NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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May 30, 2018

4:30 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 Rabbi Steven Graber, from Temple Hillel of North Woodmere.

RABBI GRABER: Lord our God, I stand before You today in the presence of great leadership, people who have been chosen from all over our great state to represent and lead the people by establishing laws and rules that will bring us all to a better life.

Teach our leaders, O Lord, to use the gifts that You have bestowed upon them, so that they can formulate balanced answers to the difficult times which we face.

May they work to the benefit of all of us. Help them, O Lord, to foster stability and growth in the workplace. Help them to make our schools safer and scholastically stronger.

Help them to act in kindness and love and humility and compassion as they work together to create a more balanced society where justice is tempered with mercy, a society where goodness and righteousness can advance and thrive.

Our state motto is Excelsior, which means "Ever Upward." With Your help, O Lord, may these fine men and women of the Senate continue to lead us ever upward.

Lord our God, shine Your light upon all who have assembled here today {in Hebrew}. Grant blessing and success to all the worthy deeds which they perform.

And let us say amen.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Rabbi.

Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, May 29th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Saturday, May 26th, 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.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: On page 21, Senator Amedore moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill Number 8806 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6958, Third Reading Calendar 280.

On page 27, Senator Serino moves to discharge, from the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Assembly Bill Number 9019A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7171A, Third Reading Calendar 403.

On page 35, Senator Gallivan moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill Number 9711 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7547, Third Reading Calendar 569.

On page 42, Senator Marchione moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill Number 10348 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7855, Third Reading Calendar 684.

On page 42, Senator Marchione moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local

Government, Assembly Bill Number 10349 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7856A, Third Reading Calendar 685.

On page 44, Senator Parker moves to discharge, from the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, Assembly Bill Number 6255 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6160, Third Reading Calendar 716.

On page 48, Senator Little moves to discharge, from the Committee on Finance, Assembly Bill Number 8723A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6895A, Third Reading Calendar 797.

On page 49, Senator LaValle moves to discharge, from the Committee on Higher Education, Assembly Bill Number 10174 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8088, Third Reading Calendar 807.

On page 57, Senator Helming moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill 10044A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7980A, Third Reading Calendar 948.

On page 60, Senator Lanza moves to discharge, from the Committee on Cities,

Assembly Bill Number 10236 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8071, Third Reading Calendar 980.

On page 65, Senator Breslin moves to discharge, from the Committee on Environmental Conservation, Assembly Bill Number 10342 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8162, Third Reading Calendar 1036.

On page 67, Senator Little moves to discharge, from the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, Assembly Bill Number 9851 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7943, Third Reading Calendar 1082.

And on page 79, Senator DeFrancisco moves to discharge, from the Committee on Finance, Assembly Bill Number 8789 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6938, Third Reading Calendar 1235.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The substitutions are so ordered as read.

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, Mr. President, I wish to call up Senator Bonacic's bill, Print Number 6244, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 333, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 6244, an act to amend the Rural Electric Cooperative 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, 56.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I'd now like to call up Senator Griffo's bill, Print Number 7418A, recalled from the Assembly, which is now

at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 399, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 7418A, an act to amend the Real Property Tax 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, 56.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now would like to call up Senator Seward's bill, Print Number 3960, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 442, by Senator Seward, Senate Print 3960, an act to amend the Insurance 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, 56.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I wish to now call up Senator Tedisco's bill, Print Number 5369, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 606, by Senator Tedisco, Senate Print 5369, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic 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, 56.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I'd now like to call up Senator Ranzenhofer's bill, Print Number 3879A, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 1177, by Senator Ranzenhofer, Senate Print 3879A, an act to amend the Executive 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, 56.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Next, please call up Senate Print 6973, by Senator Flanagan,

recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 283, by Senator Flanagan, Senate Print 6973, an act in relation to.

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, 56.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The amendments are received.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: On page 49, I offer the following amendments to Calendar 799, Senate Print 7174, by Senator Serino, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

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

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer amendments to the following Third Reading Calendar bills:

By Senator Hannon, page 18, Calendar Number 199, Senate Print 5622;

By Senator Marcellino, page 47, Calendar Number 785, Senate Print 2587C;

By Senator Funke, page 55, Calendar Number 909, Senate Print 7910;

By Senator Young, page 73, Calendar Number 1165, Senate Print 7771;

By Senator DeFrancisco, page 75, Calendar 1200, Senate Print 8249;

By Senator Murphy, page 79, Calendar 1238, Senate Print 7604;

By Senator Ritchie, page 82, Calendar 1265, Senate Print 6709.

And I now move that these bills retain their place on the order of third reading.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: All the amendments, as read and presented, are accepted, and the bills shall retain their place on third reading.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Please recognize Senator Klein.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Stavisky, I move to recommit Senate Print Number 5217, Calendar Number 576 on the order of third reading, to the Committee on Education, with instructions to said committee to strike out the enacting clause.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: It is so ordered.

SENATOR KLEIN: On behalf of Senator Savino, on page 37 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 602, Senate Bill 7690, 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 KLEIN: And finally, on behalf of Senator Krueger, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate Number 3397.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: It is so ordered.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, one moment.

We have the active calendar list. I'd like to just call up two of those bills. The first one is Calendar 403, by Senator Serino, and the second --

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary -- go ahead.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 403, substituted earlier by Member of the Assembly Gunther, Assembly Print 9019A, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Excuse me. Before you do that, would you lay the entire calendar aside for the day.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is withdrawn, and the calendar will be laid aside, the active list will be laid aside at this point.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: All right.

