

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 February 14, 2023

11 4:32 p.m.

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13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR SHELLEY B. MAYER, Acting President

19 ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: 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 MAYER: 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 MAYER: Reading of  
the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday,  
February 13, 2023, the Senate met pursuant to  
adjournment. The Journal of Friday, February 10,  
2023, was read and approved. On motion, the  
Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Breslin

1 moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules,  
2 Assembly Bill Number 1285 and substitute it for  
3 the identical Senate Bill 1320, Third Reading  
4 Calendar 88.

5 Senator Skoufis moves to discharge,  
6 from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill  
7 Number 611 and substitute it for the identical  
8 Senate Bill 1328, Third Reading Calendar 96.

9 Senator Hoylman-Sigal moves to  
10 discharge, from the Committee on Rules,  
11 Assembly Bill Number 631 and substitute it for  
12 the identical Senate Bill 1335, Third Reading  
13 Calendar 103.

14 Senator Parker moves to discharge,  
15 from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill  
16 Number 978 and substitute it for the identical  
17 Senate Bill 2227, Third Reading Calendar 164.

18 Senator Mayer moves to discharge,  
19 from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill  
20 Number 969 and substitute it for the identical  
21 Senate Bill 2235, Third Reading Calendar 288.

22 Senator Krueger moves to discharge,  
23 from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill  
24 Number 622 and substitute it for the identical  
25 Senate Bill 2621, Third Reading Calendar 289.

1                   Senator Rhoads moves to discharge,  
2                   from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill  
3                   Number 1007 and substitute it for the identical  
4                   Senate Bill 2622, Third Reading Calendar 290.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:  
6                   Substitutions so ordered.

7                   Messages from the Governor.  
8                   Reports of standing committees.  
9                   Reports of select committees.  
10                  Communications and reports from  
11                  state officers.

12                  Motions and resolutions.

13                  Senator Gianaris.

14                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Madam President,  
15                  I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the  
16                  exception of Resolutions 304, 434, and 443.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   All those  
18                  in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar,  
19                  with the exception of Resolutions 304, 434, and  
20                  443, please signify by saying aye.

21                  (Response of "Aye.")

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Opposed?

23                  (No response.)

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
25                  Resolution Calendar is adopted.

1 Senator Gianaris.

2 SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President,  
3 we're going to simultaneously have a  
4 Rules Committee meeting while the resolutions are  
5 being taken up.

6 So please call an immediate meeting  
7 of the Rules Committee in Room 332 and take up --  
8 begin by taking up previously adopted  
9 Resolution 297, by Senator Sepúlveda, read its  
10 title only, and recognize Senator Sepúlveda.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: There will  
12 be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in  
13 Room 332.

14 The Secretary will read.

15 THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution  
16 297, by Senator Sepúlveda, commending  
17 Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell in recognition of  
18 his prompt and heroic actions in protecting the  
19 members of Congress and their staff while the  
20 United States Capitol was under attack on  
21 January 6, 2021.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
23 Sepúlveda.

24 SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: Thank you,  
25 Madam President, for allowing me to discuss this

1 resolution.

2 It's not every day that we bring a  
3 truly authentic American hero into this body,  
4 into this chamber. And today I present to you  
5 one that all of us should be proud of, because he  
6 sacrificed his life in the defense of democracy  
7 on January 6th.

8 It's my honor to stand before you  
9 today and recognize Staff Sergeant Aquilino  
10 Gonell. He is a proud American citizen, a proud  
11 New Yorker, and a proud Dominican American.

12 When he arrived in the United  
13 States, he made New York City his home, where he  
14 worked to achieve the American dream.

15 He received a college education and  
16 joined the military. Serving in the U.S. Army  
17 and the Army Reserve, he served at Operation  
18 Iraqi Freedom.

19 Despite the challenges he faced as  
20 an immigrant, Sergeant Gonell never wavered in  
21 his commitment to his country and fellow  
22 Americans. He joined the Capitol Police  
23 Department in Washington, D.C., where he once  
24 again put himself in harm's way to protect the  
25 Constitution of the United States.

1                   On January 6th, during the attack on  
2     the U.S. Capitol, Sergeant Gonell demonstrated  
3     remarkable bravery and courage. Despite being  
4     subjected to chemical spray, suffering several  
5     injuries, being cut and bled, requiring several  
6     surgeries, he continued to serve for  
7     15 consecutive days after the inauguration of  
8     President Biden.

9                   I want to tell you that Sergeant  
10    Gonell has received -- and I believe is one of  
11    the few Americans to ever receive both the  
12    Presidential Citizens Medal and the Congressional  
13    Gold Medal.

14                  As you know, the President's Medal  
15    is the second-highest honor you can bestow on a  
16    citizen. The Congressional Gold Medal is the  
17    highest honor you can bestow by Congress on a  
18    citizen of this country.

19                  Today it's a great honor to have  
20    Sergeant Gonell with us, along with members of  
21    his family, including his father and mother,  
22    Mr. José Gonell and Mrs. Sabina Gonell.

23                  The New York State Senate is proud  
24    to honor Sergeant Gonell with this resolution,  
25    J247, how he proudly testified before Congress on

1 July 27, 2022, recounting the events of that day,  
2 ensuring that history accurately records the  
3 horrible events that occurred and the violence  
4 that he and many others were subjected to.

5 Sergeant Gonell will be writing a  
6 book called "The American Shield: The Immigrant  
7 Sergeant Who Defended Democracy."

