NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

January 14, 2020

3:25 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR BRIAN A. BENJAMIN, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: In the absence of clergy, let us bow our heads in a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, January 13, 2020, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, January 12, 2020, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator May moves

to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8214B and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6185B, Third Reading Calendar 74.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Metzger moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 712A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6186B, Third Reading Calendar 75.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Gaughran moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 9058 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6187C, Third Reading Calendar 76.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Gaughran moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8172B and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6188B, Third Reading Calendar 77.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Kaplan moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 1316C and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6189C, Third Reading Calendar 78.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Kennedy moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 9057 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6191C, Third Reading Calendar 79.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Kennedy moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8474A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6192A, Third Reading Calendar 80.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Kennedy moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules,

Assembly Bill Number 9056 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6193C, Third Reading Calendar 81.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Sanders moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 9059 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6604B, Third Reading Calendar 82.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Hoylman moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 8990 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7134, Third Reading Calendar 83.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The substitution is so ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 2267, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 2267, please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Can you please recognize Senator Kaminsky for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kaminsky for an introduction.

SENATOR KAMINSKY: Thank you, Mr. President. I have the privilege today to introduce to you and to the Senate body a very important organization doing work by a very special family.

I'm here today to recognize the

O'Shea family. Last year they suffered the unimaginable loss of their son Ryan Patrick, who took his own life. But instead of cursing the darkness, they've lit a candle and, in his name, have started a foundation that has done tremendous work to raise awareness of mental health and to begin an important conversation about suicide, about how families should talk about it, recognize it, and take mental health out of the stigma out of which it's associated.

In their community of Rockville Centre, they are leaders, and it is no surprise that their son Ryan Patrick was a leader, a star basketball and track player, loved by everyone. But he suffered, unimaginably so. And their work in his honor, in his name, has already changed a community. It will continue to change other communities.

And their work will continue to go on, with our support, because it must, because we must take this conversation out of the shadows and bring it into the light. And today it's important that we all recognize the work they're doing and in our own capacities carry it forward, as we must.

Thank you for your leadership. Your sacrifice will always be recognized by us. But together we can work so that it is not in vain and so that other families will get the benefit of so much of your heart and goodness. We are with you. We will stand together with you. And on behalf of Assemblywoman Judy Griffin, who's here, together there is much more work to do.

Thank you so much.

Mr. President, please welcome them to the Senate.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: To our guests from the O'Shea family, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you all the courtesies and privileges of this house. Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Gianaris.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 74, Assembly Print 8214B, substituted earlier by

Assemblymember Santabarbara, an act to amend the Transportation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy to explain his vote.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the 24 people we lost in the limousine crashes in Schoharie, last October 2018, and in Cutchogue in 2015.

I'd like to request that my colleagues please stand and join me as we have a moment of silence for those were lost.

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

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Many of their families have joined us here today, are right here in the gallery. I'd like to recognize those that are with us. We have Linda King, who lost her four daughters -- Amy, Allison, Abigail and Mary -- and three sons-in-law. Bethany Nacco, Linda's daughter-in-law. Jamison Ott-Carpentar, the best friend of the four King daughters.

Janet Steenburg, who lost her sons Richard and Axel, and Richard's wife, Kim Steenburg.

Lynne Semprivivo, who lost her daughter Erin. Sheila McGarvey, who lost her son Shane. Jill Richardson Perez, who lost her son Matthew. Donna Rivenburg, who lost her daughter Amanda. Mindy Grabina, who lost her daughter Amy.

And, finally, we have Kevin, Sue and Hanna Cushing, who lost Patrick, who was one of our own, part of our Senate family, working right here in the IT department in the Senate.

Thank you for joining us here today.

All of these families have channeled their grief into advocacy, and today we are passing legislation to ensure that no other

family has to experience the heartbreak that they've experienced. Today the Senate passes 10 monumental reforms designed to ensure the safety of all New Yorkers when they choose to ride in a limo or for-hire vehicle.