Then can we please take up a resolution, and that would be previously adopted Resolution 4166, by Senator Kennedy, read the title only, and then call on Senator Kennedy to speak.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: We'll return to motions and resolutions.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 4166, by Senator Kennedy, honoring Chief Thomas J. Moran 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 a great man, an extraordinary friend and a hero to so many in our community, Chief Thomas J. Moran, who passed away March 1st of this year.

I'd like to welcome Tom's wife Kelly and their daughters, Ava and Lila, and Tom's brother Terry, sister-in-law Kathy, and his sister-in-law Diane with us as well.

We also have a dear friend of Chief Moran's, Lieutenant Brian Britzzalaro, from the Buffalo Police Department, who's joined us. And many of our men and women in blue are with us today watching from back home in Buffalo. We thank you for your service and are very grateful for everything that you do on our behalf.

Chief Moran wasn't just one of the best, he was the best. He was somebody that always was looking out for the people who he served -- a true public servant who wore that badge with great pride and dignity and respect, that same respect he demonstrated on the beat, from an up-and-coming officer to the highest levels of the brass.

And because of that great service to the people of Buffalo and Western New York and the great State of New York, we will present to Tom's family today the New York State Liberty Medal.

Tom was a lifelong South Buffalonian, the youngest of the late James and Helen's six children. He attended St. Ambrose Elementary School -- with Kelly -- and went on to graduate from Bishop Timon High School in 1986,

Bishop Timon itself a staple in the South Buffalo and Western New York community.

He earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Brockport, majoring in business and writing, and worked as a counselor at Father Baker Homes for several years.

Now, the Homes of Father Baker take care of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Tommy wore his heart on his sleeve, and at a young age, working at Father Baker Homes, showed individuals with disabilities the greatest dignity and respect that he then showed the people of Buffalo on the streets when he wore the badge.

Tom was a member of the Buffalo Police Department for nearly 25 years. He joined the police department in 1994 as a patrol officer and spent most of his early career at precincts on the city's East Side.

In 2006, as an officer in what was then the Ferry-Fillmore District, he and another officer, Ronald Clark, received the Edward H. Butler Award for Heroism for stopping an armed robbery in a store and arresting the holdup man.

Tom was also a member of the

Underwater Recovery Team from 2004 until he was promoted to lieutenant and named to the head of District A shortly thereafter. District A encompasses not only the South District, but the neighborhood in which Tom grew up and lived and was raising his own family.

He was a committed neighbor. He was a committed police officer. He was a committed leader. But the most important thing in Tom's life was his beautiful family, who have joined us here today.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, he often marched with those organizations in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

This year -- as a matter of fact, this upcoming weekend -- Ava and Lila are going to serve as the co-grand marshals of the South Buffalo Parade of Circles on behalf of their father, Chief Tommy Moran, in his passing. It is an amazing, an amazing demonstration of the love that our community has for Chief Moran.

And I will tell you a beautiful part about the parade as well is it's going to go right by their home. And we know there's going

to be a great crowd there celebrating and honoring Chief Moran and his memory and his love for our community.

He was loved by all that knew him. There was never a soul who would speak ill of him, because of how he treated others. And every single time you'd see Chief Moran, before he'd open his mouth, you knew what he was thinking. You know why? Because he had a smile on his face, because he was happy to see you. Because he loved people. He loved people. That's what he was all about, helping other people.

It's my honor today to present Chief Thomas Moran's family with the New York State Liberty Medal. The New York State Liberty Medal is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a resident of New York State from this great and auspicious chamber, an honor awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, and humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers.

And I would submit to you that every single day of Tommy Moran's life was done that way -- was treated with great heroism, was treated with great humanitarianism, and was

treated in an exceptional way. I can think of no one more deserving than Chief Tom Moran, for his years of service and commitment to protecting and improving the streets of Buffalo, Western New York, and the State of New York.

To the men and women in blue, once again we thank you for your service and your commitment, for your sacrifice, for your family's sacrifice.

To Chief Moran's family, once again we thank you for your sacrifice for giving us Tommy, for sharing him with all of us, not just as our friend but as our leader. And not just in South Buffalo and Buffalo, but all across the great State of New York. It was truly an honor and a privilege just to know him. We will all miss him. We all love him. He was one of us.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Tom's family, including his four brothers: James and his wife Darlene; Kevin; Brian and his wife Julie; and Terrance. His mother-in-law, Joanne Buczkowski; brother-in-law, Mike; sister-in-law, Kathy; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and countless, countless friends.

My heart is with you, Kelly, Ava and

Lila. We appreciate you, we are with you, and we will be with you into the future, at your side. Your loss is our loss as well. We feel for you. We miss Tom with you. Please know that he will always be remembered by the people of Buffalo and the great State of New York.

Thank you. May Chief Tom Moran -- the best -- rest in peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Gallivan.

SENATOR GALLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to thank Senator Kennedy for bringing this resolution forward and for giving such an apt and well-rounded description of Tom Moran.

And I also rise to welcome you, Kelly and Ava and Lila, and your family and Lieutenant Britzzalaro here to the Senate chamber.

Senator Kennedy did a wonderful job of describing Tom -- truly a great guy, a good guy, as he so often called everybody else, the first to stand up and help anybody. Which is

something, given my background in law enforcement, my family's background in law enforcement, we'd expect out of any police officer. But beyond that, he did it as a person, as a human being.

