NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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11:23 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR TERRENCE P. MURPHY, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: 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 MURPHY: 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 MURPHY: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Wednesday, March 14th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Tuesday, March 13th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: On page 41, Senator

Lanza moves to discharge, from the Committee on Cities, Assembly Bill Number 9873 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7734, Third Reading Calendar 542.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Substitution ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Floor Leader.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Could we take up the noncontroversial reading of the calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: May we please have the noncontroversial reading of the calendar. The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 274, by Senator Golden, Senate Print 6671, an act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Announce the results.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 381, by Senator Lanza, Senate Print 2604, an act to amend the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Announce the result.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 47.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 423, by Senator Robach, Senate Print 7549, an act authorizing.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Lay the bill aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 463, by Senator Golden, Senate Print 227, an act to amend the Penal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 463, those recorded in the negative are Senators Gianaris, Hoylman, Kavanagh, Parker, Peralta and Alcantara.

Ayes, 41. Nays, 6.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 542, substituted earlier by Member of the Assembly Cusick, Assembly Print 9873, an act to amend Chapter 306 of the Laws of 2011.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Announce the result.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 47.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 601, by Senator Carlucci, Senate Print 7344A, an act to amend the General Business Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the 120th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Senator Carlucci to explain his vote.

SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this Toll Payer Protection Act.

You know, in New York State you can go from the Tappan Zee Bridge, drive on 95 all the way to Boston before paying another toll. But if you want to drive from Rockland County down to Long Island, you're going to pay toll after toll after toll.

That's why we've got to make sure that we leave no stone unturned in finding ways to reduce the cost to toll payers. And the Toll Payer Protection Act, that's what this does. It makes it more efficient. There's been cases where I've gotten so many calls in my office where people were getting excessive fines because of the new cashless tolling process. We're talking about families with $7,000, $8,000 worth of tolls that they didn't even know about. And I'm sorry, not just tolls, but the fines associated with them.

So what we need to do is streamline the process, make sure that people have an option to get notified by text message or email, have a deadline by which the authorities need to notify the toll payer that they have an outstanding bill. And make sure, when there are these excessive fines in place, that the toll payer has an ability to dispute it and to dispute those fines online as well as review any records that are in place that have shown that they have had these fines in place.

But also we have a system now where you can have your vehicle registration suspended. And that's important to make sure that we're going after chronic toll evaders. However, we've got to make sure that people know if their vehicle registration is going to be suspended.

What this legislation will do is make sure that before someone's vehicle registration is suspended, that they're notified by certified mail and then given the opportunity to pay that fine so they don't lose their vehicle registration.

Look, in Rockland County, if you lose the right to drive your vehicle, you could

lose your livelihood. We don't have the mass transit options that many within the MTA district already have.

So this is an important legislation. I want to thank my colleagues for supporting it. And this is an effort to streamline the process and make sure we're not digging deeper into the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Senator Tedisco.

SENATOR TEDISCO: On the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: On the bill.

SENATOR TEDISCO: I think this is a pretty good bill. You need transparency, you need openness, you need people to be notified.

But I think I remember back when the Thruway was first being built that they said by the end of the 1990s, there would be no tolls on the Thruway, they would all be gone.

That really didn't happen. In fact, a couple of years ago I had to have a hearing out here in Albany because there was a proposed 45 percent trucking increase which was basically

going to be for every orange, for every banana, for every product you bought in a grocery store, it was going to be a pass-on to the constituents who went shopping in the grocery stores. And those trucks were going to get off the Thruway and travel through our streets, ruin our roads and bridges -- we have infrastructure problems right now, not a good thing -- and endangering a lot of young people walking on our streets and going to school.

When the government makes a promise, they should follow through with it. I think this is a fine bill, but I'd love to see a bill I've got pending right now that says when faceless bureaucrats decide to renege on a promise that's made 25 or more years ago, that we take charge of those Thruway tolls. That if the Thruway toll is increased or a proposed increase, it comes back to people who are responsible to the constituents we represent. We ratify any large toll increase, and we don't let the bureaucrats tell us how much of our taxpayers' dollars should be taken away.

And above anything, we ought to have hearings across the State of New York, not leave out the Capital District.

So I'm going to be supporting this bill, but I hope at some point we can be responsible ourselves, and not individuals who are appointed, because when they come to us and say you promised tolls -- well, I didn't promise that, and now they're being increased. We should have the opportunity to ratify any of those increases so they can come to us and say, Why did you do it, why did you need it? Maybe we did. But I've got a feeling that if we live up to our promises more, we'd have more respect and more confidence from our constituents.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MURPHY: Senator Comrie.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I commend my colleague, the chair of Consumer Protection, Senator Carlucci, for taking up the case of cashless tolling reform with such diligence and passion.