The reforms we're passing today will undoubtedly strengthen safety standards here in New York. From requiring stretch limousines to be retrofitted with seat belts, to mandating commercial driver's licenses and drug and alcohol testing for drivers of vehicles with nine or more passengers, to increasing criminal penalties for drivers who break the law while on the road, we're taking significant steps to ensure safety measures are firmly in place when anyone steps into one of these vehicles.

These pieces of legislation before us make critical changes, including mandating that an impounded vehicle must be repaired and must be reinspected before it is released to the road.

Today we're creating the strongest limousine safety standards in the entire nation right here in the State of New York. And while we're advancing this aggressive agenda, we also

know that there's always more work to do, which is why we're also creating a task force that will further examine current limo regulations and safety training programs.

Thank you to our incredible Majority Leader, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for making this a priority. Without her leadership, we would not be here today, and we would not be seeing so many progressive reforms making their way to the Senate floor so expeditiously this session.

I'd like to thank our colleagues in the Assembly for doing the right thing, working with our conference to enact legislation that complements what we put forward here in the Senate, and also to the Governor for signaling his partnership and commitment to signing these pieces of legislation into law.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me and all of us in casting an aye vote on this historic day here in this chamber.

I hope it brings the families a bit of closure that your loved ones did not die in vain, but that their legacy will carry on and will undoubtedly save lives here in the State of

New York and, there's no question in my mind, act as a model for the rest of the nation to follow suit.

Thank you for your fortitude, your commitment, for championing this effort, for taking that heartache and that difficult, heartbreaking situation and turning it into positive advocacy and ultimately action here on the Senate floor today. You are all to be commended. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With that, Mr. President, I vote aye. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Seward to explain his vote.

SENATOR SEWARD: Thank you, Mr. President.

When individuals enter a limousine or a similar vehicle, there is an expectation of safety. But sadly and very tragically, on October 6, 2018, that expectation was not met. Twenty people were killed in Schoharie County, in the heart of my Senate district, in a horrific limousine crash that literally made global

headlines.

You know, following the crash I spent time meeting with family members of the victims, the emergency responders who were called to the scene that day, most of which were from volunteer units. And I also met with investigators who were tasked with determining what happened and making some sense of what had occurred.

The consensus from all was that we need to, number one, better enforce our current laws and regulations and, number two, make meaningful revisions to our laws and regulations to truly improve limousine safety on our highways in New York State.

These bills that we are passing today are a direct result of the courageous input from the people who have experienced unimaginable grief and pain, and that is the families of our victims.

You know, I have such deep admiration and respect for the family members who have continued to keep the memory of their loved ones alive and have turned this grief and tragedy in their lives into something positive, and that

is meaningful changes in the laws of the State of New York that govern limousines. You have gone above and beyond to ensure that other families won't have to go through the same heartbreak that you continue to experience.

These bills that we're passing today are a testament to your determination, and they will make our highways safer and limousine ridership safer in New York State.

Mr. President, I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Seward to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Little to explain her vote.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. President.

This is such a tragedy. And I think when we all saw this in the paper and read the reports of this, everyone's heart ached for all of you.

And we all, I'm sure, have experienced riding in a limousine or watching your kids go off to proms or weddings. And they're all such happy, happy occasions. And you know that everyone in that limousine were enjoying a happy occasion, and to have such a

tragedy occur just had to break your hearts. But it just breaks everyone's heart here when you think about it could have been any of us, it could have been anyone.

And so what we are doing here today, I commend all of the Senators here voting yes on this, because we are making a change and, as Senator Seward said, seeing that our current laws are enforced but that we have new, stricter laws and somehow can prevent something like this from ever happening.

We have families who have their roots -- the King family have roots in the North Country, and my deepest sympathy, not just to them but to all of you.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Little to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator LaValle to explain his vote.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you.

There is very little that one could say, because we can't bring back people who -- daughters who were very vibrant.

And I represent the 1st Senate District, the North Fork, and I go by that place

where the limo accident occurred, and I must tell you I think about it almost every single time when I go by that spot.

But something good has come out of it, and we will be helping individuals in the future be safer, be safer, and that is a good thing. So know that the deaths did not go for naught, but we're bringing about changes that will save lives, that will save lives. And you are part of that. You are part of what is taking place here today.