And without repeating all the things that Senator Kennedy said, I'm thrilled that you're here so that we can recognize you and the type of individual that Tom was.

And I'd like to go back to the news accounts, for the sake of everybody else, and just mention a couple of things that were in the news accounts that I think are so incredibly important. Of course today we are recognizing Tom for his exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others, but all-around good guy, first person to help, a hero, a loving husband and the best daddy. Somebody we should all aspire to be.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Gallivan.

The resolution has been previously adopted. It is open for cosponsorship. Should you choose to be a cosponsor, please notify the

desk.

At this time we would like to express our gratitude for the lifetime of service by Chief Tom Moran and for his family sharing him with all of the Greater Buffalo community. And for all those in New York State, particularly in this house, in the Senate, we express our sincere sympathy and condolences on your loss.

God bless you all, and let's acknowledge the Moran family.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, can we now take up previously adopted Resolution 4860, by Senator Serino, title only, and call on Senator Serino to speak, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution Number 4860, by Senator Serino, commending Brian Geary 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 Serino.

SENATOR SERINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today we're joined in the chamber with Brian Geary, his parents, Sue and Phil, and his brother and sister and his girlfriend.

The New York State Liberty Medal is our state's highest honor. Since taking office, I have only given out a select few. But when I first heard Brian Geary's story, I thought to myself: Now, that's a hero.

We've all heard of the bystander effect, where something terrible is happening and people freeze, bystanders freeze. Maybe they go so far as to call 911, but most often that's where the action ends. In the early morning hours of a weekday morning back in April, Brian Geary of East Fishkill was on his way to work -- and actually, it was a different time, one night that he actually was at -- I think it was a four-hour difference. He was on his way to a work training program when he saw an overturned vehicle in flames already.

Instead of carrying on, he turned

right around and made it to the vehicle just before it was fully engulfed. Noticing that a woman was lodged within the vehicle, instead of focusing on the clear risks and dangers, Brian ran to his vehicle, got his baseball bat, and bashed in the window to get her out.

He pulled off at the scene and was able to pull the woman out just in time before the entire vehicle became engulfed in flames. He waited with her until the ambulance arrived to bring her to Westchester Medical, where she ultimately made a full recovery.

Not only have I been struck by Brian's actions, but by his humility in the aftermath. While he might not consider himself a hero, his display of the decisive action and courage tells us otherwise.

Brian, you truly are a hero, and it is my distinct honor to have the opportunity to join with Senator Murphy in presenting you with our state's highest honor, the Liberty Medal.

On behalf of our community, I thank you. We are fortunate to count you as a neighbor, and we hope that your story can inspire and motivate us all to make a difference in our

community.

Thank you. Please rise -- oh, I'm sorry. Please call on Senator Murphy.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's not too often that we get one of these Liberty Medal recipients here in the Senate chamber, and today we actually have two. How great is that?

But we have a gentleman here, Brian Geary, who's accompanied by his mother Sue and father Phil, and his brother and sister.

And how the good Lord intervenes. Brian was off to work four hours earlier than usual when he passed by a car crash that was a car engulfed in flames.

He had turned around, went back up the ramp and circled back around, jumped on top of the car, looked to see if anybody was in there, saw a lady who was leaning against the passenger side, ran back to his car, got his baseball bat and smashed the window to take out the unconscious lady -- who I happen to know,

who's a lovely lady who does so much work for our community and volunteering.

Brian's heroic actions deserve the Liberty Medal. We usually talk about these from our first responders, not by bystanders. Well, Brian was no bystander that day, and we congratulate him today and his wonderful parents.

Thank you for being here, and congratulations.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: As noted, the resolution has been previously adopted.

The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you choose to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

At this time we'd like to thank Brian Geary for his unselfish heroism and want to welcome Brian and his family to the Senate chamber.

God bless you. Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now take up a privileged resolution by Senator

Flanagan, Senator Stewart-Cousins and others, read it in its entirety, and call on Senators Flanagan, Stewart-Cousins and those who want to speak by a hand raised for us after the resolution is read.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative resolution by Senators Flanagan, Stewart-Cousins, Benjamin and Alcantara, celebrating the life and distinguished career of former Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr., a well-respected public servant and a credit to the institution of government.

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to public service in the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process in this great Empire State; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., of Manhattan, New York, a 22-term New York State Assemblyman, died on Saturday, May 26, 2018, at the age of 86; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., known by all as Denny, was born in Manhattan on February 4, 1932, to Herman Farrell, Sr. and Amy Gladys Paterson; the couple owned Farel Frocks, a manufacturer where the father and son duo designed cocktail dresses; and

"WHEREAS, After graduating from George Washington High School in upper Manhattan, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., went on to take classes at New York University; and

"WHEREAS, Prior to holding elected office, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., worked in the Washington Heights office of Mayor John V. Lindsay before serving as the confidential aide to a State Supreme Court justice; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., won his first election in 1970, becoming a Democratic State Committeeman for two years; three years later, he was elected as a Democratic District Leader; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 1974, to represent the 71st Assembly District, which encompassed West Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood; in 1979, he became the chair of the

