NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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4:13 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JOSEPH GRIFFO, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Senate will come to order.

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

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Today's invocation will be offered by the Reverend Craig Robinson, pastor of Israel African Methodist Episcopal Church here in Albany.

Reverend?

REVEREND ROBINSON: Let us pray.

God of creation and life, we stand in awe of Your holy presence and we wonder at the work of Your hands. Thank You for bringing us to this new day and gathering us together in this place. We pray that we will begin the work of making life abundant for all.

God of love and mercy, we praise You for Your steadfast love which endures forever and that follows us everywhere we go. We pray that Your love and merciful compassion will animate the work this chamber does today,

so that citizens of this great State of New York will know their high value and find vital hope in our common destiny.

God of justice and peace, we acknowledge the shortcomings of our human family and the ways that we often miss the mark in our effort to build beloved community. Incline our hearts to the needs of the vulnerable in our society. Let the work that happens in this chamber open the way for Your justice to roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Let Your peace abide in the Senators of this chamber as they move through today's business. Gracious God, bless this Senate chamber. Bless the work that the Senators do on behalf of the people of the State of New York. Bless each Senator and their staff.

Give each Senator wisdom to create policies that help build a more equitable and just society. Give each Senator courage to advocate for what is right. Give each Senator an extra measure of Your compassionate love. Give each Senator the endurance to keep working

until the tasks are completed.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline Your ear to us and grant us peace. Amen.

THE ASSEMBLAGE: Amen.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: I would ask all members to please remain standing, at the request of Senator Larkin.

This week we lost a colleague of ours in the New York State Legislature and another public official in the City of Newburgh. So in remembrance and in silent prayer, let us remember Assemblymember Frank Skartados of the 140th Assembly District and Mayor Judy Kennedy of the City of Newburgh.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, April 15th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Friday, April 13th, was read and approved On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Without

objection, the Journal will stand 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 of state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, I wish to call up Senate Bill 6898B, by Senator Golden, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 397, by Senator Golden, Senate Print 6898B, an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll on reconsideration.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Mr. President, on page 11 I offer the following amendments to Calendar 175, Senate Print 4593, by Senator Ortt, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received, and the bill shall retain its place on third reading.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Also, on page number 20, I offer the following amendments to Calendar 326, Senate Print 4136A, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar. It's a Senator Lanza bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received. The bill shall retain its place on third reading.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Mr. President, would you now call on Senator Gianaris for a hand-up.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator

DeFrancisco, the floor yields to Senator Gianaris for a hand-up.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Before you do that, I have another idea.

We -- the Senate Republican conference has a hand-up at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is a hand-up at the desk. It is received.

Upon review, it is so ordered to be filed with the Journal.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: All right, now would you call on Senator Gianaris.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, on their way up to you are several hand-ups that will be adding eight members to the Democratic Conference of the State Senate and making concomitant changes to leadership and committee assignments. Please receive them and file them in the Senate Journal.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The hand-ups are at the desk. (Pause.)

Upon review, it is so ordered and

directed to be filed in the Journal.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:

Mr. President, could you take up previously adopted Resolution 3736, by Senator LaValle, read it in its entirety and call on Senator LaValle to speak, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3736, by Senator LaValle, mourning the death of Lyle Wells, legendary North Fork farmer, family man, and devoted member of his community.

"WHEREAS, The agricultural industry is part of the foundation upon which our distinct American heritage is built; and

"WHEREAS, New York State and the entire United States is dependent on our agricultural industry for a variety of food products; and

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of our farmers as they continue their hard work of cultivating the land, facing the many challenges

of nature such as flood, drought and heat, in order to grow our food; and

"WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Lyle Wells, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

"WHEREAS, Lyle Wells of North Fork, New York, died on his farm on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at the age of 62; and

"WHEREAS, In 1661, William Wells was granted three parcels of land in Aquebogue, New York; for 350 years, the Wells family has owned and operated Wells Homestead Acres at 4162 Sound Avenue, making them the oldest farmers in Aquebogue, New York; and

"WHEREAS, A true visionary, Lyle Wells was born with dirt running through his veins and sweat pouring from his brow; as soon as he could handle a hoe, Lyle was tending to his vegetable garden; he was curious about plants and always strived to grow the best quality products with the latest technological practices; and

"WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Lyle Wells held numerous jobs but always found his way

back to the land; and

"WHEREAS, Lyle Wells prided himself on his tender asparagus, and was recognized as the largest asparagus grower on Long Island; Lyle harvested between 4,000-5,000 crates of asparagus each season, and sold the produce to local farm stands, supermarkets, and online grocer Fresh Direct; and

"WHEREAS, Known as the 'Father of Land Preservation,' Lyle Wells was committed to saving Long Island's precious farmland; he served as the president of the Long Island Farm Bureau, where he was instrumental in creating the transfer development rights program; he was also a member of the Riverhead Town Planning Board; and

"WHEREAS, Lyle Wells will long be remembered for many things such as his infectious laughter, infinite kindness, love of the land, role as Mr. Fix-it, delicious asparagus, and above all, his role as a multigenerational farmer and loving father and grandfather; and

"WHEREAS, Lyle Wells truly lived his life to the fullest; he loved to feel the cold dirt sift through his fingers in the early

morning light, and reveled in the sun as it set on his way home from the fields; he strongly believed in his mantra, 'Positive is how I live'; and

"WHEREAS, Through his diligence and expertise in farming, Lyle Wells has brought pride and recognition to himself, his local community, and to our great Empire State; and

"WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, Kenneth L. and Justine Wells, and two brothers, Kent Wells and Scott Wells, Lyle Wells is survived by his daughter Jessica (Carlos) de Vera Wells; two sons, Matthew Wells and Logan Wells; his partner, Wendy Kukla; two grandsons, Laird and Warner; two brothers, Mark Wells and Brett Wells; the mother of his children, Susan Wells, and many other family members and friends, as well as a legion of fellow farmers who will long cherish his memory; and

"WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Lyle Wells leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Lyle Wells, legendary North Fork farmer, family man, and devoted member of his community; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Lyle Wells."

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator LaValle.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today is kind of a bittersweet day because Lyle was a friend, someone who I knew for many, many years. And as a matter of fact, many of you, if you saw a picture, would know Lyle because he came up almost every year for Farm Day. And it was important to him that Suffolk County be recognized as a farm county.

And certainly the Wells name goes back. Ironically enough, my wife's maiden name is Wells, and so my wife and Lyle really bonded. They would go through this whole thing over and over again to see if there was some familial bonding to be had, but over the years it never

happened.

Lyle was a very special guy. Because he was very heady about -- an intellectual, about a lot of things -- and then he would go from that modality into a little grin and laughter.

Lyle wore the same hat, he was kind of like the Marlboro Man. But his contribution to farming in Suffolk County was enormous, and also in terms of the State of New York.

So I got to know him and played some golf with him. And he was devoted to his farm, because if he didn't be as devoted, he would have been one heck of a golfer. And he loved it. He loved it. So I had the opportunity of playing golf with him at Shinnecock. And as all of you know, the next open is going to be in Suffolk County at the Shinnecock Country Club.

So the thing that Lyle was a man ahead of his own time is that farmer after farmer, it was passed down that they would grow potatoes. And Lyle saw that there was going to be a point in time where just growing that one crop would not be enough. So he was one if not the first farmer to say I've got to be

diversified in my crop growing.

And he changed, changed farming in Suffolk County from being known as a county that grew potatoes to a county that now grows everything, including hops. I think Senator O'Mara probably knows what that is. But as I was driving along the North Fork one day, I saw these things just growing up, and I said to one of my staff members: "What are those things?" And he said "Hops." So we're into beer out in Suffolk County, as well as wine and everything else.

I would like -- we are joined here today, and I'm glad because it's a special day. So when I call your name, would you stand up? Daughter Jessica and her husband Carlos. Son Logan and his partner Sam. Son Matthew and his partner Ella. And two grandchildren, Laird and Warner. Congratulations to your family in having just a great, great dad and grandpa.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator LaValle.

On behalf of the members of the Senate, we want to extend our sincere condolences to the Wells family. And we welcome you and

extend the courtesies and the privileges of the house.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, would you please recognize Senator Helming for a brief introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Helming.

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I rise to congratulate and recognize the Canandaigua Braves Varsity Cheerleading Team, their head coach, Laura Burgess, and Athletic Director Jim Simmons for winning the 2018 New York State Small School Cheerleading Championship.

Canandaigua Academy has a long history of producing stellar student athletes, and this cheerleading team builds upon that tradition. These young women started their season labeled as the sectional underdogs and were referred to, the team, as "in a rebuilding stage."

