

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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3  
4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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8  
9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 March 27, 2019

11 3:46 p.m.

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13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR BRIAN A. BENJAMIN, Acting President

19 ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
3 Senate will come to order.

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

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

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:  
9 Mohammad Ansarul Karim, the Imam of Ahlulbayt  
10 Mission in Woodside, Foundation of Love, will  
11 deliver today's invocation.

12 Imam Karim.

13 IMAM KARIM: {Singing in Arabic}  
14 In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate and  
15 the Most Merciful.

16 Since this is my first time, I'd  
17 like to thank Mr. President, Madam Leader Andrea  
18 Stewart-Cousins, and Senator Luis Sepúlveda,  
19 Senator Michael Gianaris, and all you wonderful  
20 people, honorable Senators, distinguished guests.  
21 I'd like to greet you with the greetings of God  
22 Almighty, greetings of the Prophets, greetings of  
23 Peace, which we are in need of today.

24 Asalamu Alaikum. May the peace and  
25 blessings of God Almighty be upon all of you,

1       respected audience.

2               Approximately 3,000 years ago from  
3       today, the mighty Prophet Moses, peace be upon  
4       him, he was asked by his disciples, "Of all the  
5       commandments that you have received from your  
6       Lord, which one is the most important?" Prophet  
7       Moses, peace be upon him, he said -- I quote in  
8       Hebrew language, from the Book of Deuteronomy:  
9       "She-ma yisrael, adonai eloheinu, adonai echad."  
10      Meaning O, Israel, hear, O, Israel, the most  
11      important commandment that I've received from my  
12      Lord is that your Lord is God, and He is One."

13              Interestingly, a thousand years  
14      later, approximately, Jesus of Nazareth was asked  
15      by his disciples: "Good Teacher, of all the  
16      commandments that you have received from your  
17      Lord, which one is the first one?" And he  
18      replied -- I quote from the Gospel of Mark -- he  
19      said, "Thy Lord, our Lord, is One God."

20              Intriguingly, 600 years later,  
21      approximately 1400 years ago from today, Prophet  
22      Muhammad, in the Valley of Mecca, he transmitted  
23      the divine message {singing in Arabic}: "Say  
24      your Lord is One God, Allah, the One and Only."

25              Mr. President, honorable audience,

1 the common thread between the three Abrahamic  
2 scriptures shows the union, the unification of  
3 one concept, the Oneness of God. By this way, we  
4 are united. We are part of one larger global  
5 Family of God. We are one.

6           It's the evil force, it's the devil  
7 who wants to break us apart. Diversity is  
8 blessings. It's not a curse. Prophet Muhammad,  
9 peace be upon him, he said "Al khalqu eyaalullah"  
10 meaning that everyone is from the Family, the one  
11 global Family of Almighty God. We may look  
12 different outwardly, but inwardly we share the  
13 same essence.

14           In the Bengali rich literary  
15 culture, from Bangladesh, there is a beautiful  
16 proverb that says {in Bengali}, meaning we may  
17 look colorful outside, out of our skin, but  
18 inside we share the same color of blood.

19           There is no place for racism. There  
20 is no place for discrimination. There is no  
21 place for so-called supremacy. There is no place  
22 for so-called extremism. Terrorism has no color,  
23 no blood, no religion. Terrorism, terrorism is  
24 to terrify the people, to harm the humanity. We  
25 have to condemn, by all means, all types of

1 terrorist activities that's driven by toxic  
2 ideologies, driven by the evil forces,  
3 irrespective if it is in the mosque or in  
4 synagogue or in churches or in temples or in  
5 every prayer place or in every corner of the  
6 earth.

7                   It's so inspiring to see all you  
8 wonderful people today, united for a common, for  
9 a united understanding and a noble cause. May  
10 God Almighty help us in every step we take in  
11 life. And in this global and respected,  
12 honorable and sacred arena, may God Almighty help  
13 us and be with us in every decision we make, in  
14 every step we take in life.

15                   Mr. President, with your permission  
16 I would like to honor my fellow Bangladeshi  
17 nationals as they are commemorating their  
18 Independence Day today. From the bottom of our  
19 hearts, Bangladesh, we love you. Bangladesh, {in  
20 Bengali}.

21                   We congratulate all of you on behalf  
22 of the Bengali community and on behalf of all our  
23 community all around the globe. May God bless  
24 you. May God bless this wondrous land of  
25 America. May God bless the humanity. May God

1     bless the planet. With mutual understanding,  
2     tolerance and love, we can make this planet  
3     better and more beautiful.

4             Thank you very much. Stay blessed.  
5     God bless you all.

6             (Applause.)

7             ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
8     reading of the Journal.

9             THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday,  
10    March 26, 2019, the Senate met pursuant to  
11    adjournment. The Journal of Monday, March 25,  
12    2019, was read and approved. On motion, Senate  
13    adjourned.