I wholeheartedly support the bill before us, the Toll Payer Protection Act. I would note that the Assembly passed provisions in their one-house budget bill, and I hope that it

is signed and passed quickly.

The cashless tolling system, while it has been a benefit in terms of congestion and making sure that traffic moves smoothly, has been a mess. The implementation has been mishandled, with serious consequences for our drivers and our consumers, including those that have E-ZPass currently that wind up suffering from bills and fines and fees because the system is so antiquated.

Right now many consumers first learn of their toll obligation at the same time a $100 fee has been imposed on them for each trip, resulting in bills that can run into thousands of dollars. And somehow in 2018, consumers cannot effectively search for their toll obligations in advance on the website. These are glaring and inexcusable flaws.

A Toll Payer Bill of Rights is exactly what we need. This bill has many meritorious provisions, including text/email notifications of toll charges, a formal dispute resolution process, payment plan options, record review rights for consumers, better display of charges and fees on signage, a 30-day grace

period and notification if one's license is to be suspended for nonpayment, and banning excessive fees.

In addition to supporting Senator Carlucci's bill, I have also introduced two pieces of legislation: Senate Bill 783, creating a toll amnesty program and new caps for unpaid toll fees; and Senate Bill 7854, which would prohibit credit reporting companies from factoring late payment of cashless tolls into a consumer's creditworthiness.

I would urge all my colleagues who are supporting Senator Carlucci's bill today to join the effort to bring tolling amnesty to all of the bridges that run throughout New York State. Too many of our collective constituents have been harmed by the perplexingly haphazard nature of the present system. Whatever bridge that they cross, they are finding out only too late, and oftentimes after they've been dropped by E-ZPass that they're paying thousands of dollars in fees.

We used to have the low balance alert. There's been nothing, there have been no PSAs to warn people that they need to adopt a new

system. Even though there is an app for E-ZPass, most people don't know it. Most people don't know that they are receiving these bills, as I said earlier, until after fines have been imposed and oftentimes they've been dropped out of the E-ZPass system, and they're paying fines and not fees.

So it's something that needs to be updated. There's no reason in 2018 that you can't go on the website and, if you know you've gone through the toll, be able to pay the toll within 72 hours.

So I want to thank Senator Carlucci for putting this bill forward today. I hope my colleagues will work on the other two bills that I mentioned.

And I want to thank you, Mr. President, also for the opportunity to speak on this issue today and also to raise the fact that we need to protect our consumers and our residents that are trying to do the right thing but they can't pay the bill within a period of time.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator

Comrie, do you vote in the affirmative?

SENATOR COMRIE: Affirmative, yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Comrie in the affirmative.

Seeing no other members wishing to be heard, announce the result.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 55.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill is passed.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Can we lay aside Calendar Number 423 for the day, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Calendar Number 423 will be laid aside for the day.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution Number 3990.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of 3990, signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Negative, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The resolution Calendar is adopted, with the exception of Resolution 3990.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Can we now take up Resolution Number 3990 and call on Senator Murphy.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read the resolution in its entirety.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3990, by Senator Flanagan, honoring St. Patrick and all persons of Irish descent upon the occasion of the 2018 celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 17, 2018.

"WHEREAS, A native of Roman Britain, Patrick was the son of Calpurnius, a civil servant and deacon; and

"WHEREAS, Tradition has it that at age 16, Patrick was captured, along with all the servants of his father's estate, by Irish marauders, then sold to a Druid chief and taken to what is now known as County Antrim, in the Province of Ulster, Ireland; and

"WHEREAS, During his six years of

captivity, Patrick's occupation as a slave was the tending of flocks of swine and sheep; and

"WHEREAS, While in Ireland, Patrick learned the Irish language and customs; and

"WHEREAS, During this period, Patrick experienced a religious awakening, with the Christian teachings of his family and pastors taking hold during his captivity; and

"WHEREAS, Driven by visions urging him to return to his native land, Patrick escaped his captors, undertaking a perilous journey in the process; and

"WHEREAS, Upon his return home, Patrick dedicated his life to religion, studying in France, where he was ordained a priest and later consecrated a bishop; and

"WHEREAS, It was Pope Celestine I who named him Patricius and sent him back to Ireland, where he tangled with the Druids over religious beliefs and where his efforts to convert the Irish to the Catholic faith were untiring, as seen today in the significant presence of God in Irish life; and

"WHEREAS, It was the example and fervor of Patrick's faith that inspired and

rekindled the lamp of learning in Ireland which shone throughout the British Isles and the rest of Europe, and which sustained the people of Ireland through famine, oppression and exile; and

"WHEREAS, As United States President John Fitzgerald Kennedy observed, Ireland has hemorrhaged herself to enrich the life's blood of other nations around the world, where its sons and daughters have risen to prominent positions as pioneers, educators, military commanders and government leaders, even ascending to the presidency of both France and the United States; and