Assembly Banks Committee; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., championed many critical and landmark pieces of legislation during his time in the Assembly, with one of his first victories being the passage of the Neighborhood Preservation Companies Act, which allowed the state to fund community groups dedicated to fighting housing abandonment and providing tenant advocacy; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., also proudly sponsored the Omnibus Consumer Protection and Banking Legislation Act, which included landmark protections for consumers in the auto leasing industry, established a toll-free line to the New York Banking Department that provided consumers with free information on credit card interest rates, fees, and grace periods, and required banks to provide low-cost lifeline checking accounts while barring discrimination based on residency when opening a bank account; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., sponsored legislation that effectuated changes to state banking laws that would become models for federal legislation, including check-clearing

legislation which requires banks to clear checks in a shorter time frame and notify depositors on how long it takes to cash checks, and legislation to require banks to disclose interest rates and other important information in clear, easy-to-read, concise chart form in all mail solicitations; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., was also responsible for laws combating redlining by requiring stricter enforcement provisions of the Community Reinvestment Act and legislation that monitored bank branch closings; and

"WHEREAS, In 1994, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., was named the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, a position he would hold until his retirement in 2017; he also held a number of other positions in the Assembly, including member of the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, and the American Irish Legislators Society of New York; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., also held numerous positions in the Democratic Party in New York and nationally; in 1981, he was

elected the county leader of the New York County Democratic Committee, a post he held until 2009; in 1983, he was elected as the vice chair of the New York State Democratic Party, a position he held until 2002, when he was made the chair of the State Democratic Party, a position he held until 2006; and in 1988, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee and was a member of the Electoral College multiple times; and

"WHEREAS, During his long and distinguished career with the New York State Assembly and the Democratic Party, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., advocated for many important causes and the adequate funding of important social programs; and

"WHEREAS, Upon the occasion of his retirement in 2017, the New York State Legislature saw fit to honor Herman D. Farrell, Jr. by renaming Riverbank State Park along the west side of Manhattan as the Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park, for his vital work in securing funding for the construction of the park; and

"WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., is survived by his partner, Barbara Klar, and three

children, Herman III, Monique Farrell-Guidry, and Sophia Ilene Farrell, as well as two grandchildren, Simone Adele Guidry and Madeleine Jones-Farrell; and

"WHEREAS, Every citizen in New York State has most certainly benefited, in one way or another, from the deep dedication, intelligence and commitment that Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr., brought to his work as a legislator, loyal friend, and trusted advisor; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and distinguished career of former Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr., and to offer its sincere condolences to his family; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Herman D. Farrell, Jr."

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Flanagan.

SENATOR FLANAGAN: Thank you,

Mr. President.

You know, as I listened to the reading and the description of the resolution of Assemblyman Farrell, it's great. It's great, it's got significant detail, but frankly it just doesn't do justice to the person that I knew for a very long period of time.

And we can talk about his legislative accomplishments, amongs t other things, but I think back -- when I first got elected, Assemblyman Farrell had served with my father in the State Assembly, and even as a young man, he was very gracious to me.

And I know I had a leg up because I had succeeded my father, but Denny was cut from a different cloth -- pun intended, because he was very natty, always perfectly dressed. Being long and lean, you know, he was one of the guys who could always button his jacket, which a lot of people can't always do.

But I remember certain things about him -- Senator LaValle and I were just kibitzing a little bit -- the convertible. How many times did everybody see that convertible in the parking lot? All right, Denny's here. Right?

He just was a gentleman of the highest order. My mother loved him, loved him. She always would ask me "How is Assemblyman Farrell?"

He was timeless, he was ageless. Right? I mean, he was 86 when he passed away, but for many, many, many years the only difference between the old pictures and the new pictures was the ponytail.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR FLANAGAN: Right? I remember looking at those pictures and thinking, Oh, my gosh, could you imagine what he must have been like in his twenties, in his thirties, even in his forties, fifties and sixties?

I remember all his trips to Jamaica, how he comported himself.

And the last four years that I served in the Assembly, I was the ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee and sat through many, many hearings with Chairman Farrell. I also had many, many debates with Assemblyman Farrell, and had many committee meetings as well.

Always professional, always

courteous. And I felt special as a colleague and as -- I was his friend. And I consider myself very lucky to be able to say that even now.

Now, Assemblyman Farrell was smooth as silk, he really was. And he always remembered one thing over everything else. He would say to me: "Just remember, no matter how well you speak, no matter how hard you argue, no matter how good you may think you are, I have the votes."

(Laughter.)

SENATOR FLANAGAN: He also told me one other very important thing, which will be real to a lot of people in this room. I remember debating him on what was then the Assembly's one-house budget resolution, and he openly said on the floor in the Assembly, "Just remember, this is Albany. Two and two does not have to equal four."

So I remember those kinds of things. But, you know, at the hearings -- Senator Young, Senator Krueger, Senator DeFrancisco could attest to this -- it could get a little tedious. Right? So he would make his little phone calls, he would have his lunch. But one of the things I remember

was he must have, during these fiscal hearings, eaten about 75,000 Tic-Tacs. That was one of the ways that he kept himself vibrant throughout that process.

But, you know, we've lost a really stellar leader here in the State of New York. And when the Governor had called me about the legislation that involved renaming Riverbank State Park after Assemblyman Farrell, it was like a no-brainer, so easy. Just show me the buck slip. Let me sponsor, let me be part of that legislation.

So for anyone who may be listening, including our guests in the gallery, you can hear all about things in a resolution. Denny Farrell was a good human being. He was a died-in-the-wool Democrat, I don't want to ever overlook that, and he was very political when he needed to be. But he knew how to treat people correctly, with fairness and dignity and respect, and for that he will always have my admiration even in his passing.

Mr. President, thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Stewart-Cousins.

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

And I just want to join Senator Flanagan and all my colleagues in really honoring the memory of Herman "Denny" Farrell.