8 As Sergeant Gonell continues to heal  
9 from physical and mental injuries sustained  
10 during the attack, the New York State Senate is  
11 honored to pay tribute to his actions. I'm also  
12 proud to announce that in early May of this year,  
13 Sergeant Gonell will receive a recognition and  
14 resolution from the Dominican Republic Senate in  
15 the hands of Senator Alexis Victoria Yeb and the  
16 Honorable President of the Senate, Eduardo  
17 Estrella. This recognition marks the first time  
18 that a person has received such a well-deserved  
19 honor from both the New York State Senate and the  
20 Senate of the Dominican Republic.

21 Let us all take a moment to reflect  
22 on the incredible journey of Staff Sergeant  
23 Gonell, a proud New Yorker and American  
24 citizen -- a proud American citizen, a proud  
25 Dominican American.



1                   And I was touched when he gave me  
2                   this shield. It's got a shield, and inside it  
3                   says "First Responders Unit, United States  
4                   Capitol Police."

5                   And allow me to say a few words in  
6                   Spanish. (In Spanish.)

7                   I want you all to join me today in  
8                   recognizing and honoring this true great American  
9                   hero who has served this country in many  
10                  capacities. He deserves this honor and much  
11                  more.

12                  Thank you.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
14                  Senator Sepúlveda.

15                  Senator Jackson on the resolution.

16                  SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you,  
17                  Madam President.

18                  So my colleagues, I rise in order to  
19                  congratulate our Staff Sergeant Gonell and his  
20                  family, which I had the opportunity before we  
21                  began our proceedings to meet his mother, father,  
22                  his sister, his brother, his niece, his uncle --  
23                  his whole family is behind him. And as Americans  
24                  we should all be behind him, congratulating him  
25                  for basically preserving the integrity of our

1 democracy in Washington, D.C.

2 And I -- if you know, I represent  
3 part of Manhattan. You've heard me say this  
4 before. But my district now goes from  
5 Upper Manhattan and into the Bronx, where a  
6 majority of the constituents that I represent are  
7 of Dominican heritage. And I'm so proud --  
8 talking to his uncle, he says he's a driver of a  
9 cab and they talk about me all the time up in  
10 Northern Manhattan.

11 But I'm so proud to be here today in  
12 order to see this recognition to you on behalf of  
13 what you stand for, for our country. And so  
14 thank you for your service to make us all safe  
15 and sound in our Washington, D.C.

16 Thank you.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
18 Senator Jackson.

19 Senator Kennedy on the resolution.

20 SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you,  
21 Madam President.

22 I rise today to recognize Staff  
23 Sergeant Aquilino Gonell for swiftly stepping up  
24 to protect others when our Capitol was under  
25 attack on January 6, 2021. Not only did

1 Staff Sergeant Gonell proudly serve our country  
2 during Operation Iraqi Freedom and in the  
3 Army Reserve, but as we've heard here today, he  
4 quite literally helped protect our democracy from  
5 crumbling as insurrectionists attempted to wage  
6 an ill-informed onslaught on our nation's  
7 Capitol. It was an attack on democracy.

8 And Staff Sergeant Gonell stepped  
9 up, and he met the challenge head on. As a  
10 member of the Capitol Police Department in  
11 Washington, D.C., Staff Sergeant Gonell found  
12 himself at the center of the violence on  
13 January 6th. Yet despite the dangers surrounding  
14 him, he stayed true to his mission: Safeguarding  
15 the U.S. Capitol and members of Congress inside.

16 He was soaked in chemical spray. He  
17 sustained multiple injuries. And yet he stayed  
18 the course, because he knew what he was defending  
19 was worth protecting. We owe Staff Sergeant  
20 Gonell an incredible debt of gratitude -- and  
21 those we lost that day, and those that stood with  
22 him to defend democracy on that fateful day that  
23 will live in our nation in infamy.

24 They are all heroes. As  
25 Staff Sergeant Gonell continues to heal, both

1       mentally and physically, from that day, we pray  
2       for his recovery, we stand with him, and we hope  
3       that he is strengthened by those that love and  
4       care for him.

5               I'm honored to stand with all of my  
6       colleagues here today as we honor this American  
7       hero on the Senate floor. And I thank Senator  
8       Sepúlveda for bringing this resolution forward.

9               Thank you so much for your service  
10      to this state, to this nation, and to the global  
11      community for standing up for democracy when  
12      others may have wavered. For standing up for  
13      what is right in the face of the challenge of  
14      thousands of people that wanted to do you and  
15      this nation harm. Thank you, Staff Sergeant.

16              ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
17      Senator Kennedy.

18              Senator Bailey on the resolution.

19              SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
20      Madam President.

21              We often wax poetic about certain  
22      phrases. The word "hero" is one of those things  
23      that we kind of -- just kind of throw out there,  
24      right? We just -- "That's heroic" or "This is  
25      heroic," or "You're a hero, you're a true

1 patriot."

2 As I watched January 6th unfold from  
3 the safety and comfort of my own home, as I  
4 watched the worst attack on democracy and on the  
5 people of this great country happen from the  
6 safety of my own home, Staff Sergeant, you were  
7 in the midst of it. You didn't back down. You  
8 did not forget what you were sworn to do, which  
9 was protect the people -- not just around you,  
10 but the people of the entire United States of  
11 America.

12 We owe you more than a debt of  
13 gratitude. We owe you more than a resolution.  
14 We owe you more than the applause that we should  
15 give you after everyone is concluded speaking.  
16 We owe you a lifetime of respect. Because  
17 leadership and being a hero is easy to do it when  
18 it's somebody that you -- it's easy to do it when  
19 it's your neighbor or your cousin or somebody.  
20 But you were protecting people that you didn't  
21 know, had never seen, would never meet again, for  
22 the sake of our democracy. That is what a hero,  
23 that is what a leader is.