"WHEREAS, It was his faith that earned Patrick not only sainthood, but the everlasting love and respect of the Irish people; and

"WHEREAS, As we honor St. Patrick, whose life mirrored a deep and abiding example of the challenges of sainthood, we are mindful of the history of the Irish people and their struggle against oppression, religious intolerance and political, social and economic barriers; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative

Body pause in its deliberations to most joyously commemorate the life and good works of St. Patrick and to express its sincerest prayers and hopes that the 1998 peace agreement, known as the Good Friday Agreement, will lead to a lasting reconciliation between the Christian populations of Northern Ireland and bring true peace and freedom for all the people of Northern Ireland; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Loretta Brennan Glucksman, 257th Grand Marshal of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, and to Dr. John L. Lahey, chairman of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, on the 17th of March 2018."

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Murphy on the resolution.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President.

It may come as a shock to some of my colleagues, but I have been taught a thing or two about St. Patrick during my lifetime with my family. In fact, I was educated at St. Patrick's Elementary School. And I've been a parishioner

of St. Patrick's Church my entire life. In both settings, I was taught about the history of St. Patrick, his years as a slave and his clashes with the Druids as he brought Catholicism to the nation of Ireland.

The rich history of the Irish nation is directly linked to St. Patrick. But it is his perseverance and the strength of the Irish people across the globe -- that's what we truly stand for. The people of Ireland, both present and past, have overcome social oppression, religious intolerance, and broke through barriers on social, economic and political levels.

I know this firsthand, not just from my parents but also from people like my in-laws, John and Mary O'Connell. Both John and Mary emigrated here back in 1966, straight from Ireland. And I was blessed -- they came here to live the American dream. They've had three kids, and I was blessed to marry their daughter Caroline, my wife. Now we have three kids.

John and Mary achieved what they set out for. They achieved what we all set out for, the American dream. It took courage, strength and perseverance, all traits of St. Patrick. And

this Saturday as we cheer the memory of St. Patrick, at the same time we celebrate the history, the culture and the people of Ireland. We will be celebrating the grit and the determination of people like my in-laws and my parents, and remember the sacrifices that were made by so many people.

Happy St. Patrick's, everybody. Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: No, thank you, Senator Murphy.

Senator Savino.

SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Murphy for bringing this resolution in honor of St. Patrick and in fact in honor of Irish-Americans everywhere.

I know some of you look at me sometimes and it's hard for you to realize that I am as Irish as I am Italian. I am a second-generation American, and my grandfather and my grandmother, my mother's parents, both came here as teenagers. My grandparents were all Irish. And during the famine, the way the Irish

left Ireland is if you had any money, you came to America. If you had a wee bit of money, you went to England -- that's where my grandmother's parents went to. And if you had no money, you went to Glasgow, and that's where my grandfather was born and raised, an Irish Scot. And he left Scotland at the age of 18, like many young immigrants, searching for a way out of abject poverty. Because the future for an Irishman in Scotland, or an Irishman in Ireland, was that you were going to work hard and die young.

And so he decided to leave Scotland at the age of 18, and he got on a boat and he came to America and he wound up working in the shipyards of Brooklyn. And he built a life here.

My grandmother left England at the age of 16 -- think about that -- 16 years old, she left on her own, got on a boat, came to America, and got a job first as a domestic and, when she realized she wasn't well-suited for that, she got a job as a hat-check girl at the Hotel Astor.

And they managed to meet and marry and raise three daughters and watch all three of them marry Italians -- quite a shock to them.

But that is the legacy of the Irish immigrants. They came here seeking something better, oftentimes with very little in their pockets. They built a life. And quite honestly, it's the same legacy of every immigrant group. My Italian grandparents did the same thing. And we're watching it happen today, immigrants coming here with very little in their pocket, nothing more than a dream and the hope that they can be part of that legacy that so many immigrants have.

So thank you, Senator Murphy, for reminding us of who we really are. And as we celebrate this Saturday St. Patrick's Day, whether you're Irish or not, we're all immigrants under the sun.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Savino.

Senator Bonacic.

SENATOR BONACIC: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank also Senator Murphy for his words about family and the Irish tradition.

You know, this past Sunday we spoke

to a large Irish group before the St. Paddy's Day Parade in Orange County. And I asked the group, What do you like the best about St. Patrick's Day and the parade? I said, Do you enjoy the children watching the parade and the music? Do you enjoy getting up dressing like green and having a good time? You like the partying?

And I said St. Patrick's Day is an exclamation point of the celebration of our Christianity.