14            ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Without  
15    objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

16            Presentation of petitions.

17            Messages from the Assembly.

18            The Secretary will read.

19            THE SECRETARY: On page 18, Senator  
20    Kaplan moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
21    Environmental Conservation, Assembly Bill Number  
22    3471 and substitute it for the identical Senate  
23    Bill 2417, Third Reading Calendar 311.

24            ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
25    substitution is so ordered.

1                   THE SECRETARY:    On page 21, Senator  
2   Lanza moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
3   Environmental Conservation, Assembly Bill Number  
4   4959 and substitute it for the identical Senate  
5   Bill 3855, Third Reading Calendar 348.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    The  
7   substitution is so ordered.

8                   Messages from the Governor.

9                   Reports of standing committees.

10                  Reports of select committees.

11                  Communications and reports from  
12   state officers.

13                  Motions and resolutions.

14                  Senator Gianaris.

15                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Mr. President,  
16   on behalf of Senator Myrie, I wish to call up  
17   Senate Print 3145, recalled from the Assembly,  
18   which is now at the desk.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    The  
20   Secretary will read.

21                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
22   164, Senate Print 3145, by Senator Myrie, an act  
23   to amend the Election Law.

24                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    I now move to  
25   reconsider the vote by which this bill was

1 passed.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
3 Secretary will call the roll on reconsideration.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
7 bill is restored to its place on the Third  
8 Reading Calendar.

9 SENATOR GIANARIS: I offer the  
10 following amendments.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
12 amendments are received.

13 Senator Gianaris.

14 SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President,  
15 can we please take up previously adopted  
16 Resolution 617, by Senator Sepúlveda, read it in  
17 its entirety, and recognize Senator Sepúlveda.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
19 Secretary will read.

20 THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution  
21 617, by Senator Sepúlveda, celebrating March 26,  
22 2019, as Bangladesh Day.

23 "WHEREAS, March 26th is the National  
24 Independence Day of Bangladesh; this day is  
25 celebrated in Bangladesh and also all around the



1 world in honor of its country's Declaration of  
2 Independence from Pakistan in the late hours of  
3 March 25, 1971, and the start of the Bangladesh  
4 Liberation War; and

5 "WHEREAS, This day is also a  
6 memorial to the deaths of thousands of students,  
7 civilians, political leaders, and unarmed Bengali  
8 people; the Bangladesh Liberation War started  
9 between West and East Pakistan; and

10 "WHEREAS, West Pakistan believed  
11 they were far superior to those in East Pakistan;  
12 they gave East Pakistan no privileges; they had a  
13 bad economy, and no rights; and

14 "WHEREAS, The first election in the  
15 history of Pakistan was held on December 7, 1970;  
16 there were 300 seats in the parliament; East  
17 Pakistan won 160 seats, and West Pakistan won 81  
18 seats; instead of handing over the power to the  
19 winning party, they imposed martial law on  
20 East Pakistan; and

21 "WHEREAS, East Pakistani leader  
22 Mr. Bongu Bondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged the  
23 Bengali people to turn their homes into resisting  
24 forts; he said, "Our struggle is for our freedom.  
25 Our struggle is for our independence"; this

1 speech is what mainly inspired the nation to  
2 fight for freedom; and

3 "WHEREAS, The West Pakistani Army  
4 sent a military plan known as Operation  
5 Searchlight; it was planned to curb the Bengalis'  
6 movement by taking control of major cities, and  
7 eliminating all opposition, political or  
8 military; and

9 "WHEREAS, At that time, Ziaur Rahman  
10 broadcasted a message that the Independent  
11 People's Republic of Bangladesh had been  
12 established; and

13 "WHEREAS, At this point, March 26,  
14 1971, the Bangladesh Liberation War had broken  
15 out in the whole country; this was the day the  
16 Bengali people stood up to the Pakistani Army;  
17 and

18 "WHEREAS, After a nine-month-long  
19 war, the Pakistani Army finally surrendered  
20 unconditionally; many lives were lost, but  
21 Bangladesh, as a country, gained its freedom, its  
22 independence; and

23 "WHEREAS, It is the sense of this  
24 Legislative Body to recognize the great  
25 contributions which the Bangladesh community have

1 brought to our state and nation; and

2 "WHEREAS, Many Bangladesh people  
3 have made New York their home; and this  
4 Legislative Body, representing the people of the  
5 State of New York, is pleased to thank the  
6 Bangladesh people for their contributions to this  
7 great Empire State; and

8 "WHEREAS, It is the custom of this  
9 Legislative Body that those who enhance the  
10 well-being and vitality of their community and  
11 have shown a long and sustained commitment to  
12 excellence certainly have earned the recognition  
13 and applause of all the citizens of this great  
14 Empire State; now, therefore, be it

15 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
16 Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate  
17 March 26, 2019, as Bangladesh Day; and be it  
18 further