24 And it proves something: That just  
25 because you were not born on the soil of the

1 United States of America does not mean that you  
2 do not have the heart of this country in mind.  
3 You have come here from the Dominican Republic to  
4 seek a better life for yourself and your family,  
5 but in you seeking a better life, you have made  
6 our lives better. By your heroism, by your  
7 bravery, and quite frankly because of your  
8 selflessness. Those of us who are in positions  
9 not in law enforcement, we -- when danger comes,  
10 we go the other way. You charge toward it. And  
11 you charge towards it boldly.

12 I can't imagine what it is that you  
13 think about on a daily basis by virtue of that  
14 attack. I can't imagine how you process it on a  
15 daily basis. But you did it, and you do it. And  
16 you do it for people that you don't know.

17 I take my hat off to you, sir. You  
18 are a true American hero. Your story should be  
19 emblazoned on more than just the great  
20 legislative record of this chamber. There should  
21 be more people who see what you've done and  
22 realize that they can do what you do and what  
23 you've done. You're a true hero, sir.

24 I vote aye on the resolution,  
25 Madam President.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Thank you,  
2   Senator Bailey.

3                   Senator Martinez on the resolution.

4                   SENATOR MARTINEZ:    Good afternoon,  
5   Madam President.   Thank you.

6                   I rise today to thank Staff Sergeant  
7   Aquilino Gonell for his service to our nation and  
8   our state.   Your selfless actions on January 6th  
9   of 2021 showed the love and dedication that you  
10   have for this nation during a time when so much  
11   hatred was displayed.

12                  I am hopeful the injuries you  
13   sustained will heal.   And I hope that our nation  
14   also heals.   And again, I want to thank you for  
15   your service.   {In Spanish:   Thank you for being  
16   here with us today.}

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Thank you,  
18   Senator Martinez.

19                  Senator Cleare on the resolution.

20                  SENATOR CLEARE:    I rise to thank  
21   you, Sergeant Gonell, for your actions on  
22   January 6th.

23                  I too, like others, sat in my home  
24   and watched in utter disbelief at what was going  
25   on in our country.   You protected our Capitol.

1     You protected our representatives. You protected  
2     your colleagues. You protected all of us. And  
3     more importantly, you protected the core of our  
4     country, which is our democracy. And we thank  
5     you for that.

6                     I proudly represent a significant  
7     Dominican American population, maybe not quite as  
8     much as Senator Jackson. But even more, I  
9     represent a district of citizens who all owe you  
10    a debt of gratitude for your service, your  
11    bravery, for our state and our country. And we  
12    thank you.

13                    I proudly vote aye on the  
14    resolution.

15                    ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
16    Senator Cleare.

17                    Senator Comrie on the resolution.

18                    SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you,  
19    Madam President.

20                    Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell --  
21    I'm sorry, I pronounced your name wrong: Gonell.  
22    I never thought I'd have the opportunity to  
23    personally thank someone that stood in the fray  
24    on January 6th. I never thought I'd have an  
25    opportunity to meet one of the officers that held



1     our country together in the face of hatred and  
2     extreme prejudice.

3                 I never thought that we'd have that  
4     opportunity. I didn't get a chance to meet you,  
5     but I'm going to hug you later, because you stood  
6     in the path, you created and saved our democracy.

7                 I don't know that many of us would  
8     stand in the face of hatred when hatred was so  
9     imposed upon you. I don't know that many of us  
10    would stand there and get sprayed and cussed and  
11    beaten when people were determined to do harm. I  
12    don't know if many of us would be able to fight  
13    off anger when it was so prevalent.

14                I want to thank you. You know, they  
15    said you're an American. We all are immigrants  
16    to this country, as I've said in this chamber  
17    before. Unless you're an American Indian, we're  
18    all immigrants to this country. But you  
19    understand the pride of this nation, what this  
20    country is all about, what democracy truly is,  
21    and what is holding the line against hate.

22                I want to thank you for your  
23    service. I want to thank you for joining the  
24    armed services. I want to thank you for your  
25    belief in this country. And I'm getting

1 emotional, so I'm going to sit down. I've never  
2 had a chance, I never thought I'd have this  
3 opportunity to meet someone from that day.

4 Thank you.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
6 Senator Comrie.

7 Senator Martins on the resolution.

8 SENATOR MARTINS: Thank you,  
9 Madam President.

10 I too rise to thank Senator  
11 Sepúlveda for bringing forth this resolution. I  
12 had the opportunity to meet with the staff  
13 sergeant and his family before session; we had a  
14 few moments before we were able to convene. And  
15 I just want to take the opportunity, sir, to  
16 congratulate you, to thank you for your service.

17 I want to thank your parents and the  
18 pride they have today in being here in the  
19 New York State Senate, watching as their son is  
20 honored for his bravery and his service to his  
21 country, his service to the community.

22 You know, we talk about things like  
23 bravery, heroes. We talk about things in this  
24 chamber all the time about supporting those who  
25 hold the line in law enforcement. And that's

1     what I see this resolution really being about.  
2     It's our recognizing how important it is -- and  
3     should be to every one of us, and every one of  
4     our constituents throughout New York State -- to  
5     stand with law enforcement. To stand with those  
6     who stand up against those who would do harm to  
7     others.

8                     For you, sir, it was at the  
9     United States Capitol. For so many here in  
10    New York State, in our own communities, in our  
11    counties and our villages, in the city,  
12    throughout this great state, we have people who  
13    serve this state honorably each and every day.  
14    Heroes in our communities who stand up and  
15    enforce the laws that we in this chamber have had  
16    the privilege of passing over the years.