Rather than being defined by this label, Coach Laura and the cheerleaders used it

as inspiration. They committed to working hard and training even harder. As their season progressed, so did their performance. These remarkable young women not only won the sectional championship for their division, they went on to win the New York State championship, where they also captured the title "Grand Champion" for earning the highest score of the competition.

For those of you who may not be familiar with cheerleading, it is a demanding and competitive sport. Cheerleaders spend countless hours in gyms building their core strength in order to execute incredibly complex gymnastics routines. I learned just how demanding this sport is during my own daughter's tenure as a Canandaigua Braves cheerleader.

During my daughter's time, I was surprised and disappointed to learn high school cheerleading in New York State was not recognized as an official sport. Despite the efforts of many involved with the sport, it took until the spring of 2014 for cheerleading to be finally be recognized and sanctioned as a sport.

That's one of the reasons why I'm so proud to have the Canandaigua cheerleaders here

with us today. This team has the distinct honor of being the school's first cheerleading team to win the state title. They are very fortunate to be supported by a school district, athletic director, coaching staff, and a community who have always recognized cheerleaders as the athletes they are, and who fought to bring about this change that benefits athletes across New York State.

On behalf of the New York State Senate and the greater Canandaigua community, I congratulate you on your successful season. And I'd ask that as I read your name, you please stand to be recognized.

Head Coach Laura. Athletic Director Jim Simmons. Caelyn Taribassi. Lexi Wagenbaugh. Alaynna Richmond. Aspen Farnes. Samantha Collea. McKiah Ayers. Olivia Wethington. Sage Simmons. Teagan Cronk. Alsatia Holbrook. Katelynn Kimble. Lexi Taft. Meleena Mortimer. Katie Opiela. Mikayla Coleates. And Gabi Tepedino.

Girls, I congratulate you on your tremendous team success.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: On behalf of the New York State Senate, we welcome and congratulate the Canandaigua Academy cheerleaders, coaches and staff, and extend the privileges of the house.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now take up a previously adopted resolution by Senator Kennedy, 3118, title only, and call on Senator Kennedy to speak, please.

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

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 3118, by Senator Kennedy, honoring Buffalo Police K-9 Officer Craig E. Lehner posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I rise to honor the life of Lieutenant Craig Lehner, a Buffalo police officer, military veteran, and proud Buffalonian, who we tragically lost on October 13, 2017.

Lieutenant Lehner was a nine-year veteran of the Buffalo Police Department, a K-9 handler, a National Guard veteran serving two deployments, and a member of the Buffalo Police Department Underwater Recovery Team.

While conducting an underwater training exercise in October of last year, Lieutenant Lehner's rope broke and he did not resurface. In the minutes, hours and days to come, our community was united in support of Lieutenant Lehner and his family, and we mourned with them when his body was later recovered from the Niagara River by his colleagues.

Lieutenant Lehner was 34 years old, with his whole life ahead of him. Craig was an all-American citizen, and those closest to him say throughout his life he was always eager to do one thing, help other people.

Lieutenant Lehner served as an Army National Guard military police officer for 16 years, assigned to the 105th Military Police

Company at Masten Armory in Buffalo. As staff sergeant, he was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and ended that deployment in 2015.

During his time in the military, he was awarded more than a dozen medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, Air Assault Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and five Army Achievement Medals.

He left the service in 2016. Afterward he said, "I served my country, now I want to serve my community."

He began his career with the Buffalo Police Department in the gang suppression unit, where he won a Mayoral Award for Excellence, and later moved to the K-9 unit and dive team.

When Craig was teamed with his K-9 partner, he chose to name it Shield, in honor of Officer James A. Shield, a Buffalo police officer who died in an on-duty accident in 2002.

And now we honor Craig. The Buffalo police K-9 training facility on Louisiana Street will be named in honor of Lieutenant Lehner. Craig's name will also be engraved on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., forever remembered as making

the ultimate sacrifice in service to his profession and our community.

Thousands of people, including officers from across the United States, traveled to Buffalo to mourn Lieutenant Lehner's passing and celebrate his life.

I would like to thank his family for being here with us today, including his mother Kathy and his sister Donna Wilson.

This outpouring of support is also a true testament to you, Kathy and Donna, as well as the rest of your family, for giving Craig and sharing Craig with all of us.

His partner and friend Tommy Champion said it best when he said that Craig wasn't just working a job, he was using his life to try to impact the world and leave it a better place in his wake, and that his vast presence is still here with us.