I am happy that we collectively as a Legislature gave him his flowers -- as they would say, his props -- while he was still able to enjoy having a park named for him. Most of us don't expect it, I'm sure Denny would not have expected it or even wanted it.

But the reality was and is that he was always a class act. He was always that person that no matter how long, how tedious, how heated, he would always remain cool, calm and collected.

He was natty, as Senator Flanagan said. And I remember talking to him about that, and he told me that his father was a tailor. And he learned how to sew from his dad, something that he continued on into the majority of his life. He would change his collars, he would change his cuffs, because that's just how he rolled. He had the monograms.

He was always a person who had a

vision of pride for himself, for the beloved community that he represented, and for the opportunity that he's had or he had for almost 50 years to be a voice, a compass, and someone who paid the utmost attention to everything and everyone.

So I, like so many, will miss Denny Farrell. I'm so proud of what he did not only for the community but for our party, but certainly for the legacy that he left for all of us to follow.

So again, my condolences to the family. And may he rest in peace.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Young.

SENATOR YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

It is my honor to rise and remember our colleague, Assemblyman Denny Farrell.

And I first got to know Assemblyman Farrell back in the Assembly days when he was chair of the Banks Committee. And when he became chair of the Ways and Means Committee, we actually interfaced even more. And I feel very fortunate to have chaired the Finance Committee

and to have spent many, many hours next to Assemblyman Farrell as we conducted the budget hearings.

And you really get to know someone when you spend that much time together. And what really stands out are a couple of things. First of all, just his service to the people of New York -- his tenacity, his dedication. Being in any hearing for a long period of time can be very difficult. And when you think about those budget hearings, sometimes they go on for 12, 14, 15, even 16 hours. Assemblyman Farrell was there during all that time, spending time listening very carefully to the speakers.

And what I really became aware of and what I truly appreciate about Denny is the fact that he was so focused on not only doing the people's business, but also on his family life. And he would often say to me, in very glowing terms, you know, My daughter Sophia has been up to this or that. He would share those stories with me.

And oftentimes when he wanted to leave, he would say, I've got to get home to my family, I've got to get home to my daughter. And

I think that really is something that makes Assemblyman Farrell very, very special, because he balanced both his work life and his family life. And oftentimes when he did take a call during a budget hearing, it was so he could talk to his daughter.

So I feel very fortunate to have been able to spend so much time with him, to learn to get to know him even better. Even though I've known him for 20 years, I think that getting to know him through the budget hearings was something that was enriching to me.

We are very fortunate to have such devoted public servants such as Assemblyman Farrell, somebody who has devoted so much of his life to serve the people of New York. And whether we agreed on everything or not -- and we certainly didn't agree on everything -- I certainly respect his service, I am grateful for his service, and I think that we all should take a moment and really think about what he was able to accomplish on behalf of the people of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Benjamin.

SENATOR BENJAMIN: Thank you.

It's odd to me, because I cannot believe Senator Flanagan stole my speech.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BENJAMIN: I mean, it's a real testament to who Denny Farrell was that no matter where you sit across the aisle, you have the same opinions of him.

He was a man who was impeccably dressed. He was a family man. He was a really good man. And he also was an honest man. Denny Farrell, when he told you he was going to do something, he most definitely did it. Without question. He was someone who would sit down and say, on Monday, "I'm going to support you." And a couple of weeks later it might not be so advantageous at that point, but if he said it on Monday, you can take it to the bank.

Just someone who was honest and has integrity and was someone who I got to meet later in his life. Because when I became chair of our community board, he started to meet with me and encouraged me to get involved politically and run for office one day.

And he said: Whatever you do, make

sure that you present yourself well, you dress well, you understand that you are representing more than yourself; you are representing people who have elected you to serve on their behalf.

And when I hear Senator Flanagan and I heard Senator Young and I hear Senator Stewart-Cousins all saying the same things about this great man, it gives me pride. It gives me hope in our government. It gives me hope in our politics that even if I'm a Democrat or you're a a Republican or you're an independent or whatever you are, if you're a good person, if you're an honest person, you're a decent person, everyone will recognize that. And when you're not here, they will all speak about that.

And so I'm honored to be a part of this body and I'm honored to have known Assemblyman Denny Farrell, who was a good man.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Alcantara.

SENATOR ALCANTARA: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to honor the life of Assemblyman Denny Farrell.

Denny Farrell lived in my district for over 40 years -- I think all of his adult life lived in the same building on Riverside Drive and 158th Street.

I remember seeing him at the Community Board 9 and 12 with his young daughter, Sophia. And I remember, like everyone said, that he was always elegantly dressed and very pleasant.

For over 40 years, Denny Farrell worked on behalf of the people of the State of New York, and he did that with a lot of dignity. Like my colleague Senator Brian Benjamin said, they don't make them like him anymore. He was a man of his word.

And I am glad that we are sitting here with people on both sides of the aisle talking about the accomplishments and contributions that he made. I want to wish my condolences to the people of the 74th Assembly District and to his family and the residents of Harlem.

And thank you, Leader Flanagan and our leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for bringing this resolution today.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Krueger.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I do feel it is appropriate that we all take some time out to remember Denny Farrell, what he did for the state and who he was as a man.

And many stories have now been told already. I'd like to tell my story, when I first won election in Manhattan to join the New York State Senate, and I went to have a meeting with Denny Farrell in his hat as the Manhattan County chair for the Democratic Party.

