave. See, slavery is about a mentality, and he always fought for freedom. And so his enslavement was a physical limitation but not a spiritual one for him.

And certainly, you know, his life gives way to the notion for all of us not to let

our physical conditions dictate our spirit, our mindset, and the places in which we are going.

And so, you know, again I harken us to a place where we remember what he was going through and the fact that some of the things that sound very simple, that in the 1880s to have an African-American man, you know, do a newspaper, be an orator, be engaged in politics, run for president, were revolutionary acts in a way that we can't even imagine right now. And that every day, even in Rochester, even in the north, even in an area in which African-Americans were free at that period, it was dangerous. And his life was always at risk doing the engagement.

Anytime he'd gone to one of these meetings and he's organizing African-Americans or, you know, working with Harriet Tubman or those kinds of -- or with the women's movement, those were dangerous times. They were even dangerous for many of the women he worked with. And the fact that he was an early womanist is something that I think is well-documented and something that we should all remember and engage in a way that we are moving now.

I think it's certainly apt in the

Governor's Executive Budget proposal that he is I think following in the footsteps, at least in this narrow field, of Frederick Douglass. And hopefully he'll continue to walk in these steps and continue to put forward the issues and the priorities of women in the state priorities.

And so again, gentlemen, thank you very much for raising this. We remember Frederick Douglass for giving us the words to understand that we must always resist, resist, resist.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Parker.

Senator Kennedy on the resolution.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

First of all, let me thank my colleagues Senator Funke, Senator Robach, for bringing this to the floor today. I think it is once again extremely fitting that we have such extraordinary American heroes being honored in this wonderful chamber on the same day, Frederick Douglass and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Frederick Douglass himself a

liberator, an emancipator, someone who fought for moral values and the moral high ground at every single step of his life, because he knew what it meant to be in bondage. He knew what it meant to be oppressed. He knew what it meant personally to have every single fathomable right stolen away from him.

And so he led. And following his escape from bondage in Maryland, he went to Massachusetts, worked with an abolitionist in Massachusetts, moved across the north as an orator, a great orator, finally publishing a book which was met with great regard, a bestseller, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, and it told his story. And it sold so well in 1845 that he had bodily harm and threats consistently, and those slave hunters from the South threatening to steal him back to Maryland.

And so he fled. He fled to Western Europe -- to Ireland, to England, to Scotland. In Ireland, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Wexford, Waterford, and other areas. He befriended Daniel O'Connell. Daniel O'Connell -- if you're in the streets of Dublin, the nation's

capital, today there's O'Connell Street, and high up on O'Connell Street there stands a beautiful statue of the Great Emancipator. The Irish referred to Douglass as the Black Emancipator. He befriended O'Connell, and they learned from each other. They learned how to fight the oppression. They linked the oppression happening between the Catholics and the Protestants in Ireland to the blacks and the whites here in the United States.

And so upon returning back home in early 1846, Douglass incorporated much of what he learned and strategies that he learned, and the vision that he learned as well, into the abolitionist movement here.

I tell this story not only because I was called out by Senator Sanders, but also because I think it's important. These are American figures. Frederick Douglass, a New York hero, an American hero, an international hero. These are individuals that came from the bottom but rose in the highest regard of society across the globe and through their words, through their actions, through their bravery and courage, literally changed the face of society. Always

promoting freedom, always promoting the rights of individuals.

And we have a moral obligation not only to recognize them -- and again, I give my colleagues great credit on this, the 200th anniversary, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass. We remember what an extraordinary individual he was, and we can only imagine, we can only imagine what he had to go through to achieve the greatness that he did. But what an inspirational figure, someone we should all try to emulate, not just through our words but through our actions as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Kennedy.

Senator Benjamin on the resolution.

SENATOR BENJAMIN: Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise to say a few words about Frederick Douglass.

If you come to the lovely village of Harlem today, 110th and Eighth Avenue, you will be on 110th and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. And that takes you all the way to 155th Street. I'm on Frederick Douglass Boulevard almost every

day, except when I'm in Albany.

And one of the things I want to commend Senator Funke on is that when I heard the quote he used -- I was actually planning not to say anything, because I knew my colleagues would well speak on this issue. When I heard his quote, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong," it occurred to me that that's my favorite Frederick Douglass quote.

And, you know, when you think about his legacy and who he was, he believed in working across party lines, ideologies, everything under the sun. And I think it's interesting that even though we are from different parties, we can acknowledge someone great for the same thing.

And so as we move forward with the rest of session, I hope we think about one simple thing. Frederick Douglass was a slave. A slave not in mind, according to my colleague Kevin Parker, but he was enslaved. After slavery, he had no issues working with slave owners in order to get rid of slavery. This was a man who said it's not about my personal hatred or personal issues with something and people who have done something to me, it's about the bigger goal.

And I know for myself I can get petty at times, and I can be upset with people and choose not to speak with them and let my ego get in the way. I know we all can. We're elected officials; I know everyone here can do that. But I think we should take Frederick Douglass's heart and mind and who he was as a person while he was on this earth to recognize that it's bigger than all of us and it's about what we're fighting for.

And so I commend Senator Funke, Senator Robach, and I commend the life of Frederick Douglass. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Benjamin.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The resolution is adopted.

Floor Leader.

SENATOR RITCHIE: This resolution

is open for cosponsorship. If you would like to be on the resolution, please see the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Any member wishing to be a cosponsor should notify the desk.

Floor Leader.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Mr. President, can I announce that immediately following session, in Room 711 in the LOB, the Transportation Committee will be meeting. And also in Room 124 of the Capitol, the Health Committee will be meeting.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: There's an immediate meeting of the Transportation Committee in Room 711 of the Legislative Office Building. There will be an immediate meeting of the Health Committee in Room 124 of the Capitol.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Is there any further business at the desk?

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

SENATOR RITCHIE: I move that we now adjourn until Monday, January 22nd, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, January 22nd, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 12:46 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)