There is a movement in this country to take away or diminish religious freedoms. And just recently Vice President Pence, on the My View or the Our View show, they ridiculed him because he mentioned Jesus Christ and his belief in Christianity, to diminish our feelings and religion identified with the Irish people, embracing the Lord and family values and marriage.

And they keep America strong. We should never forget that tradition. And I know that St. Paddy's Day is always portrayed as a time of partying and we're all Irish for a day. But the Irish people are the stronghold in our family values and keeping America strong from one

generation to the next.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Bonacic.

Senator Krueger.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise also in honor of St. Patrick's Day and the Irish-American community. I don't think I'm Irish, although I haven't taken one of those DNA tests and it will probable prove that I am. At least piece of me.

But this day also coincides with Women's History Month. And so I was doing a little homework on the role of Irish women and the importance they have played in our history. And I just wanted to highlight a few Irish-American women and what they have accomplished.

So one of the most famous was Mother Jones. Born Mary Harris Jones in County Cork, moved to America after tragedies in her family, got involved in the American labor movement, became a prominent campaigner, labor activist and community organizer, and ultimately was given the

nickname Mother Jones because of her care for the striking workers. She coordinated major strikes and was a founder of the Social Democratic Party and the Industrial Workers of the World.

Then we have Mary Lee, one of the first leaders in suffrage movements and the women's right to vote. Born in 1821 in County Monaghan. And while not much is known about her early life in Ireland, after she left Ireland she became a world leader in the suffrage movement and the fight for women's right to vote.

And then perhaps the most famous, the inspiration for Wonder Woman, Margaret Sanger. Born to Irish-American parents in New York in 1879, and best known for founding the birth control movement right here in the United States.

So the Irish-American community have been great leaders throughout the history of this country. And I don't want this day to go by without pointing out the women and the men of the Irish-American community have so much to be proud of.

I support the resolution. Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

Senator Tedisco on the resolution.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I too want to commemorate this special day, St. Patrick's Day coming up, and wish you best wishes from someone you might be familiar with, a very good friend of mine who spent a little time in these chambers, and I was fortunate enough to replace him. They used to call us Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid in our Assembly and Senate districts, respectively. And he was an attorney, is an attorney, was a professor, a husband, a great father. Also a boxer -- I don't know if you knew that of Senator Hugh Farley. And if you ever talk to him about his boxing days, he would go like this and take his nose and wiggle it like this. He goes, "No cartilage. It got busted in the Army." Because he was also a veteran. He stood up for us and protected our freedom and liberty.

And I'm sure you want to know that this year he will be celebrating the 55th anniversary of his 30th birthday. And if you

want to know what he's doing, he's very active -- riding his Skidoo, spending a lot of time with his family, doing a lot of traveling.

And as I speak with him, he wanted me to wish you all the very best, as I'm sure he has in the past on this special day. I think we can say he represents everything good about being not only an Irish public servant, but about being a public servant in general.

Forty years he spent in this august body serving the people of New York State. And I think that's an example of the great history and the great dedication of those of Irish descent.

So I thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to say a few words about my predecessor.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Tedisco.

Senator Kavanagh.

SENATOR KAVANAGH: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm feeling a little under the weather today -- so although I don't have a lot of green on my tie, I fear I might actually be looking a little bit green today.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KAVANAGH: But I just -- I thought as a proud Irishman I would be remiss in not standing up and thanking Senator Flanagan and Senator Murphy for bringing this resolution forth today.

My own family came from Ireland, on my mother's side in the '20s, and my father emigrated here in 1958. I'm a holder of an Irish passport as well as an American passport, proud of both.

And, you know, the Irish people in our city and in our state and across the country are very proud of our heritage, our values as people who care about and support our often large families. And I think as a people who came, as many Americans came before us, to our cities and at first experienced resistance from people who had come here before us and gradually have found America to be a welcome home and have worked very hard to build America into what it is today, I think it's great that so many of us will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

The American Irish Legislators Society, of which I'm a proud member and officer,

will have a contingent marching this Saturday in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue, and I encourage all of you to join us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Kavanagh.

Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

It is with great honor that I rise to acknowledge this upcoming Saturday, St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2018. I want to thank my colleagues for bringing this resolution forward.

You know, every year we have an opportunity to celebrate the Irish. In South Buffalo, where I reside, where I come from, it is St. Patrick's Month. We celebrate St. Patrick's Day year-round, actually. But this weekend especially, we're looking forward to celebrating everything Irish -- those that are, those that wish they were, and those that just want to celebrate the Irish culture.

And if you think about how we all have gotten here to this great country and this

great state and this tremendous and glorious, magnificent chamber, we all have our own histories. Mine is steeped in Irish history.