19 "RESOLVED, That copies of this  
20 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted  
21 to Bangladeshi-American Community Council (BACC)  
22 President Mohammed N. Mujumder, LLM; Bangladesh  
23 Society of Bronx President Shahad Ahamed; Bronx  
24 Bangladesh Society President Abdul Gaffer  
25 Chowdhury (Khasru); Bangladesh Cultural

1 Association of North America Representative Abul  
2 Hashem Hasnu; BANDS President Soloman Ali; the  
3 American-Bangladesh Welfare Organization, USA  
4 Representative Abdus Shahid; Bronx Bangladesh  
5 Association Representative A. Islam Mamun; North  
6 Bronx Bangladesh Association Representative  
7 Monzur Chowdhury Joglu; Bangalee Chatona Moncho  
8 Representative Abdur Rahim Badsha; Bronx  
9 Bangladesh Women's Association President Farida  
10 Yeasmin; Bangladesh-American Women Association  
11 President Rexona Mujumder; Laksham Foundation,  
12 Inc. President Abdul Titumir; Bangladesh Sports  
13 Council of North America Inc. President Mohiuddin  
14 Dewan; Congress of Bangladesh America Inc.  
15 Secretary General Monjur Ahmed Chowdhury; Nojabot  
16 Ali Foundation Representative Dr. Mita Chowdhury;  
17 Bangladesh Association of New Jersey President  
18 Dr. Zeenat Nabi; Fenchugonj Organization of  
19 America, Inc. Representative Md Shamim Miah; and  
20 Bangladesh Sports Foundation of North America  
21 President Mohammed A Rahim."

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
23 Sepúlveda on the resolution.

24 SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: Thank you,  
25 Mr. President, for allowing me to speak today on

1 the resolution. {In Bengali.}

2 (Applause from audience.)

3 SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: You know, this  
4 is one of the great days for me during  
5 legislation session. But before I continue, I  
6 really want to thank Imam Mohammad Ansarul Karim  
7 for a wonderful speech, for a wonderful prayer on  
8 peace, tolerance and love. We need more people  
9 with your ideology in this world to make it a lot  
10 better place. So thank you, Imam.

11 I'd also like to recognize the  
12 conveners of today's event, Nazrul Haque, Farida  
13 Yeasmin, and Judicial Delegate Rexona Mujumder.  
14 Thank you for the work you've done to put this  
15 event together.

16 But I'd like to thank everyone who  
17 worked today to make this such a special event  
18 for my Bengali brothers and sisters from the  
19 Bronx, and for the Imam, who is actually from  
20 Senator Gianaris's district in Woodside. I will  
21 forgive him for that.

22 (Laughter.)

23 SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: I'm extremely  
24 honored to sponsor this resolution that  
25 commemorates the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

1                   Without you all, we would not have  
2                   been able to make this celebration possible.  
3                   While we are celebrating this beautiful and  
4                   exuberant country in which this culture has  
5                   brought so much vitality to our community,  
6                   especially in my district in the Bronx, we also  
7                   are here in remembrance of the fallen soldiers  
8                   who laid down their lives to have freedom for  
9                   Bangladesh from Pakistan. And I honor the  
10                  freedom fighters that are here today.

11                 On March 26, 1971, the resilient and  
12                 brave leader Bongu Bondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman  
13                 declared independence from Pakistan, and the  
14                 independent state of Bangladesh was proclaimed.  
15                 West Pakistan forces were called in to suppress  
16                 the revolt, and the courageous and honorable  
17                 freedom fighters fought back to secure an  
18                 independent country for their people.

19                 Many lives were lost in their  
20                 struggle for independence, with an estimate of  
21                 1 million Bengalis killed by Pakistani forces  
22                 during the several months of war. They risked  
23                 everything to ensure that their people and their  
24                 following generations do not suffer from the same  
25                 oppression. Today we remember those heroes.

1                   Furthermore, over 10 million  
2   Bengalis took refuge in India during the war,  
3   forcing familial separations and home vacancies.  
4   It took great fortitude and tremendous spirit to  
5   surpass a significant loss, and the Bengali  
6   people have left that and more.

7                   I stand with you today and every day  
8   because in a time where suppression still exists  
9   in many forms, we should never forget the  
10  strength that unites this country as one of  
11  persistence against persecution and injustice.  
12  Bangladesh fought for liberation and ultimately  
13  won. It is a country to be revered and  
14  treasured.

15                  It is a country that has contributed  
16  to New York and has left their footprint in this  
17  state and in my county. New York is home to many  
18  cultures around the world, but the Bangladesh  
19  community has a special place in my heart. With  
20  all my love, Happy Bangladesh Day.

21                  Thank you.

22                  (Applause from audience.)

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Senator  
24  Bailey on the resolution.

25                  SENATOR BAILEY:    Thank you,

1 Mr. President. Kemon achhen.

2 (Response from guests.)

