NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

February 12, 2018

3:24 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR FRED AKSHAR, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Senate will come to order.

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

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

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

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, February 11th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Saturday, February 10th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: 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: Mr. President, I move that the following bills be discharged from their respective committees and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause. All are by Senator Bonacic. Senate Bill Numbers 4286, 5419, 5501, 6243A, and 6801.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: So ordered.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I wish to call up Senator Amedore's bill, Print Number 6960, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 282, by Senator Amedore, Senate Print 6960, an act to require.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now move to reconsider the vote by which this bill was

passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll on reconsideration.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 40.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The amendments are received, and the bill will be restored to the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: On page 28, I offer the following amendments to Calendar 243, Senate Print 5575, by Senator LaValle, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The amendments are received, and the bill shall retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: On page 22, I offer the following amendments to Calendar 171, Senate Print 690, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar. It's by Senator Ortt.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Those amendments are received, and the bill shall

retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: And finally, on page 21, I offer the following amendments to Calendar 157, Senate Print 6964, by Senator Hannon, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The amendments are received, and the bill shall retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now take up the noncontroversial reading of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 23, by Senator Alcantara, Senate Print 7295, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: 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.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 45.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 28, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 7300, an act to repeal.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 45.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 82, by Senator Savino, Senate Print 3883, an act to amend the Penal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the

last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 45.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 109, by Senator Lanza, Senate Print 2629B, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 45.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill

is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 168, by Senator Funke, Senate Print 3988, an act to amend the Economic Development Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 45.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 170, by Senator Ortt, Senate Print 685A, an act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 45.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 203, by Senator Golden, Senate Print 226B, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Golden to explain his vote.

SENATOR GOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to speak of a bill that is long overdue, requesting that Motor Vehicles issue a "Survivor of the Bravest" license plate to member families of the paid professional firefighters who died on 9/11 and those

subsequently that have died since.

We lost 343 firemen that day and we've lost that twice that since then. The numbers are astounding.

This bill provides that these plates will only be designed, produced and issued after DMV receives a bond for $6,000. And after two years from the date available for sale or at least 200 sets of plates have been sold, the bond can be discontinued. If less than 200 plates have been sold, the department can use that bond to recover any of its losses.

These "Survivor of the Bravest" license plates will recognize the many contributions that our fire department and many others made during those tough times on 9/11 and those subsequent times since. There isn't a month that goes by that we don't go to a wake or a funeral of a fireman that has died and given his life to this great city and to this great state and nation.

So I ask all of my members to vote for this, and the Assembly to vote for this, and that we never forget their sacrifices and the sacrifices of many that paid the ultimate price

for the greatest nation in the world.

Thank you, Mr. President. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Golden to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 47.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 219, by Senator Carlucci, Senate Print 4048, an act to amend the General Business Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 46. Nays, 1. Senator Helming recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 228, by Senator Seward, Senate Print 4654, an act to amend the Insurance Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 47.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 240, by Senator Ranzenhofer, Senate Print 3886, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 50.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 289, by Senator Marchione, Senate Print 3854, an act to amend the Correction Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 289: Ayes, 47. Nays, 3. Senators Bailey, Montgomery and Sanders recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

Mr. Floor Leader, that completes the noncontroversial reading of the calendar.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:

Mr. President, can we now take up previously adopted Resolution 3534, by Senator Kavanagh, read the title only, and call on Senators Kavanagh and Golden to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3534, by Senator Kavanagh, commemorating the Asian-American community's celebration of the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dog, on February 16, 2018.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Kavanagh on the resolution.

SENATOR KAVANAGH: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to join many of my constituents and New Yorkers throughout our state in celebrating Lunar New Year. As many in this chamber and across our state know, February 16th, this Friday, rings in the Year of the Dog in the lunar calendar.

The Lunar New Year holiday is the most important cultural holiday for many, many New Yorkers, and I'd like to invite all of my

colleagues to join me in celebrating this occasion. And I know we're going to hear from a couple of my colleagues today.

Those born in the Year of the Dog are traditionally thought to be characterized by their truthfulness, loyalty, honesty, and reliability, four ideals that all public servants, including all of us in this chamber, I know strive to embody each day.