And he said: "I just have three things I tell people when they get into politics from Manhattan. One, we don't get in trouble in Manhattan. But I've already checked into you, and that won't be a problem.

"Two, politics in New York State is playing a sport on a hard wood floor with no padding. So you've learned some of that, but you'll learn more of that." Boy, was he right about that.

And three, he said, "And I'm not the kind of boss that gives orders, because you're all goddamn independents here in Manhattan and no one would take an order anyway, so I think we're going to get along just fine."

And in fact that was the beginning of a relationship where we did get along just fine.

And I proudly sat through endless budget hearings, year in, year out, learning from Denny Farrell, listening to how he approached people and issues. We worked together on housing issues at home and endless issues up here.

Yes, he was obsessed with his car, and -- or his cars. And one day I had a loaner car that I drove up to Albany with, which was a convertible. I wouldn't have even known how to take the top down anyway, but I drove into the garage. Denny drives up in his car next to mine and says, "I'm the only one who gets a convertible up here, Senator Krueger."

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KRUEGER: I assured him it was just a loaner, he would never see me in that car again.

But he was a man of great passion and a great understanding of the complicated politics of the late 20th and 21st century. So many of us knew him up here for what he did and what he was, but people who are from New York City also know his history as a true lion of a great -- it's not really history, but the great movement of African-American elected officials coming up through the ranks, particularly in Manhattan and Harlem, now of course expanding much more broadly.

But for people who lived through these times and remember the roles that Denny Farrell played in so many different fights and issues here in Albany and down home in New York City, it's hard to believe that anyone will forget him and what he did for New York State.

So I am delighted to simply rise in a small moment of tribute to him.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Comrie.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank the leaders for

giving us all a moment to reflect on a great man, Assemblyman Denny Farrell.

I'm going to speak from a different perspective. I met Assemblyman Farrell back in 1988, in the Jesse Jackson campaign, when I was still a young pup just starting out -- I was young at one point --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR COMRIE: -- when I was a young pup just starting out, an aide to City Councilmember Archie Spigner at that time, and got an opportunity to go to Harlem to meet the kings of Harlem, to meet Charlie Rangel and David Dinkins and, you know, Basil Paterson and all these kings.

And I have to say that all of them treated me as a person to be nurtured. They didn't look down on me, they didn't use their power to rail over you. They all nurtured you, but especially Denny. He would treat you as a confidant the first time he met you. He would let you know that you should be interested in government, you should do the things necessary, you should look good. I have never gotten to his level of style; I don't think I ever will.

But, you know, he was truly a man's man. He was someone that nurtured so many young people, that got people involved in politics and government, that helped so many people in their careers, that gave people an opportunity to understand that government was actually an individual opportunity for people to do better.

He never lauded all of his titles or anything. He would just come to you as an individual, give you that encouragement, let you know that you can continue to do well as long as you focused on doing the work, being participatory and being a person that you could count on.

I just wanted to rise and acknowledge that for all of the staff people that he encountered, for all of the young people that he helped, for all of his people that are mourning his death, because he was truly a man's man.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Bailey.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to first thank the leaders of the house, Senator Stewart-Cousins and Senator Flanagan, for bringing this resolution to the floor to honor a great man, Assemblymember Denny Farrell.

In 2004 I began my career in government as an intern in the New York State Assembly. And as -- Senator Comrie kind of stole my thunder, but Denny Farrell treated everybody the same, from intern to messenger to member. He treated them with the same respect, whether a 21-year-old intern or a 35-year-old member. Consistency.

He was diplomatic, accommodating, and always encouraging, especially to younger members. Anytime I would see him in the hallways of this cavernous building, he would always make it his point to say, How are you doing? How are things going? Keep the faith. Push on forward.

And to somebody who is an institution in New York politics, if you're paying attention -- and all of us are -- his reputation certainly preceded itself. And to have somebody with that stature, that cachet, that legend to be able to speak to me, as a

freshman member, I was honored.

And as everybody said, he was the sharpest one in the building. Sorry, Kevin. You know, he certainly had presence. He was noticeable. And he was somebody who you could look up to and not worry about him letting you down.

He was a man of his word. And as Senator Young alluded to, his mastery of subjects during the budget hearings was nothing short of awe-inspiring. Sitting through my first iteration of that last year, it was amazing how much stamina he had and how he was so quickly able to rifle off statistics from the -- seemingly from his hip, without looking down at the paper.

He was somebody who was not just an incredible figure for African-Americans, but he should serve as a beacon of light and hope for anybody in this state that is looking to embark upon a career in government, that you can do government the right way. And as everybody's said on both sides of the aisle, we can be -- we can disagree without being disagreeable. We can disagree on the substance and the merits of

something but, after the fact, have a conversation later.

Denny Farrell was somebody who we will all miss. He was a legend. And I was happy to have been able to serve with him for such a brief time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

There are few people that create the kind of unity in the Capitol where you see Assembly and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, reformers and regulars all singing his or her praises. But Denny Farrell is one such person.

I have known Denny for over two decades, back when I was an attorney for the State Assembly and he was a member, and then as a young member of the Assembly myself, where I served with Leader Flanagan, where we first established our friendship. We were both people who looked up to Denny and watched the mastery with which he would engage in debates in the State Assembly.