17                    So Staff Sergeant, to you, to your  
18    family, thank you.

19                    And to my dear friend Senator  
20    Sepúlveda, thank you so much for reminding us all  
21    that it is our responsibility, when we have the  
22    opportunity, to recognize heroism, to recognize  
23    courage, and to stand up for those who stand up  
24    for us and our families each and every day in  
25    protecting us in our communities.

1                   Madam President, I vote aye.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Thank you,  
3   Senator Martins.

4                   Senator Ashby on the resolution.

5                   SENATOR ASHBY:    Thank you,  
6   Madam President.

7                   Staff Sergeant Gonell, thank you for  
8   being the best of what the United States has to  
9   offer. Thank you for your family, for being here  
10   today and reminding us of what it is to be an  
11   American hero. Not only volunteering to serve at  
12   a time when many did not, when it was  
13   unpopular -- coming home and choosing to serve  
14   again. It's a remarkable decision. It's a  
15   remarkable life. And it's an example for all of  
16   us here to follow and carry on that tradition.

17                   Thank you. I proudly vote aye.

18                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Senator  
19   Gounardes on the resolution.

20                   SENATOR GOUNARDES:    Thank you,  
21   Madam President.

22                   I think a lot of my colleagues have  
23   said what I think so many of us are thinking in  
24   thanking Staff Sergeant Gonell for his service  
25   and his selflessness.

1                   But I want to call attention to,  
2                   one, the important symbolism of your heroic  
3                   deeds. Because on the day that you responded at  
4                   the Capitol, that was the first and only time in  
5                   our nation's history when a Confederate flag made  
6                   it into our Capitol building. There was a Civil  
7                   War 160-something years ago, and even then the  
8                   enemies of this country, those who did not  
9                   believe in the American way of life, could not  
10                  succeed in bringing a Confederate flag that stood  
11                  for everything we stand against, into that  
12                  building. But it did on January 6th.

13                 And the symbolism of you, with where  
14                 you've come from and where you came and why you  
15                 came here, to be part of the effort, to be part  
16                 of the push, to be part of the fight to repel  
17                 that flag out of that Capitol building, cannot be  
18                 understated.

19                 You who answered Lady Liberty's call  
20                 to come to this country in search of the American  
21                 life, the American way for you and your family  
22                 and your loved ones, to have, dare I say, the  
23                 honor to be the one to repel that flag out of  
24                 that Capitol building and protect our  
25                 democracy -- that symbolism is so rich. And it

1 is so important.

2 And while the courage which you  
3 demonstrated and which your fellow officers  
4 demonstrated in answer to that call is of course  
5 significant, the fact that it was you, and the  
6 fact that you were there, and where you came  
7 from, and the fact that the flag flew in that  
8 building, speaks volumes and is a testament to  
9 the character and service that we honor here  
10 today.

11 So I want to thank you. I join my  
12 colleagues in thanking you for your service and  
13 for what your story means to the rest of us and  
14 how it inspires the rest of us.

15 And I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
17 Senator Gounardes.

18 Staff Sergeant Gonell, thank you so  
19 much for all you have done. Thank you for what  
20 you have done. Thank you for joining us here  
21 today. It is our honor to honor you.

22 We welcome and your family to our  
23 chamber, and we hold you in the highest regard.  
24 Thank you very much from all of our hearts.

25 (Extended standing ovation.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
2   resolution was previously adopted on  
3   January 31st.

4                   Senator Gianaris.

5                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Thank you,  
6   Madam President.

7                   Let me also add my thanks to  
8   Staff Sergeant Gonell and to Senator Sepúlveda  
9   for giving us the opportunity to acknowledge him  
10   today.

11                  Next, we are moving on to  
12   Resolution 304, by Senator Kennedy.   Here he  
13   comes.   Please read the title of that resolution  
14   and recognize Senator Kennedy.

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
16   Secretary will read.

17                  THE SECRETARY:    Senate Resolution  
18   304, by Senator Kennedy, memorializing  
19   Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 14,  
20   2023, as Canada Day in the State of New York.

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
22   Kennedy on the resolution.

23                  SENATOR KENNEDY:    Thank you,  
24   Madam President.

25                  I rise today to honor the

1 long-standing relationship between the  
2 United States and Canada and to welcome our  
3 guests who have joined us from the Canadian  
4 Consulate in New York.

5 I'd ask them to stand and be  
6 recognized. The acting consul general, Andre  
7 Frenette. The Province of Quebec's delegate  
8 general in New York, Martine Hebert. As well as  
9 the director of the Province of Alberta's office  
10 in Washington, D.C., Julia Barema.

11 I also want to recognize a former  
12 staff member of mine, former chief of staff as  
13 well as my former legislative director,  
14 Rachel Homewood, who is the senior diplomatic  
15 advisor to the Canadian Consulate.

16 New York's neighbor to the north  
17 shares so much with us -- history, culture, and  
18 the largest bilateral tourism industry in the  
19 entire United States. More than 5.5 million  
20 Canadians visit New York every single year -- and  
21 yet our relationship is so much bigger than the  
22 temporary visits.

23 Our proximity and partnership has  
24 led to more than 700 Canadian-owned companies  
25 putting down roots and creating more than 680,000



1 jobs throughout the state, demonstrating  
2 collaboration and a commitment to opportunity.

3 Canada also serves as New York's  
4 primary export market to the tune of  
5 \$13.8 billion in annual exports. And that list  
6 is only expected to grow in the years to come.

7 In Western New York our ties to  
8 Canada are part of our daily culture. Our AAA  
9 baseball team, the Buffalo Bisons, is the proud  
10 affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays -- sorry to my  
11 Yankees and Mets fans. And when the border  
12 controls prevented the Blue Jays from playing at  
13 home, we in Buffalo adopted them, hosting two  
14 memorable summers of Major League Baseball in  
15 downtown Buffalo.