Lunar New Year is more than a celebration for Asian-American New Yorkers, it's an opportunity for all of us to expand our horizons, learn about other cultures, and celebrate our neighbor's heritage as well as our own.

As the Statute of Liberty reminds us, New York has long been a beacon of hope for individuals from across the globe, and New York welcomes immigrants of all backgrounds with open arms. Our state is proud to be the home to hundreds of thousands of Asian-American New Yorkers celebrating Lunar New Year, including those with Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Laotian and Singaporian heritage.

We're proud that Manhattan's

Chinatown, located in my district, is the largest concentration of Chinese individuals in the Western Hemisphere, and we're proud that throughout our state, Asian-American communities are growing and thriving.

This celebration is another great reflection of New York's values of openness and inclusion, and I hope that all of us in government live up to the ideals of those born in the Year of the Dog.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Kavanagh.

Senator Golden.

SENATOR GOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I thank my colleague for putting this resolution forward. This is an important holiday in our community.

Across this great city today and across Long Island and parts of New Jersey, we have, in 12 distinct different communities across those areas, the largest Asian-American community outside of China. Think about what I just said. The numbers are astounding here in the

Chinese-American community in those areas.

And not to take my colleague with Manhattan being the largest -- I think if he takes a count, he'll find out that Brooklyn beats him, Queens is second, and Manhattan is third.

But that's besides the point. It's still the largest Chinese-American community outside of China, and that's what's important -- and outside of Asia -- that gives this great, great, great opportunity for many, many families to live and to raise their families in our community.

In Brooklyn and Sunset Park right along the areas from 42nd Street up to 62nd Street and Eighth Avenue, 90 percent of those stores were empty until about 15 years ago. Those 20 blocks on Eighth Avenue now are full, and the bustling enterprises and economic development in our restaurants and our computer stores and our technology, our fabric stores -- those stores are really, really doing exceptionally well. And the Chinese-Americans are doing extremely well living in our great, great city and our surrounding communities.

In this body here that I passed back

many years ago was a bill, 4648, that actually gave the Asian Lunar New Year an actual holiday for our children and made it an official holiday here for the City and State of New York. That's how important it is today to be able to acknowledge our brothers and sisters in the Chinese-American community and the Asian-American community.

So I vote -- there's no vote on this, but I thank my colleagues for putting it forward. Thank you. And this is a great, great Year of the Dog.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Golden, thank you.

Senator Stavisky.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm not going to get into a discussion of the numbers. However, I represent a district that's approximately 75 or 80 percent Asian-American. And on Friday, not only is that the kickoff -- although we've been celebrating it certainly for the last month -- of the Lunar New Year, but the schools are going to be closed.

Which is, quite frankly, about time, because in the past parents have had to choose between sending their children to school or celebrating their rich cultural traditions, whether they be a Chinese-American or Korean-American.

And in fact on Saturday, in Flushing, we're going to have one of the largest parades ever where there are not only Chinese floats but also Korean-American floats. And we work very closely together as a cohesive unit in the Flushing community.

And Flushing, as Senator Golden said, is really booming because of the contributions of the Asian-American community. Back in the 1980s, the stores in downtown Flushing were empty, they were boarded up. People had left; it was like a ghost town. And then people originally from Taiwan and later from the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea came, and they totally revitalized the community.

And now, all you see are cranes and construction going on, because this is where the action is. It's a wonderful community, and I'm very, very proud to represent the Flushing area.

Let me mention something else. And that is how the people celebrate the Lunar New Year, because I think it's more than just a parade. It's a chance for families to come together, to make the traditional meals that people are accustomed to having. Dumplings, for example, are a staple of the Lunar New Year eating experience, and each restaurant is really better than the next. They're all really good, and I highly recommend it.

And as far as the Year of the Dog goes, as Senator Kavanagh mentioned -- and we thank you for introducing this resolution -- the dog is man's best friend and woman's best friend. Dogs are devoted, they're loyal, they are companion animals for people in need. And they're also used by law enforcement, the armed services or the police, for jobs that are very dangerous.

And the dog has been traditionally one of the signs of the zodiac. There are 12, and each year they celebrate a different sign of the zodiac. Last year I think it was the rooster; this year is the Year of the Dog.