3 SENATOR BAILEY: See, I got my  
4 pronunciation a little bit better today than I  
5 did yesterday, Mr. President.

6 At the risk of sounding repetitive,  
7 I won't make the same joke about my name today.  
8 But what I will do is say Happy Bangladesh Day.

9 Thank you for coming up here, and  
10 thank you for -- you know, as Senator Sepúlveda  
11 indicated, thank you for being welcoming in a  
12 time of such division in our country, in our city  
13 and state as well. And it takes days like this  
14 when people of different faiths and different  
15 cultures get to come up to our State Capitol and  
16 get to infuse a little bit of culture here. And  
17 it's sorely necessary, especially during times  
18 like today, like the budget, where we are poring  
19 over data minute by minute, hour by hour. And  
20 it's a nice break, it's a nice time for you to  
21 come up and for us to enjoy you.

22 And the impact that you've had not  
23 only on the community but to me personally -- and  
24 you welcomed me to an Eid celebration in 2016 in  
25 Oval Park, and there I saw the togetherness, the



1 warmth of your community. And each and every  
2 member of your community did not leave without  
3 shaking my hand. And that's something that has  
4 stuck with me to this day about your level of  
5 commitment and community. And my first TV  
6 appearance ever was on Taher's Time Television.

7 So I appreciate what the community  
8 has done. Yes, Taher, that's wonderful. But I  
9 just want to say I appreciate what you've done  
10 and the work that you will continue to do. And  
11 thank you all for coming out. Dhonnobad.

12 (Applause from audience.)

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
14 Thomas on the resolution.

15 SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you,  
16 Mr. President.

17 I rise as the first South Asian  
18 State Senator here in New York, and I stand here  
19 to congratulate the Bangladeshi community on  
20 their Independence Day.

21 Bangladesh is a unique country. It  
22 is perhaps the only country in the world that has  
23 gone through multiple national identities and  
24 struggles to be recognized for what it is today.

25 Its name, Bangladesh, translated as

1 land for Bengali people, is steeped in history.  
2 Until 1947 it was part of an undivided India. In  
3 1947, with the end of the British colonial rule,  
4 it was handed over to be part of Pakistan and got  
5 named as East Pakistan. In 1971 the people of  
6 Bangladesh won their independence from Pakistan  
7 through a gruesome nine-month-long liberation war  
8 that was declared 48 years ago yesterday.

9           Hence, the history of Bangladesh and  
10 Bangladeshis is complex and rich. First, they  
11 were deemed as Indian, then Pakistani, and now,  
12 finally, Bangladeshi. This identity that  
13 embodies and manifests the aspiration of  
14 Bangladeshis was achieved through a great  
15 sacrifice, through blood, sweat and tears.

16           Since independence, Bangladesh has  
17 achieved great things for its people. It is  
18 often cited as the success story of the  
19 globalized world. It has attained and maintains  
20 great economic growth that has raised millions  
21 out of poverty. In 2024, according to the  
22 United Nations, it is expected to graduate from  
23 the category of least developing country to  
24 become a developed country -- a phenomenal  
25 achievement for a small country with 165 million

1 people in its short 48 years.

2 I rise today, again, to congratulate  
3 the people of Bangladesh on their success and  
4 wish them a joyous Shadhinôta Dibôs. And as they  
5 continue on the path to strive for better lives  
6 both at home and abroad, especially here in the  
7 great State of New York, I want you to all know  
8 you will always find a friend in me, and please  
9 come to Long Island.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause from audience.)

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
13 Biaggi on the resolution.

14 SENATOR BIAGGI: Thank you,  
15 Mr. President. Asalamu alaikum!

16 (Response from guests.)

17 SENATOR BIAGGI: I rise today to  
18 celebrate the National Independence Day of  
19 Bangladesh, and also to honor a lot of what the  
20 Imam said, actually, when he spoke to this body.

21 The courage and the perseverance and  
22 the wherewithal of what it takes to stand up for  
23 your independence is something not only to be  
24 honored, but something that this body can also  
25 mirror. You are a guiding light for all of us

1 here today. We welcome you, we celebrate you.

2 And in my district, District 34 in  
3 the Bronx, particularly in the Castle Hill and  
4 Parkchester section, it is your community that  
5 makes my job better. You brighten up the day.  
6 You are welcoming. You are loving. You are  
7 kind. And you set an amazing example for all of  
8 the people in the Bronx. So thank you.

9 I celebrate you, and I'm very happy  
10 to be here today.

11 (Applause from audience.)

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
13 Persaud on the resolution.

14 SENATOR PERSAUD: Thank you,  
15 Mr. President.

16 I rise today to say Happy  
17 Independence Day to all my Bengali friends.

18 I have a large community of Bengali  
19 citizens living within my district, and I can  
20 tell you they are very productive residents of  
21 the district.