16 And on a night when the Buffalo  
17 Sabres are taking on the Leafs, the Canadians or  
18 the Senators at Key Bank Center, the seats are  
19 full of fans from both sides of the border.  
20 Healthy competition never hurt anyone.

21 As a matter of fact, we don't have  
22 to wait to play these Canadian counterparts; the  
23 Canadian fans flow over the border to support our  
24 Buffalo Sabres quite often. When the COVID-19  
25 pandemic hit, its magnitude felt enormous,

1 especially for border communities that have long  
2 seen the other side not just as neighbors, but  
3 family. Thankfully we stand here today on the  
4 other side of that pandemic heartbreak.

5 As both of our nations continue to  
6 rebuild, we recognize that we are so much more  
7 than our shared border. In the light and the  
8 dark, we are one together.

9 Today, the New York State Senate  
10 joins together to recognize our friends to the  
11 north, the existing partnership we share, and the  
12 bright future ahead.

13 Madam President, please extend all  
14 of the virtues of the house to our friends from  
15 Canada. Thank you so much for making the trip  
16 here once again. We appreciate all that you do  
17 and our great partnership between our nations,  
18 our State of New York, and Canada. Thank you.

19 Thank you, Madam President.

20 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator  
21 Kennedy.

22 To our guests -- Acting Consul  
23 General Frenette, Delegate General Martine  
24 Hebert, Rachel Homewood, Taylor Reak and  
25 Julia Barema -- thank you so much for joining us

1       today. We welcome you on behalf of the Senate.  
2       We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of  
3       the house. We look forward to recognizing you  
4       and continuing to have you join us.

5                     Thank you.

6                     (Standing ovation.)

7                     ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Senator  
8       Gianaris.

9                     SENATOR GIANARIS:     Thank you,  
10      Madam President.

11                    Next, will you take up  
12      Resolution 434, by Senator Ashby, read that  
13      resolution's title, and recognize Senator Ashby,  
14      please.

15                    ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Senator  
16      Gianaris, the question is on the previous  
17      resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

18                    (Response of "Aye.")

19                    ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Opposed?

20                    (No response.)

21                    ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     The  
22      resolution is adopted.

23                    The Secretary will read.

24                    THE SECRETARY:     Senate Resolution  
25      434, by Senator Ashby, memorializing Governor

1 Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 12, 2023, as  
2 Operation Homecoming Recognition Day in the State  
3 of New York.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
5 Ashby on the resolution.

6 SENATOR ASHBY: Thank you,  
7 Madam President.

8 Operation Homecoming marks the  
9 return of 591 prisoners of war from North Vietnam  
10 following the Paris Peace Accords in 1973. It's  
11 50 years as of February 12th.

12 All of them were brave. I want To  
13 tell you about 11 of them today. The Alcatraz  
14 Gang were the leaders of the POW resistance in  
15 Vietnam. They were steadfast and unrelenting,  
16 unwilling to share intelligence or be used as  
17 props and enemy propaganda. And they paid for  
18 it. They were held in solitary confinement for  
19 years at a time. At night, they were forced into  
20 tiny concrete rooms with bright lights, starved  
21 and sleep-deprived. Their legs were shackled.  
22 They were brutally beaten until they lost  
23 consciousness, and they endured unspeakable  
24 physical torture.

25 It's hard to understand, to really

1 understand that level of sacrifice, let alone  
2 fully appreciate it. But we have to try. It's  
3 our obligation. It's what we owe them.

4 I want to read to you their names:  
5 George Thomas Coker. Jeremiah Denton. Harry  
6 Jenkins. Sam Johnson. George McKnight. James  
7 Mulligan. Howard Rutledge. Robert Shumaker.  
8 James Stockdale. Nels Tanner. And from  
9 New York, Ronald Storz, who never made it home,  
10 dying in captivity.

11 For the survivors, their homecoming  
12 wasn't a fairy tale. They encountered a  
13 war-weary public who didn't understand that these  
14 men didn't choose war, war chose them. A public  
15 that failed to make a distinction between a  
16 president who saw a war as an intractable  
17 political problem and the young men who were sent  
18 to fight for their lives.

19 Today and every day, this year and  
20 every year, we have an opportunity to do better  
21 by the men and women who put their lives on the  
22 line for their very country. To show that "thank  
23 you for your service" isn't a platitude, but a  
24 mission statement.

25 Few soldiers will ever endure what

1 the Alcatraz Gang did, but every soldier endures  
2 enough. This year's budget must invest in  
3 life-saving peer-to-peer counseling programming.  
4 It must invest in veteran housing. And we have  
5 to provide more assistance to the compassionate  
6 servants who are on the front lines of mental  
7 health addiction services and PTSD treatment.  
8 And I look forward to working with every single  
9 person in this chamber to make that happen.

10 Thank you, and I proudly vote aye.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
12 Senator Ashby.

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

15 (Response of "Aye.")

16 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
19 resolution is adopted.

20 Senator Gianaris.

21 SENATOR GIANARIS: And now,  
22 Madam President, Resolution 443, by  
23 Senator Weber. Read that resolution's title and  
24 recognize Senator Weber, please.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The

1 Secretary will read.

2 THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution  
3 443, by Senator Weber, honoring heart transplant  
4 recipient Roxanne Watson for her ceaseless  
5 dedication as a champion and advocate for organ  
6 donation upon the milestone of personally adding  
7 over 13,000 names to the National Organ Donor  
8 Registry by herself.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
10 Weber on the resolution.