And let us hope that everybody comes

to Flushing on Saturday and just watches a magnificent parade filled with banners and music. And lion dancing is another staple, and you'll see a lot of lion dancing in Flushing.

So again, let us rejoice in the fact that we are a diverse community, a community of immigrants, people who came to this country looking for a better life. And they found it. And we certainly don't want to make it any more difficult to celebrate their tradition.

So again, Mr. President, thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Stavisky.

Senator Hamilton.

SENATOR HAMILTON: Mr. President, I rise also to recognize the Lunar New Year for the Sunset Park section of my district, for the Year of the Dog. And to my Asian brothers and sisters, I say ni hao ma, ni hao, ni hao.

And I just want to say we're having the largest influx of Asian-Americans in Brooklyn, in the Sunset Park part of my district. We will be unveiling the new arch, which will signify the emergence of the central business district for the Asian community on

Eighth Avenue.

Also I just want to say to my Asian brothers and sisters that we're living in times where a lot of them are being stopped and asked for their papers. And that's something that's disturbing to me, that no person should be stopped on the street because of their racial ethnicity, and this is what's happening in Sunset Park.

So hopefully this will end. I'm looking at legislation to stop people from -- that's working-class people, from being stopped because they're Asian-Americans.

And so I just want to say to my Asian brothers and sisters, thank you for being supportive of me. Xiexie. Xiexie.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, is that the last speaker?

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I move to allow others to join on as cosponsors. If they want to cosponsor, they should approach the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: This

resolution is open for cosponsorship. If you'd like to cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, there's now a resolution, privileged Resolution 3764, by Senator Lanza. Please read the title only and call on me to speak, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3764, by Senator Lanza, commemorating the 108th anniversary of the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 12, 2018.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, we have some members of the Boy Scouts in the gallery -- pardon me? To my left. And -- see, there's more than to my left.

Before I was rudely interrupted --

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SENATOR: I apologize.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: -- we have some Boy Scouts and their escorts here today in

the chambers.

And this is a great resolution, because nowadays when you pick up the newspaper, what you see is bad stuff that young people do and bad stuff that older people do. And it really gives you some faith as a legislator and as a citizen of this state that we have young people and those who are teaching them that are people of character, integrity, and people who have great attitudes and take on responsibility.

And so it's really important that we acknowledge this wonderful group that is here today, and I think it's 108th anniversary of the Boy Scouts. And we are happy that you are doing what you're doing. We want -- you are the role models throughout this state for young people -- and old people too, because sometimes old people don't do what's right and old people don't show integrity.

So thank you for being what you are. Thank all of you adults who are spending the time with these young people to make them the great leaders of tomorrow.

So enjoy the rest of your day in Albany, and thank you very much for what you do.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: I'm excited to announce that we have several speakers now. So I'll ask that we hold our applause until the end, and I'll call on Senator Bonacic to speak.

SENATOR BONACIC: Thank you, Mr. President.

First I'd like to thank Senator Lanza for sponsoring this resolution. I'd like to thank Senator DeFrancisco for his remarks.

I think many of the scouts are from the mid-Hudson area. I went to your event earlier today, but you were probably traveling, trying to get through security and everything else.

But I try always to go to the Eagle Scout ceremonies. And I do that because I'm so proud of the high level that some of the Scouts can achieve. Whether you are an Eagle Scout or not, I am proud that you are in the Scouts, because what you're learning about is character, you're learning commitment to the community, you're learning about leadership.

You may be -- our children may be

25 percent of the population, but you're a hundred percent of America's future, and we expect you to be the leaders.

So to the troops that help mold these individuals, to the parents that are supportive, working with their children in the Scouts, I say thank you very much for what you do. Have a wonderful, wonderful 108th anniversary.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Bonacic.

Senator Robach.

SENATOR ROBACH: Yes, Mr. President.

Happy to be a cosponsor of this resolution. You're not only celebrating 108 years, but I would say, very succinctly, appreciate the effort of the Scouts, the leaders, and the direction.