22 When the Imam stood up there today  
23 and talked about tolerance, his message -- I hope  
24 everyone got the message. Because we're sitting  
25 in a chamber where there's intolerance, where we

1 look at people because of their religion as  
2 different to us. Where we're intolerant because  
3 we hear someone speaking a language that's not  
4 ours. That's not what we're about. While we're  
5 celebrating cultures, we must show tolerance. It  
6 should start with us, here in our chamber,  
7 accepting of everyone's religion.

8               Despite what we may feel, we should  
9 be respectful of people when they come into our  
10 chamber to say a prayer for all of us. The  
11 prayer is for all of us. We do not have to like  
12 a religion, but we should be respectful.

13              So to all of my Bengali family here  
14 today, welcome, welcome, welcome. Happy  
15 independence.

16              (Applause from audience.)

17              ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Senator  
18 Liu on the resolution.

19              SENATOR LIU:    Thank you,  
20 Mr. President.

21              I join all my colleagues in  
22 welcoming our friends from the Bangladeshi  
23 American community. I guess yesterday we had a  
24 group from Queens; today we have a group from the  
25 Bronx and beyond.

1                   It is always good to have  
2   Bangladeshi Americans in this chamber. And on  
3   this occasion, when we celebrate their  
4   independence, it reminds all of us that they have  
5   made incredible contributions to our state, to  
6   our society in every aspect that we can imagine.

7                   And so with that, I just want to say  
8   thank you, welcome, and keep doing what you do  
9   for America and the world. Thank you.

10                  (Applause from audience.)

11                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Senator  
12   Ramos on the resolution.

13                  SENATOR RAMOS:    Thank you,  
14   Mr. President.

15                  I rise again today to celebrate the  
16   vibrant Bangladeshi community in Jackson Heights  
17   and in all of my district, but across New York as  
18   well.

19                  I said a lot yesterday about the  
20   many contributions that Bangladeshi Americans  
21   make to my community and beyond, but today  
22   I want to make sure we are highlighting  
23   Bangladeshi women. Bangladeshi women are freedom  
24   fighters too. And Bangladeshi women are the  
25   rocks of their families, of our communities. And

1 I rise in solidarity with them as we continue to  
2 advance more rights for women as workers and as  
3 homemakers.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause from audience.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
7 resolution was previously adopted on March 7th.

8 To our guests, I welcome you on  
9 behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the  
10 courtesies and privileges of this house. Please  
11 rise and be recognized.

12 (Standing ovation.)

13 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
14 Gianaris.

15 SENATOR GIANARIS: Senator  
16 Sepúlveda would like to open this resolution for  
17 cosponsorship, Mr. President.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
19 resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you  
20 choose not to be a cosponsor of the resolution,  
21 please notify the desk.

22 Senator Gianaris.

23 SENATOR GIANARIS: Can we now  
24 please take up previously adopted Resolution 780,  
25 by Senator Seward, read that resolution in its

1       entirety, and call on Senator Seward.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:     The  
3       Secretary will read.

4                   THE SECRETARY:     Senate Resolution  
5       Number 780, by Senator Seward, congratulating the  
6       Cooperstown Boys Varsity Basketball Team upon the  
7       occasion of capturing the New York State Public  
8       High School Athletic Association Class C  
9       Championship.

10                   "WHEREAS, Individual and team  
11       championships are highly sought after in high  
12       school sports; this Legislative Body commends  
13       rare athletic achievements and pays special  
14       recognition to those who pursue such excellence  
15       and become examples for the youth of this great  
16       Empire State; and

17                   "WHEREAS, Athletic competition helps  
18       to enhance both the moral and physical  
19       development of young athletes, preparing them for  
20       the future by instilling in them the importance  
21       of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy  
22       living, and developing a sense of fair play and  
23       competition; and

24                   "WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is  
25       justly proud to congratulate the Cooperstown Boys



1 Varsity Basketball Team upon the occasion of  
2 capturing the New York State Public High School  
3 Athletic Association Class C Championship; to the  
4 praise and applause of their excited fans, the  
5 Hawkeyes defeated Middle Early College in a 71-61  
6 victory on Sunday, March 17, 2019, at Floyd L.  
7 Maines Arena, Binghamton, New York; and

8 "WHEREAS, The thrilling title game  
9 victory followed one of the most electrifying,  
10 gritty team performances in school history -- a  
11 108-98 triple overtime win over Greenport High  
12 School in the state semifinals; and

13 "WHEREAS, Despite many years of  
14 excellence, the New York State title is the first  
15 ever for the Cooperstown Boys Basketball program,  
16 claiming a special place in the school's record  
17 books for the 2018-2019 Hawkeyes; and

18 "WHEREAS, Proudly donning the  
19 school's colors of orange and black, family,  
20 friends, and the community at large loyally and  
21 enthusiastically supported the Hawkeyes  
22 throughout their journey as they ended their  
23 season with an impressive 25-2 overall record;  
24 and

25 "WHEREAS, In a sport such as

1 basketball, which demands athletic prowess, speed  
2 and agility, Head Coach John Lambert and his  
3 expert coaching staff worked hard to hone the  
4 skills of this championship team, teaching these  
5 outstanding athletes lessons which will prove  
6 invaluable both on and off the court; and