I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator LaValle to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 75, Assembly Print 712A, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Paulin, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Metzger to explain her vote.

SENATOR METZGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

To the families, I want to express my gratitude for your leadership, your courage, your incredible advocacy. The work we're doing today is really -- is really your work.

I do also want to thank our chair of our Transportation Committee for bringing this to fruition at this time. It's so important.

There's a saying in the traffic safety advocacy world that will most crashes are predictable and preventable. We call them accidents, but many are not accidental, they are the result of risky and often illegal driving behaviors.

As part of this package, we are passing a law that I introduced to mandate drug

and alcohol testing for limo drivers and other for-hire drivers. This will help save lives, along with all of the other legislative initiatives we pass today.

It is our duty as legislators to do everything that we can to prevent these kinds of horrible tragedies. To all of you who have suffered unimaginable losses, our hearts are with you.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Metzger to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 76, Assembly Print 9058, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Santabarbara, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect 30 days after it shall have

become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 77, Assembly Print 8172B, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Santabarbara, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Gaughran to explain his vote.

SENATOR GAUGHRAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd like to thank Senator Kennedy for his leadership in this. And, Senator, you actually helped teach me how legislation really works in this State Capitol by working very closely with all the families, with colleagues across the aisle, to make sure that we got this done right. And I want to thank you.

But I really want to thank especially the families, some of whom are here today and some of whom are not, the families, the upstate families from the horrible Schoharie incident. Mindy Grabina I know spoke earlier today on behalf of the Long Island families so eloquently. And I also want to thank others, including Nancy DiMonte, who is not here, and whose daughter is alive but has faced many challenges because of that horrific day.

And, you know, when the families came to my office and also when I went to the hearing here in Albany and listened to their testimony, their testimony was so powerful. But what was also so powerful was a simple picture of these beautiful young women just before they got into that limousine. And it struck me, because I have a daughter who is 28 years old and we have

pictures like that.

So thank you for your advocacy. Thank you for making this day happen. And while this is probably not going to solve this problem completely -- there will probably, unfortunately, be other tragedies -- I guarantee you this bill and all of these bills will be saving some lives. So thank you so much.

And I vote in the affirmative, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Gaughran to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 78, Assembly Print 1316C, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Paulin, an act to establish a Stretch Limousine Passengers Safety Task Force.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kaplan to explain her vote.

SENATOR KAPLAN: Thank you.

For too long New Yorkers took safety for granted when getting into a limousine. We wrongly assumed that these vehicles were safe and their operators were all trained in their safe operation. But I think we all got a rude awakening with the unimaginable tragedies that have taken place in the last few years.

No family should have to experience the loss of a loved one because of something that could have possibly been prevented. So that's why we're taking action to reform limousine safety in New York, because we have a duty to families across the state to do everything we can to prevent this senseless tragedy from happening again.

And we owe all of that to you. It must be a very difficult day for you, but I hope that it's also a way for you to have closure and to feel that we understand what you're going

through and we are working with you and we stand beside you.

That is why I'm so proud to be a sponsor of this legislation that will help protect our residents, and I cast my vote in the affirmative. And I want to thank our chairperson, Senator Kennedy, for shepherding this through.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kaplan to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 79, Assembly Print 9057, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Paulin, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2021.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 80, Assembly Print 8474A, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Santabarbara, an act to amend the Transportation Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 81,

Assembly Print 9056, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Magnarelli, an act to amend the Transportation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 82, Assembly Print 9059, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Santabarbara, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Transportation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after it

shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 83, Assembly Print 8990, substituted earlier by Assemblymember Magnarelli, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the first of November.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Hoylman to explain his vote.

SENATOR HOYLMAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I too want to rise and thank

Senator Kennedy for his leadership on this rather solemn day where we are taking much-needed steps to improve limousine safety as well as taxicab and livery safety.

In my district, where there is an emergency room at NYU Langone, emergency room doctors tell me that they'll often see individuals come in with split lips, broken noses, and cracked teeth. In fact, the physicians in the ER department see it so often, they call it "partition face." And partition face is when a passenger is sitting in the back seat of a taxicab, unbuckled, the cab makes a sudden stop, and they are flung headfirst into the plastic partition that's meant to protect the drivers. It's very dangerous.