I also had the privilege of representing his partner -- at the time, his girlfriend -- Barbara, as a constituent of mine. And I learned that she had that status the hard way, because I was having a town hall at a co-op development in my district about a recently passed budget -- I was a young Assemblyman at the time -- and the door opens up and, lo and behold, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee walks in and sits down in the audience and starts asking me questions about it.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR GIANARIS: It was very intimidating, I can assure you. But thankfully it was Denny, because he actually helped me answer the questions as opposed to just grilling me.

And of course he did go on to play a great mentoring role for me in the Assembly. When he was the chair of the State Democratic Party, he had me serve as his finance chair during the 2006 cycle -- which, if I may get a little partisan, was the first time in his latest streak that Democrats won every single statewide election. And so part of his legacy of success

will be not only governmental but political.

And he will be sorely missed. And I hope the legacy he's left behind and the warm feelings that exist for him in this building provide some solace to his family at this time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Bonacic.

SENATOR BONACIC: Thank you, Mr. President.

I wish we had more people like Denny Farrell in state government.

I remember before I came to Albany, as a county legislator, we would disagree with Republicans and Democrats and afterwards we would go to a bar and have a drink and laugh together.

And when I first met Denny was in the Assembly. I was the ranker of Banking, and he was the chairman. And before the Banking Committee met, I would go see him in his office. I'd say, Denny, you know, a little problem with this bill, this bill -- no problem, we'll work it out.

But I want to talk a little bit about the human side of Denny Farrell. He had a

great sense of humor. I don't think he took himself seriously, but he took his work very seriously. And when we chaired -- ranker, chairman -- in Banking, we had a chance to go all around the United States and talk to bankers from New York at exotic places in the United States.

So I remember in West Virginia, at Greenbrier, Denny sitting by himself on a couch. And I'm with my bride. And I see he's the only African-American there. There's about 3500 white people. So I go sit next to Denny, with my bride, and I say, "Denny, does it bother you? Do you feel uncomfortable here?" And he laughed and he said, "No way." He was so comfortable in his own skin.

But the other thing I want to share with you about Denny, we used to have things in the western part of the United States -- California, Arizona. And when it was over, the three nights and the four days, I'd say, "Denny, what flight are you taking?" "No, I'm driving." He had a convertible.

Well, I said, "Who's going with you?" "I'm going by myself." I said, "Denny, come on now, that's a long trip. You know,

you've got to be careful when you drive and all."

That son of a gun beat me home --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BONACIC: -- and I had an airplane flight back.

But he loved to drive. He must have driven like -- I'm not exaggerating -- 18 hours a day. And it must -- it was probably his peace and quiet and his meditation. He loved the vehicle, and he loved to drive.

But I would say, in conclusion, he was not a man that polarized. He was a man that could talk to kings and could talk to janitors in the same way, as has been touched on by people in this room. And it was interesting to hear, when you spoke about Denny, I could see there was a smile on your face, there was a gleam in your eye for the appreciation of the quality of the man. And that's what I miss the most. And the fact that he was bipartisan, never polarized.

Oh, getting back to the West Virginia story, I told him I had a son in law school. You know what he said? He said: "When he graduates, I can give him a job with Morgenthau's office." I almost fell off the

couch, because I didn't know Denny that well. But he meant every word that he said. And I never forgot that, 28 years later.

So, Denny, may you rest in peace. And our condolences to the family.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Boyle.

SENATOR BOYLE: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the resolution.

It was a true honor to serve with Denny in the Assembly for many years, including as a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

As was touched upon, a true gentleman with a great sense of humor. Two quick stories that always summed up Denny to me. I was a Denny fan for many years.

You know, Denny, when he was a liberal Democratic Assemblyman and chairman of the Manhattan Democratic Committee, came up to CPAC, the Conservative Party convention they have up here, and debated in front of 200 conservatives. And when I saw Denny's name on the agenda, I was like, wow, he's got guts.

He was so good explaining his position with good humor and good nature that Denny received a standing ovation when the debate was over from a group of people who probably didn't agree with him on one of those issues that he debated.

Also, Denny's honesty has been touched upon. I remember one night, one of those long budget nights, we had passed legislation to increase taxes which was going to end on December 31st, so we had a special session in the middle of December -- which we weren't supposed to come back for -- to lower the tax but raise it more than it would have been if it had expired, but not as much as it was.

So the Democrats were saying it's a tax decrease. The Republican ranker on Ways and Means: "This is a tax increase. If we waited three weeks, it would be a tax increase." He said, "If we waited three weeks, it would be a tax increase." So Denny turned around and said, "You're right. That's why we're here tonight."

Rest in peace, Denny.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Tedisco.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I look around the room and I see some of my colleagues who served in the Assembly and served with me and Denny in the Assembly. But I think, as the Assemblyman who served with Denny and the minority leader at one time over there, I believe in this room I probably served the longest with Denny in the New York State Assembly. There may be one or two of you, I don't know.

But I found, after interacting with Denny all those years, that no matter what affiliation you were, it was just hard not to like Denny Farrell.

And I can remember -- and I think you get a little bit of the flavor of what happens in the New York State Assembly. We went over there last week to talk about the AG. And it's kind of like a food fight every day every day. A little bit more staid here in the Senate.

And we used to pummel Denny, as the Ways and Means leader on the floor, with question after question after -- Mr. Gianaris knows; he was over there. And we'd go after him and give

him some tough and wild questions.

And Denny had unbelievable patience and kindness and understanding. He never came back at us. And we used to come at him very, very hard. I mean, we only had 43 members. You know, we'd pull the pin and we'd throw it and see how much it blew up on the other side. You know.