He is undoubtedly here with us today in this chamber and with the men and women in blue that are sacrificing for our community and communities like ours across this great state and nation.

After spending his life in selfless

service, showing a remarkable resolve and extraordinary dedication, Lieutenant Craig Lehner will be remembered as a fearless patriot and an admired friend and leader.

Today I am so honored to present the Lehner family with the New York State Senate's Liberty Medal. This award is reserved for those that have gone above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of their community and New York State. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this commendation than Lieutenant Lehner, who gave everything.

To the Lehner family, we are so sorry for your loss and we hope that the knowledge that Craig will be forever remembered by the people of Buffalo provides a small amount of comfort as we mourn the loss of this great man.

The City of Buffalo, the Empire State of New York and this extraordinary United States of America are forever indebted Craig for his service and his sacrifice. May his memory and spirit forever endure, and may Buffalo Police Lieutenant Craig Lehner rest in peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Kennedy.

Senator Gallivan.

SENATOR GALLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

It is my pleasure to rise and stand in honor of the extraordinary service of Buffalo Police K-9 officer and Lieutenant Craig Lehner.

And I thank Senator Kennedy for bringing this resolution forward and honoring Craig's family.

Many of you know my background is in law enforcement, my family's background is in law enforcement, and I have great respect for the dedication that law enforcement officers have in keeping our communities safe, and great respect for the legacy of and the work of Craig Lehner and the things that he accomplished during his lifetime.

He certainly was the type of police officer that should be held up to be the standard. No question he went above and beyond his service to the department and the residents of the City of Buffalo. He worked in a number of specialized units, as we heard Senator Kennedy

talk about. And many people don't know how hard it is to do your job and then take on these specialized units -- the extra training, the extra level of dedication, training, commitment that it requires. And Officer Lehner took on this added responsibility not just with dedication and compassion, but he sought it out.

Before he took his oath, we heard Senator Kennedy describe his time in the service, deployed to Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, and earning more than a dozen medals for his military service.

When we consider what the highest honor that we can give is, the Liberty Medal, what it stands for -- exceptional, heroic or humanitarian acts on behalf of fellow New Yorkers -- like Senator Kennedy, I can think of no one more deserving than Craig Lehner.

To his mother Kathleen and sister Donna, it was my honor and pleasure to meet you. I'm so glad that you're here today. I thank you and your extended family for supporting him in his service, for supporting him in standing up for his fellow man and serving our country, our state and our community.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. President.

It is an honor to rise today in full support of awarding the Liberty Medal to Officer Craig Lehner. And I want to again thank Senator Kennedy for initiating this.

My condolences to the entire Lehner family and to his mother Kathleen and to Donna, his sister, for being here today. Thank you very much for being here to accept this medal today.

I also want to thank everybody who has been supportive during this time that we have dealt with this issue, over seven months ago in terms of when this tragedy happened.

Craig Lehner was an incredible man of service, whether it was service to his country, in the National Guard in conflict zones such as Iraq, or back home in Buffalo as a police officer with his K-9 partner Shield.

I did not have the good fortune of meeting Officer Lehner, but like most Western New Yorkers I feel as though I do know him

because I, like so many, kept vigil over the five days there was the search for him during the tragedy, and over those days learned about him and the special person he was.

A reporter who spent a few days with him several months -- about a year ago, I believe the article was written -- wrote how impressed she was by him in the mere few hours that she was with him. And I'll quote, the reporter stated: "There was a soul, a humility to him, and a very calm way. Unlike lots of people, he did not want to talk about himself. He just seemed like such a thoughtful and sensitive person." I think most people who knew Craig would agree with that description.

And I just wanted to comment on the wonderful -- your son's service and life of giving to others and how he brought people together. The tragedy that you dealt with, it was a final stage of him bringing people together as well. I don't ever think I have seen our community come together, whether it was first responders in a search or the community coming together afterward. And I believe there was a lot of goodness generated that will move forward

and benefit our community. So Craig gave to his community even when we lost him.

Again, thank you so much for being here. Thank you for raising a wonderful son. And thank you, Senator Kennedy, again, for initiating this award.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Ortt.

SENATOR ORTT: Mr. President, I too want to rise and thank my colleague Senator Kennedy. I'd just echo the comments of my colleagues Senator Gallivan and Senator Jacobs. I know Officer Lehner had roots from Niagara County, in Lockport, New York, and -- which is in my district, of course.