Well, today we're finally taking steps here in the State of New York to require that everyone who rides in the back seat of a cab or a livery -- 8 years or older -- buckles up.

We know that wearing seat belts saves lives. Well, seat belt laws also save lives, Mr. President. I'm proud that we're taking this step and again want to commend Senator Kennedy for his leadership, along with

our colleagues on this important day.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Hoylman to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Tedisco to explain his vote.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Yeah, just to explain my vote on this and the other seat belt laws.

First of all, let me thank all the families for their input on this. I think I was at the first hearing here in Albany, and it was very important to get your research and input. And I thank the Senator for sponsoring that. I'm proud to be sponsor of several of these bills.

Just one caveat in the future. I know we have a task force that we're going to put out there to give us future input on what we can do to be safer in this these large vehicles, these limousines. It's good that we're going to require and mandate having seat belts in the back of these limousines and in the back of the liveries that we just talked about.

And the fact of the matter is it's very difficult to give a limousine driver the responsibility to make sure individuals keep

those seat belts on. But I think what we could add to this piece of legislation to require having those seat belts and buckling them up is a requirement of the individual that drives these limousine vehicles, are part of these limousine companies -- as they open up the doors and the individuals go in and sit down, that that limousine driver be required and mandated to tell everyone who is seated there, who they will be driving and responsible for in terms of driving the vehicle, no matter what the signs are, that the law is New York State says there must be seat belts here and you must have those seat belts on and attached.

And he will not put the key into the ignition and turn it until he sees all of them in their seats with the seat belt attached. Because there's a good chance if everyone is required -- before he starts that vehicle and drives -- having their seat belt attached, being notified this is the law, that they'll keep that seat belt on. Because we know the dangers to everybody if one, two or three people take those seat belts off. It not only impacts them, it impacts everybody else in that vehicle.

So I don't think it's a lot to ask the person who's driving, no matter how many people are in it -- five, 10, 15 or 20 -- this is the law, you have to be buckled, I have to see you all buckled, and I can't put the key in the ignition, start it and begin to drive you on what should be a wonderful day for you and a good time. I don't think that's a lot to ask of a limousine driver. And I think there's a good chance that people will keep those seat belts on if we start them out notifying them of the law and the requirement that it doesn't move, this vehicle doesn't move until you're all attached and I see that, and then he puts the key in and drives.

So I would just suggest we think about that and look at that. I don't think that's a lot to ask of someone who is driving people that are most precious to us.

Thank you. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Tedisco to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The

bill is passed.

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Can we now return to motions and resolutions and take up Resolution 2267, by Senator Akshar, read its title only, and recognize Senator Akshar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 2267, by Senator Akshar, memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 6 through 12, 2020, as Law Enforcement Appreciation Week in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Akshar on the resolution.

SENATOR AKSHAR: Mr. President, thank you very much for your indulgence.

Allow me to thank the Majority Leader and the floor leader for allowing this resolution to the floor. I appreciate it very much.

Many of you know that before being

elected, I had the good fortune of being a member of law enforcement. I spent many good years with the Broome County Sheriff's Office. So today, by way of this resolution, I simply want to say thank you to the more than 850,000 men and women who wear the uniform across this great state and across this great nation.

Being a member of law enforcement, it's a thankless job, very long hours. It's challenging work. But I also know, and I think it's incredibly important for me to remind everybody, that law enforcement members care about their community and, underneath their uniform, they're real people with a heart. And they protect the communities that they love. They are on the streets every day doing what they love, ensuring that their communities are safe.

But there is also an undeniable fact, that the men and women of law enforcement are under attack. And their job is getting more difficult, it's becoming more dangerous every single day. And despite all of that, the men and women who wear the uniform, they remain committed to doing their job, to keeping our communities safe. And because of that, they deserve our

respect and they deserve our gratitude.

And quite honestly, that's what this resolution is all about. It's about allowing all of us to take a moment to think about the selfless sacrifices that these men and women make and give them a sincere thank you.

Mr. President, I thank you for your indulgence.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk?

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 15th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 15th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:58 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)