7 "WHEREAS, Coach John Lambert and all  
8 of the outstanding athletes on the Cooperstown  
9 Boys Varsity Basketball Team have clearly  
10 utilized dedication, determination and teamwork  
11 in providing a lasting contribution to the spirit  
12 of excellence which is a tradition of their  
13 school; now, therefore, be it

14 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
15 Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate  
16 the members of the Cooperstown Boys Varsity  
17 Basketball team: Ryan Burns, Jesse Furnari, John  
18 Kennedy, Jack Lambert, Ryan Lansing, Spencer  
19 Lewis, Noah Lifgren, Kyle Meyer, Calvin Sandler,  
20 Kyle Santello and Ben Tafuro; Head Coach John  
21 Lambert; Assistant Coach Matt Hulbert; and  
22 Extracurricular and Athletic Director David  
23 Bertram, on their outstanding season and overall  
24 team record; and be it further

25 "RESOLVED, That copies of this

1 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to  
2 the members of the Cooperstown Boys Varsity  
3 Basketball Team, Head Coach John Lambert,  
4 Assistant Coach Matt Hulbert and Extracurricular  
5 and Athletic Director David Bertram."

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
7 Seward on the resolution.

8 SENATOR SEWARD: Thank you,  
9 Mr. President.

10 I'm extremely pleased to welcome to  
11 the State Capitol and this chamber today the  
12 Cooperstown Boys Basketball -- the Cooperstown  
13 Hawkeyes, along with their Head Coach John  
14 Lambert and Assistant Coach Matt Hulbert. They  
15 are the 2019 New York State High School Class C  
16 Basketball Champions.

17 You know, as mentioned in the  
18 resolution, this group of very hardworking young  
19 men is the first boys team to capture a state  
20 basketball championship for Cooperstown.  
21 However, a Cooperstown basketball team has made  
22 the trip to the Capitol before; I hosted the  
23 State Champion Girls Team from Cooperstown here  
24 in the Senate back in 2015. So now we have  
25 parity with the girls and the boys basketball

1 teams in Cooperstown.

2                   While many of you know about  
3 Cooperstown's baseball traditions, I think high  
4 school basketball is quickly catching up. This  
5 winter the Cooperstown Boys put together a  
6 dominant 25-2 season that concluded with a  
7 decisive 71-61 win over Early Middle College High  
8 School, to capture the state championships. And  
9 my apologies to Senator Kennedy, who represents  
10 that other school.

11                   While the championship game was  
12 fantastic, it was nothing compared to the triple  
13 overtime thriller in the semifinals -- three  
14 overtime periods. Cooperstown and Greenport --  
15 and my apologies to Senator LaValle on  
16 Greenport -- they traded shots in a true battle  
17 of wills, with the Hawkeyes finally coming out on  
18 top, 108-98. Now, those are NBA numbers.

19                   I've got to tell you, Team, I don't  
20 know how you found the energy after a game like  
21 that to come back within 24 hours and play again  
22 and win a state title. Truly amazing.

23                   This is a team that has worked  
24 together toward the goal of a state championship  
25 for years. The eight seniors on this team have

1    been through quite a bit together: Youth  
2    Basketball, games and practices at the Clark  
3    Sports Center, and near misses of state  
4    championships in earlier years. This talented  
5    team put the work in, and the result was a  
6    much-sought-after state title, a true crowning  
7    achievement for their efforts.

8                   And of course the boys were never  
9    alone in their journey. They had plenty of  
10   backing -- a coaching staff that has worked with  
11   these players since they were first able to pick  
12   up a basketball; parents and family members who  
13   have always been there to offer encouragement; as  
14   well as they had the enthusiastic backing and  
15   support of the entire community.

16                   Along with their successes on the  
17   basketball court, this team has excelled in the  
18   classroom as well. They were recently named a  
19   New York State Public High School Athletic  
20   Association Scholar-Athlete Team. Truly they  
21   epitomize the term "student athlete."

22                   They are terrific role models for  
23   other students, role models for young basketball  
24   players who look up to them. And they are role  
25   models for the community at large.

1                   The 2019 Cooperstown Hawkeyes, they  
2                   are champions both on and off the court. And I  
3                   say congratulations and ask, Mr. President, if  
4                   you would introduce them to this body.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:     Senator  
6                   Antonacci on the resolution.

7                   SENATOR ANTONACCI:     Thank you,  
8                   Mr. President.

9                   You guys may not recognize me  
10                  without my striped shirt and whistle, but I've  
11                  been a 29-year high school boys basketball  
12                  official in Syracuse, New York. I've worked  
13                  extensively with Utica officials, I've watched  
14                  your team come into Syracuse many times, and I've  
15                  actually had the privilege of refereeing  
16                  Cooperstown in several playoff games over the  
17                  last few years.