My grandfather, Martin Kennedy, who shares the name with my father -- my great-grandfather -- came here in October of 1892. But he had to come through Canada, because during the famine or the Great Hunger, when the Irish were starved out of their own country to the tune of over a million that died, perished through starvation, a million that emigrated across the globe -- my grandfather, great-great grandfather, couldn't get into this country and had to go to Canada, like so many others, because they would not accept him due to disease on the ship.

Up in Montreal, Canada, in the harbor there, there's 6,000 Irish immigrants that perished there due to disease -- typhoid and other diseases. The Grey Nuns, founded in Montreal by St. Marguerite d'Youville -- that bears the name of D'Youville College, my alma mater -- founded the Grey Nuns in the 1700s. The Grey Nuns in Montreal came to save the Irish on the shores, as they came in with disease, and

perished with them.

Years later, as my great-grandfather came over and went to work, and then my other great-grandparents, Patrick Joseph O'Brien and Katherine O'Brien, came here, found work, found difficulties, tried to go to work, saw signs that said "No Irish Need Apply." They were oppressed in their own nation, they were oppressed when they came over the 3,000-mile journey in coffin ships. Banded together, got involved in every level of society, helped to build this country from the ground up. Our buildings, our great state here, from New York Harbor up the Hudson, across this state to Buffalo, helped to build the Erie Canal, settling in the Old First Ward, where this Saturday we'll celebrate, this St. Patrick's Day, the old neighborhood, the original path of the old neighborhood parade. On Sunday, the big parade in downtown Buffalo, down Delaware Avenue, that was just recently named by a Boston paper as the best parade in the nation. Coming out of Boston, I think that has great credibility.

And so the reason I tell this story is not just to celebrate the Irish, and not just to celebrate St. Patrick's Day -- because us

Irish in this room and those friends of ours that know, we celebrate our culture all the time -- is that this story can be related to what's happening in this country today as immigrants from other nations are fleeing oppression, are fleeing their own genocide, are fleeing war, and look upon our nation as beacon of hope on the globe that the Irish did over the course of the last few hundred years.

Now, there's so many different ways that I could go on and on and on. And I won't. We had a tremendous celebration this past Monday, as my colleague -- and Irish citizen -- Senator Kavanagh mentioned, at the American-Irish Legislators Society, a bipartisan group started over 30 years ago with a dear friend of mine, my neighbor Buffalonian, Dick Keane, Assemblymember Dick Keane, and others.

We had Ciarán Madden, the Irish Consul General based in New York, here with us. The level of cooperation between our great state and our nation and the Irish nation continues, and we must continue to make sure that relationship flourishes.

With that, Mr. President, I conclude

but just want to wish everybody the grandest, happiest, healthiest, most vivacious St. Patrick's Day you could ever possibly have. Celebrate the day, whether you're Irish or not. Celebrate your family, celebrate your friends, celebrate your community and, yes, celebrate this great country, the United States of America -- and of course, everything Irish.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Kennedy. I'm beginning to feel Irish.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I will be very, very brief. As Senator Krueger alluded to, I may be Irish in resume and ancestry DNA only, but I wanted to make sure that I show my respect for my friends in the Irish community.

And especially Senator Murphy, thank you for introducing this resolution, along with Senator Flanagan. You met your wife in the

Bronx, so that's something that I'll always make sure I remember. And you knew where to go when it was time to make sure you found a wife, back in the boogie-down Bronx.

But I just want to make sure that I recognize the accomplishments and the greatness that your community has done, and I say, on Saturday, Erin go Bragh!

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

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.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Senator Flanagan would like to open this resolution up for cosponsorship. If a member would like to be a cosponsor, they should notify the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: This resolution is open for cosponsorship. If any

member wishes to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: I believe there's a previously adopted resolution by Senator Stewart-Cousins, Number 4031, at the desk. I ask that it be read in its entirety and call on Senator Stewart-Cousins to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 4031, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2018 as Women's History Month in the State of New York.

"WHEREAS, March is Women's History Month; and

"WHEREAS, March 8th is International Women's Day; and

"WHEREAS, Each year New York State officially sets aside time to recognize the unique contributions that women have made to New York State; and

"WHEREAS, New York State has a distinguished history of monumental achievements

in the area of women's rights; and

"WHEREAS, In 1826, New York State opened one of the first public high schools for girls, resulting in a future for women in which they were no longer confined to the home, a future in which they were educated and able to use this education to better their social and economic status; and

"WHEREAS, In 1848 in New York, the first women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls to secure for all women the right to vote; and

"WHEREAS, In 1903, The Women's Trade Union League of New York was formed to represent working women, later becoming the nucleus for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and

"WHEREAS, In 1918, one year after New York guaranteed women the right to vote in all elections, the first two women, Ida Sammis and Mary Lilly, were elected to the New York State Legislature; and