11 SENATOR WEBER: Madam President, I  
12 rise today to recognize a remarkable individual  
13 who has made immeasurable impact on our  
14 community, Ms. Roxanne Watson.

15 Roxanne's story is one of  
16 determination, hope, and selflessness. She is a  
17 heart transplant recipient who spent over two  
18 long years on a transplant list before receiving  
19 a heart from her donor, Michael Bovill. This new  
20 lease on life not only transformed Roxanne's  
21 health but also sparked a passion within her to  
22 help others in need. And so she set out on a  
23 mission to raise awareness about the importance  
24 of organ donation, and to encourage others to  
25 sign up for the National Organ Donor Registry.

1                   Today we recognize and celebrate  
2                   Roxanne's monumental achievement of personally  
3                   signing up 13,000 people to the National Organ  
4                   Donor Registry. This is a testament to her  
5                   tireless efforts and her unwavering commitment to  
6                   make a difference in the lives of others.

7                   Her story has inspired countless  
8                   individuals, and her impact will be felt for  
9                   generations to come. Through her advocacy, she  
10                  has helped bring attention to the critical need  
11                  for organ donors, especially in the minority  
12                  populations who statistically need the most  
13                  organs.

14                 If you live in Rockland County, you  
15                 will no doubt recognize her from the Donate Life  
16                 registration table at the mall, sporting events,  
17                 high schools, naturalization ceremonies, and  
18                 pretty much anywhere else a large crowd gathers.

19                 If you do not live in Rockland  
20                 County, you may recognize her as a spokeswoman on  
21                 national television advertising campaigns.

22                 Roxanne's connection to her donor,  
23                 Michael, clearly demonstrates the profound impact  
24                 one person's generosity can have on so many lives  
25                 around this country. The fact that Michael's



1 selfless act of donation saved not only Roxanne's  
2 life, but also the lives of four others, is truly  
3 remarkable.

4 By carrying a picture of Michael  
5 with her wherever she goes, Roxanne keeps his  
6 memory and his gift alive. And she continues to  
7 inspire others to follow in his footsteps. Her  
8 weekly radio show, "Michael's Gift," serves a  
9 platform for her to spread awareness and to share  
10 her story.

11 This bond is so powerful it's the  
12 subject of a book called "Michael's Legacy:  
13 Transcending Life and Death."

14 Roxanne's selflessness serves as a  
15 reminder of the power of one individual and the  
16 impact that one person can make on the world.  
17 She has shown us that even in the face of  
18 adversity, it is possible to persevere and to use  
19 our experiences to help others. Her efforts have  
20 brought hope to families waiting for life-saving  
21 transplants and have saved numerous lives.

22 It's truly fitting that we honor  
23 Roxanne on this special day, Valentine's Day.  
24 Women's Heart Day is acknowledged on February  
25 3rd, February 14th is Donor Remembrance Day, and

1 February is American Heart Month. All of these  
2 days are important in their own right and  
3 deserving of our recognition. But Valentine's  
4 Day represents love and generosity, two qualities  
5 that Roxanne embodies.

6 On behalf of the New York State  
7 Senate and the people of New York, I have the  
8 tremendous honor to present Roxanne Watson with  
9 my first resolution. Roxanne is here with us  
10 today in the gallery. So it is my privilege to  
11 say directly to her: Thank you for your  
12 unwavering commitment and your dedication to save  
13 lives. You are a shining example of the power of  
14 determination, compassion, and the human spirit.  
15 You are a true hero and an inspiration to us all.  
16 Your legacy will continue to inspire others, and  
17 your remarkable contributions to this community  
18 will be felt for years to come.

19 You know, I always tell my kids that  
20 superheroes don't always wear capes. But  
21 Roxanne, you're our superhero among us.

22 Madam President, please recognize  
23 Roxanne Watson and extend her the privileges and  
24 courtesies of the house.

25 Thank you.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Thank you,  
2   Senator Weber.

3                   To our guest, Roxanne Watson, with  
4   her wonderful picture there, thank you.  We  
5   extend to you all the courtesies of this house.  
6   We welcome you.  We so appreciate all your work.

7                   Please stand and be recognized by  
8   the body.

9                   (Standing ovation.)

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
11   question is on the resolution.  All in favor  
12   signify by saying aye.

13                  (Response of "Aye.")

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Opposed?

15                  (No response.)

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
17   resolution is adopted.

18                  Senator Gianaris.

19                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Madam President,  
20   at the request of the various sponsors, the  
21   resolutions we took up today are open for  
22   cosponsorship.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
24   resolutions are open for cosponsorship.  Should  
25   you choose not to be a cosponsor of the

1 resolutions, please notify the desk.

2 Senator Gianaris.

3 SENATOR GIANARIS: I believe  
4 there's a report of the Rules Committee at the  
5 desk. Can we take that up, please.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
7 Secretary will read.

8 THE SECRETARY: Senator  
9 Stewart-Cousins, from the Committee on Rules,  
10 reports the following bills:

11 Senate Resolution 444, by  
12 Senator Stewart-Cousins, amending Section 1 of  
13 Rule VII of the Senate Rules;

14 Senate Print 3125, by  
15 Senator Hinchey, an act to amend the  
16 State Finance Law;

17 Senate Print 4134, by  
18 Senator Parker, an act to amend the  
19 Public Authorities Law;

20 Senate Print 4270, by  
21 Senator Parker, an act to amend the  
22 Agriculture and Markets Law.

23 All bills reported direct to third  
24 reading.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator

1     Gianaris.

2                   SENATOR GIANARIS:     I move to accept  
3     the report of the Rules Committee.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     All those  
5     in favor of accepting the report of the  
6     Rules Committee, signify by saying aye.