Senator Bonacic alluded to it; I've been to over 500 Eagle Scout ceremonies. And every day, the highest award you can get, they're teaching at every meeting not skills, personal responsibility, but really those values that will

make you successful at any age. Love of God, country, family, respect for yourself and respect for others are truly great, great things to give an individual at any age.

And knowing that you've been doing it so well for 108 years, it is very fitting that all of us here should be commending you, because that's going on all across the state. And I know in Monroe County where I live, it's been great to not only see an increase in the Eagle Scouts, but also a growth in population of young people joining the Scouts.

So we say thank you, congratulations on your 108 years, and we look forward to many, many more of doing great things with these young people that are served so well through Boy Scouts of America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Robach.

Senator Croci.

SENATOR CROCI: Thank you, Mr. President.

I proudly cosponsor this resolution.

And to all the Boy Scouts in and the

families in the audience today, thank you for being part of an institution which I believe is one of the pillars that we build a good society on. Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. If you believe in nothing else in life and you follow those simple principles, you're going to be successful.

You know, when Lord Baden-Powell started the Boy Scouts at the turn of the century, the last century, he was worried about young people not having the ability to survive, Mr. President, on their own. And so the Boy Scouts was a way to get out in nature, to get back to basics and learn what it means to be a human being and survive. Those are principles I think are apt today.

I'm very proud of all the things that I've been able to accomplish in my life, but the final two words on my resume are "Eagle Scout." And those are the things that I will remember, and those memories.

Whether it's Philmont, New Mexico, or Boy Scout camp or whatever you do on your weekends, it's a good way to spend your time.

And with all the challenges that you're facing as young people, stick to it. We're very proud of you and very proud to be with you today to celebrate the anniversary.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Croci.

Senator Golden.

SENATOR GOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Along with my colleagues, we are very extremely proud of your tutorship and your leadership in bringing and keeping scouting alive in the greatest state and the greatest nation in the world. In some cities it's an uphill battle, but you've done it and you've been successful.

I've got to tell you right now, if you look at the leaders in science and technology, the leaders in finance, the leaders in our military and paramilitary units, you will see in many, many instances that there is scouting and Eagle Scouts in each one of those different departments and agencies and companies and military units.

That's what it's about. It's about

giving our kids the future, to be our future. And you've done an outstanding job. We're proud of each and every one of you. Thank you for your service, and continue to do what you are doing.

God bless you, God bless the Scouts, and God bless this great country. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Golden.

Senator Sanders.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I should have suspected that my colleague across the aisle was an Eagle Scout. And if you were listening carefully, he recited the entire motto very quickly. Could you do it backwards, though? Oh, I'm sure he could. I say that with some pride myself, I was a Scout. And I understand that it certainly allowed me to get out there. And I visited Ten-Mile River several times and had some fun there and therefore was not -- I feel very comfortable being in the woods, sometimes even more than in the woods of Albany, New York, though it's hard to get out of the woods here.

I will say this. The integrity that

the Scouts really push, if people take that to heart, it will take you a long way.

So my Eagle Scouts and other Scouts above me, I commend you. And I really applaud the Scoutmasters, the people who are really putting in the time, putting in the effort to develop the young talent. I applaud that. You never know where that talent will take them. You know, perhaps with God's grace you will see your proteges out here, sitting down here. Perhaps they will be sitting up there and being a president.

So having said those things, God bless the Scouts, God bless America.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Sanders.

Senator Little.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Boy Scouts certainly is an American institution which is known for years and years, 108 years, all over our country.

I'm the proud grandmother of two Eagle Scouts in Virginia Beach and certainly have learned from them all of the things that they

studied and worked at to make all the badges that they create.

But not only do you learn a lot in scouting, you have camaraderie that you will remember forever. But the leadership skills, as many of my colleagues have mentioned, make you successful throughout your life.

I also am proud of Andy Hanaburgh, in Chestertown, New York, who just made Eagle Scout, as his four brothers have made before him. So five brothers in one family, all Eagle Scouts. And my understanding is you're not just an Eagle Scout the day you get that award, you are an Eagle Scout forever.

So thank you very much for being here, and continue to support Boy Scouts in this country. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: To the Boy Scouts and the leaders that are with you, on behalf of the members of this great house and our staff, we welcome you. We extend all of the courtesies and the privileges of this great house.