"WHEREAS, In 1967, Muriel Siebert became the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, opening the door for women to gain positions of greater economic

power; and

"WHEREAS, In 1968, New York State Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to Congress, and in 1972 she ran for president of the United States, another first for black women; and

"WHEREAS, In 1970, New York City was the site of the first Women's Strike for Equality, in which 50,000 people marched for equal rights; and

"WHEREAS, In 1983, New York State women legislators established the Legislative Women's Caucus to improve the participation of women in all areas of government, support issues that benefit women and provide a network of support for women in the State Legislature; and

"WHEREAS, In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was the first Hispanic justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court; and

"WHEREAS, In 2014, four women from New York State participated in Olympic events held in Sochi, Russia: Anneliese Cooke, Saranac Lake - biathlon; Jamie Gruebel, Lake Placid - bobsled, earned a Bronze medal; Erin Hamlin, Remsen - luge, earned a Bronze medal; and

Josephine Pucci, Pearl Lake - women's hockey, earned a Silver medal; and

"WHEREAS, In 2015, Loretta Elizabeth Lynch was appointed as attorney general of the United States, becoming the first African-American woman to serve in this esteemed position; and

"WHEREAS, New York has been the home of many extraordinary women who have led society to a better future: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony led the campaign for women's suffrage; Sojourner Truth spoke out for the abolition of slavery and for suffrage for women; and

"WHEREAS, Carrie Chapman Catt became the first president of the League of Women Voters; Emma Willard opened the first endowed institution for the education of women; Civil War surgeon Dr. Mary E. Walker was the only woman ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who led slaves to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad in the 19th century; and

"WHEREAS, Elizabeth Blackwell and Belva Lockwood were the first women in the fields

of medicine and law; pioneer birth control educator and advocate Margaret Sanger established a research center in New York City; and

"WHEREAS, Emma Goldman founded the Free Speech League, which led to the American Civil Liberties Union; humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt served as United States delegate to the United Nations; and

"WHEREAS, Civil rights lawyer and New York State Senator Constance Baker Motley became the first black woman to sit on the U.S. District Court in New York; and there have been so many more known and unknown women who championed rights and opportunity for all; and

"WHEREAS, New York State has hosted many conventions, campaigns and events of the women's rights movement, from the 1848 convention at Seneca Falls to the 1999 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, which was held to improve the status of women in history and in the historical professions; and

"WHEREAS, Today, 59 women serve in the New York State Legislature, holding leadership positions in both houses and bringing the diverse experiences of women into law and

public policy, the largest class of women in the history of New York; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2018, as Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and the Legislative Women's Caucus of New York State."

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

And again, before I start, let me also wish everyone a very, very happy St. Patrick's Day.

So in terms of women's history, you know, every year there's a theme for Women's History Month, and it's selected by the National Women's History Project. Last year the theme was "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business." And this year's theme is

"Nevertheless, She Persisted," honoring women who fight all forms of discrimination against women.

This year's theme is especially significant given what's happening in Washington with the efforts to strip women's rights and what's happening nationally with sexual harassment and assault survivors who are coming out of the shadows to share their stories and shine a light on this crisis.

I think of many of us in this chamber, myself included, who are here because we persisted. I think of my mother and her mother and so many of our parents who we are here because they persisted.

And so Women's History Month gives us an opportunity to look back at women who inspired us through their actions, their dedication, and yes, their persistence.

Women who persisted like Ida B. Wells, who was born enslaved, and she was freed after the Civil War. She went on to become an investigative reporter. And part of what she did was expose the horrors of lynching, in addition to being a cofounder of the NAACP and a suffragette.

Women like Dolores Huerta, who fought for farmworkers, who still we must fight for in this day and age. But in California she cofounded the National Farmworkers Association, which is now the United Farm Workers, with -- she did that with Cesar Chavez. And her phrase "Si, Se Puede," still resonates today. It was Dolores Huerta who gave us that.

Women who persisted like Billie Jean King, who in the face of sexism famously won the "Battle of the Sexes" in 1973, showing the world that women were a formidable force in sports and were to be respected.

Even contemporary women, like the Bronx's own Tarana Burke, whose compassion as it related to a client of hers back in 2006 who talked about sexual abuse -- in 2006, it was Tarana's compassion that began the phrase "Me Too." And because of her persistence, even today, even more so today, #MeToo is just a national, national understanding.

Women also like Saru Jayaraman, who's leading the fight for tipped workers to get fair wages. I had the honor to stand with Saru many times, and it's an economic justice fight

that I know that as we persist, we will actually succeed.

And when I think about women -- and we've talked about the persistence, but I think about Helen Keller, someone who was unable to see, to hear, and yet went on to graduate from college, the first person with those types of disabilities to actually be able to graduate from college. And she became a prolific author, an outspoken advocate for suffrage, for social justice, and for labor rights.