7                   (Response of "Aye.")

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     Opposed,  
9     nay.

10                   (No response.)

11                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     The report  
12     is accepted.

13                   Senator Gianaris.

14                   SENATOR GIANARIS:     At this point  
15     let's return to motions and resolutions for a  
16     moment and take up Senate Resolution 444, and  
17     call on Senator Fernandez to be heard on that  
18     resolution.

19                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:     The  
20     Secretary will read.

21                   THE SECRETARY:     Senate Resolution  
22     444, by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, amending  
23     Section 1 of Rule VII of the Senate Rules, in  
24     relation to the name of the Standing Committee on  
25     Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
2   Fernandez on the resolution.

3                   SENATOR FERNANDEZ:    Thank you,  
4   Madam President.

5                   As the chair of Alcoholism and  
6   Substance Abuse Committee, I can say confidently  
7   that its members and our staff are committed to  
8   fighting the stigma attached to addiction through  
9   all policy and budgetary avenues available.

10                  In the midst of the crisis, we can  
11   sometimes be so focused on taking action that we  
12   overlook the language and the power of our words  
13   when spoken into the world.  Words matter deeply.  
14   And the more we learn, the more sophisticated our  
15   language becomes.

16                  This has been the case in my journey  
17   becoming immersed in the recovery community.  
18   That is why, on behalf of the recovery movement,  
19   I am supporting this resolution by our fearless  
20   leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, to rename the  
21   Committee of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse to  
22   Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders.

23                  Why?  The word "abuse" implies a  
24   conscious decision to engage in a negative  
25   behavior.  But those with a substance use

1 disorder have a disease. The goal is to embrace  
2 treatment over a punitive approach to these  
3 individuals.

4 In fact, the DSM-5 no longer defines  
5 the condition as "substance abuse" or "substance  
6 dependence," but as substance use disorders.

7 "Abuse" is an ugly word. Child  
8 abuse. Domestic abuse. Sexual abuse. In each  
9 of these instances, there is a perpetrator  
10 harming a victim. If we are going to truly  
11 accept that addiction is a disease, we need to  
12 stop using language that stigmatizes their  
13 condition. This stigma is real, and research has  
14 shown that it discourages people from seeking  
15 treatment. So avoiding this language will  
16 actually save lives.

17 As recovery counselor Don Coyhis  
18 once said: "Words matter. If you want to care  
19 for something, you call it a flower. If you want  
20 to kill something, you call it a weed."

21 And in that spirit, I would like to  
22 show some love to those struggling with addiction  
23 this Valentine's Day by changing officially our  
24 committee name to Alcoholism and Substance Use  
25 Disorders.

1 Thank you.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
3 Senator Fernandez.

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

6 (Response of "Aye.")

7 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
10 resolution is adopted.

11 Senator Gianaris.

12 SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's take up  
13 the reading of the calendar, please.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The  
15 Secretary will read.

16 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 88,  
17 Assembly Print Number 1285, by Assemblymember  
18 Fahy, an act to amend the General Business Law.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
20 last section.

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

23 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
24 roll.

25 (The Secretary called the roll.)



1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Announce  
2   the results.

3                   THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
4   Calendar Number 88, voting in the negative:  
5   Senator Brisport.

6                   Ayes, 60.   Nays, 1.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
8   is passed.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number 96,  
10   Assembly Print 611, by Assemblymember Paulin, an  
11   act to amend the Executive Law.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Read the  
13   last section.

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

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Call the  
17   roll.

18                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Announce  
20   the results.

21                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 61.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
23   is passed.

24                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
25   103, Assembly Print 631, by Assemblymember

1 Carroll, an act to amend the Real Property Law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
3 last section.

4 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
5 act shall take effect on the same date and in the  
6 same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2022.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
8 roll.

9 (The Secretary called the roll.)

10 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
11 Rhoads to explain his vote.

12 SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you,  
13 Madam President.

14 I rise in support of the  
15 legislation. I have had a conversation with the  
16 sponsor. My district across the South Shore of  
17 Long Island, as well as the North Shore of  
18 Long Island, were impacted heavily by  
19 Superstorm Sandy 12 years ago. As a result -- or  
20 11 years ago. As a result of Superstorm Sandy,  
21 many participated in the mandatory and optional  
22 elevation programs through the Governor's Office  
23 of Storm Recovery.

24 I have spoken with the sponsor to  
25 raise my concerns about the applicability of this

1 bill to their circumstance, and he has been  
2 generous enough to indicate that we'll work on  
3 something together to provide an exception for  
4 those families.

5 So thank you, Senator, for bringing  
6 this bill to the floor and for working together  
7 to address my concerns. I appreciate it, and I  
8 vote in the affirmative.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
10 Rhoads to be recorded in the affirmative.

11 Announce the results.

12 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
13 Calendar Number 103, those Senators voting in the  
14 negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
15 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Felder, Lanza, Martins,  
16 Murray, O'Mara, Ortt, Tedisco, Walczyk and Weber.

17 Ayes, 49. Nays, 12.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 164, Assembly Print Number 978, by Assemblymember  
22 Paulin, an act to amend the Public Service Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

1 act shall take effect on the same date and in the  
2 same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2022.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
4 roll.

5 (The Secretary called the roll.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
7 the results.

8 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
9 Calendar Number 164, those Senators voting in the  
10 negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
11 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming,  
12 Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo,  
13 Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber  
14 and Weik.

15 Ayes, 42. Nays, 19.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
17 is passed.

18 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
19 224, Senate Print 2301, by Senator Mayer, an act  
20 to amend the Penal Law.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
22 last section.