Ladies and gentlemen, one more round of applause.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: So 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.

Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now offer the resolution up for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: This resolution is in fact open for cosponsorship. If you'd like to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: We have some special guests here that Senator Croci would like a moment to introduce. Would you recognize Senator Croci.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Croci.

SENATOR CROCI: Thank you,

Mr. President.

We are very fortunate to have with us today representatives from all over the state, from 16 counties, who represent the people who make the Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Program work in the State of New York.

This was a program born of this body. And all of my colleagues, all of us together, have made this program work. It has expanded to 16 counties. I'd like to just mention the counties that are here today. And all the professionals I believe are behind me. If they could please rise just to be recognized when I mention your county. Representatives from the counties of Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Saratoga, Jefferson, Broome, Monroe and Rensselaer are all here today.

If you don't know what the Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Program is, it's a way for veterans who are coming home with the wounds of war -- sometimes the silent wounds of war, posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury -- to be able to work across their barriers and across their troubles with other veterans to get the help that they need.

In very many instances it's very difficult for individuals who have been trained to quote, unquote, fix themselves to reach out for help. And reaching out to somebody who's shared those experiences, a veteran themself who is also going through hard times, has been a very effective way. It's a model for the country. It's something that's being considered to go nationally across the 50 states.

And it started right here in New York, and it started with my predecessor, Senator now-Congressman Lee Zeldin, and it started in the New York State Senate. All of the members of the Senate participated.

I want to thank you all for what you do for our veterans, and I want to thank this body for their continued support. And let's help this program grow in the State of New York, because it's helping the individuals who have served us so bravely in combat.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, we have funding from this program that Lee Zeldin started

in Syracuse, New York, as well. And the place that does all the great work is Clear Path for Veterans in Syracuse, a real model for how to deal with veterans with traumatic problems when they get out of the military. It's something that should be increased in the budget, not just maintained.

And thank you for all the work that you do for this important segment of our community.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Marchione.

SENATOR MARCHIONE: Yeah, I also want to add my thanks, certainly to Senator Croci, but also to all of the men and women who have been working on this, on these programs.

I represent Rensselaer and Saratoga, so I'm blessed to have two of my counties represented. And the work that these people are doing is just phenomenal -- the help that they're providing, the programs that they've instituted.

I'm very grateful for the program and certainly very grateful that our veterans have someone to turn to, peers to turn to who can

help them, who understand, and who really can provide the assistance that's needed.

So thank you to all of them. Thank you to this body for this program. And Senator Croci, thank you very much.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Carlucci.

SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you, Mr. President.

I just want to echo the words of my colleagues and thank the people that make the Joseph P. Dwyer Program work. We can provide the funding, but at the end of the day it's the volunteers and the professionals that have dedicated countless hours to making sure they're helping improve the quality of life of our veterans.

And it's just an honor to have in our presence -- we've got many people from Bridges, in Rockland County, that have really championed this program. Because as Senator Croci said, this was really born out of the New York State Senate and it's something that we've tried to get off the ground and running. But there is a learning curve. And we've been

able to show from counties around this state that we can have a model that works and that we can expand it not just throughout the state but throughout the nation.

Right now we're living with a major problem. Over 20 veterans commit suicide every day in the United States. And we can no longer just sit back and ask ourselves why; we've got to step up and do something. So I'm grateful to all the members here that have supported the Joseph P. Dwyer Program from the beginning. Let's make sure we fund it again in this budget and make sure that it expands in New York State and expands around the country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: I too am blessed to have a Joseph Dwyer Program in the County of Broome that I represent.

So on behalf of my constituency and the people of this great state, I say thank you for everything that you do. We extend, of course, all the privileges and the courtesies of this great house to you here today.

Ladies and gentlemen, a round of applause, please.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Mr. Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: There are two committee meetings immediately following session. The first is Consumer Protection, in Room 510 of the LOB, the second is Codes in Room 124 of the Capitol, both immediately following session.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Consumer Protection, 510 in the LOB, and Codes, 124 of the Capitol, immediately following session.

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

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

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: There being none, I move to adjourn until Tuesday, February 13th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 13th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:59 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)