But I think it's also important to note while he was a law enforcement officer, his service began or at least predated when he was in the United States Army National Guard, which I also had the pleasure of serving. He served overseas in combat.

And this was clearly a person who was raised with the belief that there was something larger than him. He believed he could make an impact in our world, in our community, by

being part of something larger than himself, whether it was wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army or wearing the uniform of the Buffalo Police Department.

And those individuals more and more are fewer and harder to find, it seems, these days. And as Senator Jacobs said, the community of Western New York, the City of Buffalo, really came together in a way that you just don't see very often, uniting -- unfortunately -- in the loss of your son and your loved one.

And many of the folks who were united and came together in that community moment maybe never met or never had the privilege to know Craig Lehner. But his example, I'd like to think, at a time when our country, maybe our community, can be very divided, where we're always focused on what's separating us and the gap between those who protect us and those they protect might seem greater than ever, we were united in the sorrow of the loss of Craig Lehner, a hero for the American country and a hero for the City of Buffalo and Western New York.

So our condolences for your loss. But again in death, his life and what he stood

for continues hopefully to inspire not only us here, as we recognize him, but also inspire future generations of American men and women across our state and across our country.

So thank you very much, and God bless you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: As indicated, the resolution was previously adopted.

On behalf of the Senate, we want to express our deepest sympathy, especially to Lieutenant Craig Lehner's mom Kathleen, his sister Donna, for your presence here today. We express a warm welcome to you and extend the courtesies of the house. Thank you for being here today, and again, our condolences.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: At the request of both Senator LaValle, for resolution 3736, and Senator Kennedy, for Resolution 3118, they are both open for cosponsorship. Should you choose to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, Mr. President. Can you please recognize Senator Klein for a brief introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to introduce a very special young visitor. Today visiting Albany is Luisito Oyola Jr., and his wonderful grandmother, Lorine.

I first met the two of them after an unfortunate incident that took place in a Bronx playground in 2013. Luis was enjoying a day with his family on the playground in Vidalia Park in the Bronx like any other 3-year-old. During an altercation that took place across the street, four shots were fired into the park. Luckily -- Luis did suffer a gunshot wound, but through paramedics and the great care at local Bronx hospitals, he pulled through and he stands with us today.

Him and his grandmother have been a fighting force to pass a very important piece of legislation called Luisito's Law. Luisito's Law is a law that I introduced with Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda. This legislation would enact a new crime to enhance the punishment of a person

convicted of aggravated assault of a child under the age of 10, and it would also expand the crime of criminal use of a firearm in the second degree to anyone who fires into a park or school playground.

Again, I want to thank the two of them, because very few people lean into a tragedy like this and use themselves as sort of a two-people fighting machine and really traveling around -- they've been lobbying the Assembly for a while. We passed this legislation several times in the Senate, but they've been lobbying the Assembly for many years now. And I'm hopeful that finally we can have Luisito's Law signed into law, pass both houses, and give them the peace of mind that they both deserve.

Mr. President, I hope you will show them the courtesies of our house here today.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Klein.

We welcome Luis and his family here today. Thank you for being here. And we commend him for his bravery and all of your activities.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, can we now take up the reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 103, by Senator Marcellino, Senate Print 1136, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 172, by Senator Ortt, Senate Print 1481, an act to amend the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 207, by Senator Helming, Senate Print 2504A, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 243, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 5575B, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the

last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 254, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 3158, an act to amend the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58. Nays, 1. Senator Krueger recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

255, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 5376, an act to amend the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 475, by Senator Gianaris, Senate Print 3299, an act to amend the Penal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Gianaris to explain his vote.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

This is an important bill responding to an epidemic that's taking place in our state. There have been a series of people who have been killed or injured by drivers who have been driving with suspended licenses.

And most recently, in my neighborhood, there was a young man, a high school student, who was mowed down by a truck driver who had more than seven suspensions on his license at the time -- actually ridiculed the laws of this state in a social media post about the fact that he was driving improperly. And lo and behold, we now have another death on our hands.

This bill would treat those crimes seriously, because right now the result of them is often no jail time and a misdemeanor charge. This would allow a felony to be charged when someone who is improperly licensed is driving and kills or injures someone.

So I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator

Gianaris to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 663, by Senator Young, Senate Print 852, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 667, by Senator Ritchie, Senate Print 3921, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

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

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

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

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: There being none, I move we adjourn until Tuesday, April 17th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: On motion, the Senate will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 17th, at 3:00 p.m.

The Senate is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 4:54 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)