And what I found him to be -- and I think Senator Bonacic mentioned it -- very humorous. He used to use humor to disarm us, a tremendous wit. And he had an unbelievable command of the facts of billion-dollar budgets.

And when he didn't have a command of the facts, he'd lean over to the counsel next to him, and he'd be talking. And they didn't have the answer sometimes, so he'd come back and then he'd just make up the facts and give us an answer. And we'd giggle a little bit, and we'd just go on to the next question. Because he knew, as the leader said, it was always going to pass. They had the numbers over there.

But one fact about Denny can never be denied. He was an unbelievable public servant, an unbelievable representative, and he left an unbelievable legacy there.

And in all the time that I can remember, we used to have tremendous chats together and just talk together -- every time we went at him with a difficult question, and some guys were a little bit rude, never, never did he come back with an answer that was going after somebody or trying to personally attack somebody. Always had a sense of just let it roll off his back -- we're going to get this done, we have the numbers, so let me just answer the questions and do the best I can.

And he really illustrated the collegiality that I think the Senator was talking about, with all of us who didn't make it easy for him all the time, because that's the only thing we could do when we had those low numbers over there.

But he's somebody that will be remembered, is going to be a part of this, as I said, this legislative body here that leaves a great legacy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Kaminsky.

SENATOR KAMINSKY: Thank you,

Mr. President.

I had the good fortune of serving with Denny in the Assembly. And the phrase that comes to mind when I think of him is old school. And there's a really interesting story that really solidified it for me.

I was driving in my district over the Atlantic Beach Bridge to go down to the coastal part of my district, and there are two lanes. There's the lane for the people that don't know the area that have to actually pay $2 in cash, and then there's the lane for everyone else, who has a pass.

And it was a June day, and it was a weekend, and it started to pour. And as I'm going through, I see Denny sitting in his convertible in the cash lane just getting soaked. And he's just sitting there without a care in the world, just getting soaked.

And by the time I realized who it was, I was already through the toll and on the other side. And so when I saw him in the Assembly on Monday, I said, "Denny, what were you going? What was going on?"

He goes, you know, "The lady I'm

with has a beach club down there, we love going, I'm there every weekend." I go, "You're there every weekend? Why are you in the cash lane?"

He goes, "Son, you think I'm going to let the government know where I am with one of these devices? There's no way."

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KAMINSKY: He goes, "You were a prosecutor, right?" I go, "Yeah." He goes, "Did you ever try to find out where someone was, using E-ZPass?" I go, "I did." He goes, "I don't own one."

And he goes, "You ever heard of taking the Taconic to Albany?" I go "Yeah." He goes, "That's the only route I take."

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KAMINSKY: And he basically said, "When I want the government to know where I am, I will let them know." He goes, "You want to find me? I'll be on the floor in Albany voting during session. If not, it's nobody's business at all."

And I -- I just -- he didn't make any bones about it. That was Denny.

And when I got to serve with him in

the Assembly, the best thing he taught me was to calm down and chill out. Denny would say to me, "Son, it's Albany, it's not going to go the way you think. This too shall pass. It's all good." He had one of those phrases for me every time he thought my head would explode.

And with all the different people there, the fact that he would kind of notice that and come up to me and say that was always great.

All the rest has been said. A true gentleman, a real public servant. I'm glad we get to honor his memory today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Is there any other member that wishes to be heard on the resolution?

Senator DeFrancisco will close.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Thank you.

Just about everything's been said, but I just wanted to mention two things.

The one thing that wasn't really emphasized was Denny Farrell's patience. When I was chair of the Finance Committee for several years, we would sit together and listen to people say the same thing over and over again and,

despite the fact that they were pleading for us to do something, would read a canned speech. And it would go on and on and on. Never did I hear him complain. Never. Never.

Now, he did other things. He ate a lot of stuff. But my favorite was when he brought his wallet out, which was about this big (indicating), and he cleaned it out periodically. And he had tickets in there -- I don't mean parking tickets, I mean tickets for this event or this lottery or this or that. And he would make a mess. He would be ripping them all up, putting them in piles, put them over here, and organize it like it was his filing cabinet.

But he was able to keep his patience by -- his intellect, which was incredible, after he'd do this stuff, he'd ask a question. I don't know -- I didn't think he was paying attention to anything. He'd ask a question, and he would get the answer and be very cordial to the individual.

But the most important thing is rarely in this day and age, whether it's here in this body or on the street with people you know well, do you see an individual where if someone told you something and shook your hand, you

didn't need anything in writing, you didn't need anything to verify that he would do it or to make certain he would do that thing. His word was his bond.

And that's something that we all should look up to and we all should copy as much as we possibly can. He was truly a good man. And I'm very sorry of his death, very sorry that he's not here giving us more lessons for a longer period of time.

So with that said, Denny, rest in peace. And we're all going to miss you, there's no question about it.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: On this resolution, all members of the house will be listed as cosponsors unless otherwise noted.

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The resolution is adopted.

I ask all present to please rise in

a moment of silent reflection and tribute to Assemblyman Denny Farrell. May he rest in peace.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Next I just want to give everyone a reminder that following session there will be a Codes Committee meeting immediately following session in Room 124, and a Higher Ed Committee meeting immediately following session in Room 332.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Upon conclusion of session, there will be Higher Ed in 332 and Codes in 124.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Any further business?

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is no further business. The calendar has been laid aside for the day.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: In that case, I move to adjourn until Thursday, May 31st, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: On

motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, May 31st, at 11:00 a.m.

The Senate is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 5:42 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)