18                  I just want to say congratulations.  
19                  I'm glad that Senator Seward brought you in here  
20                  today and we can honor you. What you did is an  
21                  amazing accomplishment. But how you represent  
22                  your school is even more important. And I know,  
23                  when I see you come into Syracuse, when I see you  
24                  take the court, you are a great representative  
25                  for Cooperstown. This will be something you'll

1 remember the rest of your life.

2           And I know you sent home a lot of  
3 Syracuse teams packing out of the playoffs --  
4 knock that off. Okay, you can beat anybody else  
5 you want from other parts of the state. But  
6 you've represented Section 3 very well, and  
7 again, congratulations.

8           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
9 resolution was previously adopted on March 26th.

10           To our guests, I welcome you on  
11 behalf of the Senate. Congratulations on your  
12 achievement. We extend to you the privileges and  
13 courtesies of this house. Please rise and be  
14 recognized.

15           (Standing ovation.)

16           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
17 Gianaris.

18           SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President,  
19 at the request of Senator Seward, this resolution  
20 is open for cosponsorship.

21           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
22 resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you  
23 choose not to be a cosponsor of the resolution,  
24 please notify the desk.

25           Senator Gianaris.

1                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Can we take up  
2 the reading of the calendar, please.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    The  
4 Secretary will read.

5                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
6 291, Senate Print 1455, by Senator Sanders, an  
7 act to amend the Public Health Law.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Read  
9 the last section.

10                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2. This  
11 act shall take effect on the 180th day after it  
12 shall have become a law.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Call  
14 the roll.

15                                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:  
17 Announce the results.

18                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 60.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    The  
20 bill is passed.

21                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
22 308, Senate Print 1724, by Senator Skoufis, an  
23 act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Read  
25 the last section.



1           THE SECRETARY:   Section 2.   This  
2   act shall take effect on the 90th day after it  
3   shall have become a law.

4           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:   Call  
5   the roll.

6           (The Secretary called the roll.)

7           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:  
8   Announce the results.

9           THE SECRETARY:   In relation to  
10   Calendar Number 308:   Ayes, 60.   Nays, 1.  
11   Senator Akshar recorded in the negative.

12           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:   The  
13   bill is passed.

14           THE SECRETARY:   Calendar Number  
15   309, Senate Print 2100, by Senator Mayer, an act  
16   to require the Department of Environmental  
17   Conservation to report on coyote management  
18   techniques in urban and suburban areas.

19           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:   Read  
20   the last section.

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

23           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:   Call  
24   the roll.

25           (The Secretary called the roll.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:     Senator  
2     Mayer to explain her vote.

3                   SENATOR MAYER:     Thank you,  
4     Mr. President.   And thank you to my colleagues  
5     for bringing this bill to the floor today.

6                   This bill, which would require the  
7     Department of Environmental Conservation to  
8     prepare a report on coyote management techniques  
9     in urban and suburban communities and report back  
10    within a very short amount of time, would I think  
11    expand the ability of New York State to be  
12    proactive and thoughtful in its response to an  
13    increasing number of coyotes, particularly in  
14    downstate New York.

15                  I know in the City of Yonkers we had  
16    a substantial issue with coyotes in our  
17    community.   We had DEC come and present.   I have  
18    found in my own research that other states have  
19    done some interesting and creative things to  
20    address the issue of coyotes in suburban  
21    communities where, frankly, people are afraid of  
22    them.   They're afraid to walk their dogs, they're  
23    afraid to have their small children play outside.

24                  So I'm confident that working with  
25    DEC, through this reporting technique we can come

1 up with a better way and some more informed ways  
2 to deal with a problem that much of the suburban  
3 United States is having, which is as our  
4 communities become less rural, many animals are  
5 moving into more urban and suburban communities.  
6 We need a thoughtful approach to respond, and  
7 this bill is a very reasonable approach to do so.

8           So thank you to my colleagues again.  
9 I look forward to working with DEC and my  
10 colleagues on what is an important issue in many  
11 communities.

12           Thank you, Mr. President.

13           ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
14 Mayer to be recorded in the affirmative.

15           Senator Seward to explain his vote.

16           SENATOR SEWARD: Yes, to explain my  
17 vote, Mr. President.

18           I appreciated Senator Mayer's  
19 explanation of the bill and outlining the issue  
20 as it relates to the urban and suburban areas of  
21 our state.

22           However, the issue of coyotes and  
23 their being not only nuisances but also in some  
24 cases dangerous, that's a statewide concern.  
25 Many rural communities face the same issue. And

1 so regrettably, until this is a statewide bill, I  
2 will be voting in the negative.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
4 Seward to be recorded in the negative.

5 Announce the results.

6 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
7 Calendar Number 309, those Senators recorded in  
8 the negative are Senators Akshar, Amedore,  
9 Antonacci, Funke, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming,  
10 Jacobs, Jordan, Little, O'Mara, Ortt and Seward.