These and the stories of so many incredible women are at the heart of Women's History Month.

So this Women's History Month, let us recommit to persisting in the face of sexism and in the face of injustice. We owe it to our daughters and our granddaughters to show them that when women refuse to back down, we can accomplish so many things. And that's why "And Yet She Persisted" is a good thing, because invariably it moves our society forward.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

Senator Bailey.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

And it's apropos and fitting that I get a chance to sit in this chair and I get to sit next to my leader.

And the theme of what I'm going to say today is "Representation matters." It matters that we have a woman leading our conference.

I'm going to start out with a quote from W.E.B. Du Bois: "There is no force equal to a woman determined to rise." And I can say that as a father of two amazing young girls, Giada and Carina, and as the husband of the 99 percent better -- not my better half, she's 99 percent better than I am -- my wife, Giamara.

I understand that they say that "Behind every great man is a great woman." That's never been the case, because a woman doesn't belong behind me; at the very least, she's to my side. And most of the times she's in front of me, preventing me from doing something dumb.

Representation matters, folks.

Representation matters because my 3-year-old, Giada, she came to me one day and I told her I had a doctor's appointment and I told her the doctor's name. She said, "Daddy, that's a boy. Boys can't be doctors." "Why, Giada?" "Well, Doc McStuffins is a doctor, and my doctor, Dr. Gagne, she's a doctor. So boys can't be doctors. All I know is that girls are doctors."

And it may seem simple and silly, but for a 3-year-old to understand that she can be something like that is amazing to me, as a father and as a public servant.

Representation matters because it's mattered all my life. I mentioned my wife and my daughters. My mom, I would not be here without her. My grandmothers, I would not be here, literally, without them. But not just literally, but the life lessons that they've taught me about how -- treat others as you would want others to treat your mother and treat your grandmother, and live by those rules.

You know, here in the Legislature we -- as legislators, we have to rely on our staff to do what we do. Behind every great legislator is an even better staff. And the

majority of my staff -- spoiler alert -- are women. They do an amazing job making sure that I'm where I'm supposed to be, that I'm doing what I'm supposed to get done, and that I am able to represent the residents of my district ably.

Representation matters. I was honored a couple of weeks ago at an event with somebody that I didn't even believe I should have been in the same room as: Tonya Boyd, the first African-American woman to be the female deputy chief in the FDNY. My daughter was there with me, and I told her what she did. And glass ceiling things are not only being broken, they are being shattered by women like Tonya Boyd.

They're being shattered by women like Darcel Clark, the first African-American woman to serve as a district attorney in the State of New York.

But it's not just those folks who serve at large positions, it's folks who are in this very body with us. Not just Senator Stewart-Cousins, who was our great leader, but Senator Liz Krueger, Senator Toby Stavisky, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Senator Roxanne Persaud, Senator Marisol Alcantara, Senator Diane

Savino.

And Senator Cathy Young, who along with Senator Liz Krueger and Assemblymember Helene Weinstein are a new kind of three-women-in-the-room. During the budget hearings they sit through and sift through so much testimony. And I have to make sure that it's not a partisan issue, that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you're accomplishing great things as women from your communities as well.

It's about Betty Rosa, Dr. Betty Rosa, the chancellor of the Regents. It's about Judge Jenny Rivera, my law school professor who taught me a lot about the law but I also met my wife in her seminar, so I owe her a lot more than just a law degree.

It's about father-daughter duos. And my wife was speaking about something on our way home from the Somos el Futuro conference the other day, and she said, "You know, there aren't many father-daughter duos in the Legislature. You know, I see a lot of father-son." And I said, "Well, Senator Giada Bailey. If my daughter has anything to do with it, she'll be up

here soon one day."

John Mayer once said "Fathers, be good to your daughters." But it's important to be good to not just our daughters, we have to be good to all of the women in our community. I referenced Tupac yesterday, so I might as well do it again. The same exact song, in "Keep Ya Head Up," he said, you know, we have to -- you know, keep your head up and, you know, it's funny, when it rains it pours. But that's not the important part about the piece that I'm getting to. I might get back to that one in a second, because I forgot that portion.

But my daughter Giada, she has a shirt that I love, and it's amazing. She has a shirt that says: "I'm a girl. What's your superpower?" And the fact that that shirt exists today is amazing. The fact that that shirt is not only on my daughter, it's on probably a hundred other people, because, you know, we probably got it from a big chain store or something like that. But the fact that you can know what -- "I'm a girl, what's your superpower," the message that that sends, Mr. President, is remarkable.

Thank you.

"And since we all came from a woman, got our name from a woman and our game from a woman, I wonder why we take from our women, why we rape our women, do we hate our women? I think it's time to kill for our women, time to heal our women, be real to our women. And if we don't, we'll have a race of babies that hate the ladies that make the babies. And since a man can't make one, he has no right to tell a woman when and where to create one. So will the real men get up? I know you're fed up, ladies, but keep your head up."