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

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the

1 roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
4 the results.

5 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
6 Calendar Number 224, voting in the negative:  
7 Senator Brisport.

8 Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
10 is passed.

11 THE SECRETARY: Excuse me. Also  
12 Senator Salazar.

13 Ayes, 59. Nays, 2.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
15 is passed.

16 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
17 250, Senate Print 509, by Senator Thomas, an act  
18 to amend the Administrative Code of the City of  
19 New York.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
21 last section.

22 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
23 act shall take effect on the 120th day after it  
24 shall have become a law.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the

1 roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
4 the results.

5 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
6 Calendar Number 250, those Senators voting in the  
7 negative are Senators Felder, Gounardes, Lanza,  
8 Oberacker and O'Mara.

9 Ayes, 56. Nays, 5.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
11 is passed.

12 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
13 257, Senate Print 1974, by Senator Ramos, an act  
14 to amend the Workers' Compensation Law.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
16 last section.

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

20 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
21 roll.

22 (The Secretary called the roll.)

23 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
24 the results.

25 THE SECRETARY: In relation to

1 Calendar Number 257, those Senators voting in the  
2 negative are Senators Lanza and Walczyk.

3 Ayes, 59. Nays, 2.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
5 is passed.

6 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
7 275, Senate Print 1290, by Senator Hinchey, an  
8 act to amend the State Law.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
10 last section.

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

13 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the  
14 roll.

15 (The Secretary called the roll.)

16 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce  
17 the results.

18 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill  
20 is passed.

21 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
22 288, Assembly Print 969, by Assemblymember  
23 Burdick, an act to amend the Civil Rights Law.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the  
25 last section.

1                   THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.  This  
2   act shall take effect on the same date and in the  
3   same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2022.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Call the  
5   roll.

6                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Announce  
8   the results.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
10   Calendar 288, those Senators voting in the  
11   negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello,  
12   Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Felder, Gallivan, Griffo,  
13   Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker,  
14   O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec,  
15   Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

16                   Ayes, 40.  Nays, 21.

17                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   The bill  
18   is passed.

19                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
20   289, Assembly Print 622, by Assemblymember  
21   O'Donnell, an act to amend the State Finance Law.

22                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   Read the  
23   last section.

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



1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Call the  
2   roll.

3                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Announce  
5   the results.

6                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 61.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
8   is passed.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
10   290, Assembly Print Number 1007, by  
11   Assemblymember McDonald, an act to amend a  
12   chapter of the Laws of 2022.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Read the  
14   last section.

15                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2. This  
16   act shall take effect on the same date and in the  
17   same manner as a chapter of the Laws of 2022.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Call the  
19   roll.

20                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Announce  
22   the results.

23                  THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
24   Calendar Number 290, voting in the negative:  
25   Senator O'Mara.

1                   Ayes, 60.   Nays, 1.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
3   is passed.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
5   301 --

6                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Madam President,  
7   please recognize Senator Lanza.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
9   Lanza.

10                  SENATOR LANZA:    Madam President,  
11   Senator Gianaris, can we pause to congratulate  
12   Senator Rhoads on the passage of his first bill.

13                  (Standing ovation.)

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The  
15   Secretary will read.

16                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
17   301, Senate Print 1176, by Senator Harckham, an  
18   act to amend Chapter 606 of the Laws of 2006.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Read the  
20   last section.

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

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Call the  
24   roll.

25                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
2 Rhoads to explain his vote.

3                   SENATOR RHOADS:    Thank you.  Thank  
4 you so much, Madam President.

5                   I just want to rise and thank my  
6 colleague Senator Harckham for introducing this  
7 legislation.

8                   I know that Senator Oberacker, who  
9 is attending a hearing today, has been a  
10 volunteer firefighter for I believe the last  
11 36 years.  I myself have been proud to serve as a  
12 volunteer firefighter for 30 years with my local  
13 Wantagh Volunteer Fire Department, having spent  
14 nine of those years as a line officer.

15                  And from that vantage point -- and I  
16 know we've taken the time to recognize some  
17 heroes today -- from that vantage point I've had  
18 the opportunity to witness incredible acts of  
19 compassion, some incredible acts of heroism and  
20 courage, by members of the volunteer fire service  
21 all across this state, in virtually every one of  
22 our districts, with the exception of the City of  
23 New York.

24                  In virtually every one of our  
25 districts we have volunteer firefighters who are

1     answering the call, leaving their homes, leaving  
2     their families, leaving their dinner tables to  
3     put themselves in harm's way, to try and protect  
4     the lives and property of people whom they've  
5     never met, seeking nothing in return other than  
6     the satisfaction of a job well done and the  
7     knowledge that they were there to help their  
8     neighbor in a time of need.

9                     And so I wanted to thank  
10    Senator Harckham -- and I was proud to be a  
11    cosponsor on this bill -- thank him for  
12    recognizing that service, recognizing that  
13    sacrifice, and recognizing the dangers that  
14    volunteer firefighters face every single day  
15    because of their exposure to the unique dangers  
16    of their firefighting activities.

17                    So I proudly support the bill and  
18    vote in the affirmative. So thank you,  
19    Madam President.

20                    ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Senator  
21    Rhoads to be recorded in the affirmative.

22                    Announce the results.

23                    THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 61.

24                    ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    The bill  
25    is passed.

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

3                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Is there any  
4 further business at the desk?

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   There is  
6 no further business at the desk.

7                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Move to adjourn  
8 until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 15th, at  
9 11:00 a.m.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:   On motion,  
11 the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday,  
12 February 15th, at 11:00 a.m.

13                  (Whereupon, at 5:26 p.m., the Senate  
14 adjourned.)

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