11 Ayes, 48. Nays, 13.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
13 bill is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 311, Assembly Print 3471, substituted earlier by  
16 Member of the Assembly Zebrowski, an act to amend  
17 the Environmental Conservation Law.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read  
19 the last section.

20 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
21 act shall take effect on the first day of  
22 September next succeeding the date on which it  
23 shall have become a law.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call  
25 the roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:

3 Announce the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
5 Calendar Number 311, those Senators recorded in  
6 the negative are Senators Akshar, Amedore,  
7 Antonacci, Lanza and Ortt.

8 Ayes, 56. Nays, 5.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
10 bill is passed.

11 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
12 348, Assembly Print Number 4959, substituted  
13 earlier by Member of the Assembly Cusick, an act  
14 to amend Chapter 395 of the Laws of 1978.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read  
16 the last section.

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

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call  
20 the roll.

21 (The Secretary called the roll.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:

23 Announce the results.

24 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
25 Calendar Number 348, those Senators voting in the

1 negative are Senators Akshar, Griffo and O'Mara.

2 Ayes, 58. Nays, 3.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The  
4 bill is passed.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 349, Senate Print 3889, by Senator Carlucci, an  
7 act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read  
9 the last section.

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

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call  
13 the roll.

14 (The Secretary called the roll.)

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator  
16 Carlucci to explain his vote.

17 SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you,  
18 Mr. President.

19 The legislation before us deals with  
20 what I believe is a technical amendment to the  
21 law that currently exists. We're talking about  
22 problem-solving courts, or diversion courts,  
23 which have been extremely successful in diverting  
24 people from the criminal justice system, from  
25 being incarcerated, to making sure that we're

1 getting treatment, getting rehabilitation to make  
2 sure that people aren't continuing through the  
3 cycle of in and out of court or in and out of our  
4 jails.

5 Right now, unfortunately, the reason  
6 why this legislation is necessary is because  
7 under current law we don't have the ability to  
8 move someone from one jurisdiction to another.  
9 And the reason why that's important is because in  
10 New York State, as many of you know, we have 932  
11 towns, we have 556 villages, and we have over  
12 1250 justice courts in the State of New York.

13 So what that means is in order to  
14 make sure that we're allowing for New Yorkers to  
15 avail themselves of a diversion court, we would  
16 have to recreate these diversion courts in each  
17 of the 1250 justice courts in New York State.

18 The idea is we can do economies of  
19 scale. We can have one court, one  
20 problem-solving court in a county that's doing  
21 good stuff. For example, in Westchester County  
22 we have 40 different courts in Westchester  
23 County. We've got a great mental health court in  
24 White Plains. Unfortunately, if you get arrested  
25 outside the City of White Plains, you're not able

1 to go to that mental health court.

2           So we want to make sure that we're  
3 changing the law -- it's a simple change in the  
4 law -- to allow the district attorney to refer  
5 these cases really to a hub court. We've had  
6 great success with integrated domestic violence  
7 courts in Rockland County. But what we've had to  
8 do is we've had to have six separate courts  
9 within Rockland County to cover the five towns  
10 and to cover the large Village of Spring Valley.  
11 It's working, but we know we can have it work  
12 better.

13           The idea is to train judges, to  
14 train the court staff to be able to deal with  
15 these unique problems. We want them to be able  
16 to identify the issues of mental illness, the  
17 complex issues of domestic violence, and making  
18 sure that the survivors of domestic violence are  
19 getting the help that they need and deserve.

20           And most importantly, making sure  
21 that we're not just incarcerating people, we're  
22 getting them the treatment, the help that they  
23 need. We know it works, it improves the quality  
24 of life of those individuals and the quality of  
25 life of everyone in our community.



1                   So I ask my colleagues to support  
2 this legislation. Let's get this done, let's get  
3 it on the Governor's desk. Let's make this a  
4 reality in New York State and make sure we're  
5 moving in the right direction.

6                   So thank you, Mr. President.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    Senator  
8 Carlucci to be recorded in the affirmative.

9                   Announce the results.

10                  THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
11 Calendar Number 349, those Senators voting in the  
12 negative are Senators Akshar, Antonacci,  
13 Flanagan, Griffio, Helming, Jacobs, Jordan,  
14 Little, Ritchie and Tedisco.

15                  Ayes, 51.   Nays, 10.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    The  
17 bill is passed.

18                  Senator Gianaris, that completes the  
19 reading of today's calendar.

20                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Is there any  
21 further business at the desk, Mr. President?

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:    There  
23 is no further business at the desk.

24                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    I move to  
25 adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, March 28th --

1     which is also opening day for baseball -- at  
2     3:00 p.m.

3                     ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN:     On  
4     motion, the Senate stands adjourned until  
5     Thursday, March 28th, at 3:00 p.m.

6                     (Whereupon, at 4:31 p.m., the Senate  
7     adjourned.)

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