And for some, time's up, but for others, it's your time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Seeing and hearing no other members wishing to be heard, Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Senator Stewart-Cousins would like to open this resolution up for cosponsorship. If a member would like to be a cosponsor, they should notify the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: So this resolution is in fact open for cosponsorship. All members are going to be listed as cosponsors. If you wish not to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: I believe there is a previously adopted resolution by Senator Breslin, Number 3351, at the desk. I ask that the title be read only and to call on Senator Breslin to speak.

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

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3351, by Senator Breslin, congratulating the Troy Varsity Football Team and Coach Bob Burns upon the occasion of capturing the 2017 New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AA Football Championship on November 26, 2017.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Breslin.

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

And welcome, Troy High School

Football Team, who waited patiently, but you've heard a lot about the Irish.

And if you don't know, Troy has one of the greatest historical parts in Irish history. At one time it had more per-capita Irish than any city in the country.

And then when we talk about women, Kate Mullaney, back in the 19th century, started the first union of the Troy shirt manufacturing workers and now has a home in Troy named after her that's on the federal landmarks.

But more importantly, or as importantly, Troy football and what they've done. Little Troy. And they were -- if we don't know, there are D schools, there are B schools, C schools, A schools and AA. And it really -- you know, it's the size of the school.

And Troy last year went from an A to a AA. And generally when you move up in class, you move down in wins because you're competing with better teams. Not Troy High School. Troy High School went up to a AA last year and proceeded to win all 13 games last year and be the number-one ranked team in the State of New York.

So they enter this past year with a mark on their back. Everybody's looking out to beat Troy High School. Didn't happen. Troy High School won an additional 13 games, to again be the state champions -- the first team in the history of New York to win consecutive state titles. A pretty great accomplishment.

And I was joyed to be able to watch several games and see the amazing cohesiveness of not only your offense but your defense, and the remarkable coaching job that was done. And when I think of your team, led by Joey Ward, who came from, I might add -- transferred from a school in Albany, where I live -- and Dev Holmes is going to be around here to be a great success at the University at Albany. It's a phenomenal ball club, led by Bob Burns, who sits up there, the head coach.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention others, some of whom I've known for years: Mike Grasso, Jim Canfield, Mark Galuski, Sam Marro, Pat Haggerty, Matt Marsh -- a phenomenal combination of coaches. And I know by talking to some of the players how you respect what they have done for you.

And you have now come to the pinnacle of state high school football, something that you can be justifiably proud of, to make a difference and bring Troy to the forefront of athletics in the State of New York. I salute each and every one of you. And your future is positive, your future is bright.

And if I didn't mention him before, Joey Casale -- I waited, because you have relationships in the State Legislature. Pat Casale was a dear friend, a member of the Assembly, who's retired. The Casale family name, throughout Troy, is renowned. And if I looked through, and I did, there are so many others who have histories with Troy.

So I salute you for again being state champions. And I worry about next year only because there's the talk of going down to Class A again because of size. Because you've demonstrated you belong at the highest levels of state football in the State of New York, and you belong at that level. To go down one because of your population size would be a bad situation for the kids you play.

So keep it up. You've set the

tradition, you've set what is important, and you've done it as student-athletes who make the entire Capital District and the State of New York proud of you.

I salute you. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator Breslin, thank you.

To the Troy Football Team and Coach Burns -- excuse me. I'm sorry. Senator Marchione. My apologies.

SENATOR MARCHIONE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to salute the Troy team as well. And certainly Senator Breslin has said just about every wonderful thing that can be said about this football team, about their coach, Bob Burns.

But I just would like to add my congratulations to all of you. This team, as you've heard through Senator Breslin, is talented, incredible athletes, and they exemplify the dedication and determination and teamwork that their school has been exhibiting.

Congratulations. This is the second year in a row; that is an amazing feat. And I

just want to add my congratulations to each and every one of you. My thanks to your coach, who I understand is an amazing coach and a tremendous human being. So congratulations to each and every one of you.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank you, Senator Marchione.

To Coach Burns and the entire team, on behalf of the New York State Senate, we congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and all of your teamwork.

And if everybody could please rise and acknowledge the team and the coaches.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: We of course extend all the privileges and the courtesies of this great house to all of you. Thank you.

Senator Ritchie.

SENATOR RITCHIE: Senator Breslin would like to open this resolution up for cosponsorship. If a member would like to be a cosponsor, they should notify the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. If you

wish to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Ritchie.

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

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

SENATOR RITCHIE: There being no further business, I move that we adjourn until Monday, March 19th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, March 19th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

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