NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JEREMY A. COONEY, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone to please rise for the presentation of the colors.

Color Guard, parade the colors.

(Whereupon, the 10th Mountain Division Color Guard entered the chamber through the rear doors and proceeded to the center of the chamber, presenting the colors.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: I ask everyone present to please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: I invite Colonel James Key, Senior Command Chaplain of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, who will deliver today's invocation.

Colonel.

CHAPLAIN KEY: Thank you.

Let us pause for a word of prayer as we bow our heads and close our eyes.

Almighty God, we come to You today asking that You bless today's Senate session and

the lawmakers of this august body. On this day, give these leaders the capacity to be tough enough to fight, tender enough to cry, human enough to make mistakes, humble enough to admit them, strong enough to absorb the pain, and resilient enough to bounce back and keep on moving.

Compel all of us gathered here today to be thankful for the common things of life -- for the sun that marches every morning from the east to west, chasing darkness with a legion of light, and for the stars and planets that form a highway to heaven.

And finally, dear God, may this day remind all of us to never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice, who stood in harm's way to secure for our nation the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For it is in Your liberating and sustaining name that we pray.

And we all say together on this day: amen and amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

(Whereupon, the Color Guard lowered the colors and marched to the rear doors, exiting

the chamber.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: It is now my honor to introduce Brigadier General Matthew Braman to deliver opening remarks.

General.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BRAMAN: Well, thank you once again for hosting us today for 10th Mountain Day and Fort Drum Day. We call it Albany Day up there, but down here it's Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Day.

And it is my privilege to represent Major General Anderson, our division commander and senior commander at Fort Drum, and the 18,000 Alpine Troopers of the 10th Mountain Division as well their families and our civilian workforce that call Fort Drum home and work each day.

I'm joined here by a great crew of compadres. I'm here with our Division Command Sergeant Major Nema Mobar, our garrison commander, Colonel Matt Myer, as well as our garrison senior chaplain, Chaplain James Key, who just gave that awesome prayer.

I'm also joined here today by your constituents here, our soldiers from Fort Drum

that grew up here and called this place home even when they were -- before they were in the Army.

And so how about a round of applause for these guys from New York?

(Standing ovation.)

BRIGADIER GENERAL BRAMAN: It's not lost on me that this day -- it means a lot to us, but it wouldn't happen without a lot of great folks and support here in the Senate, so I do want to thank the leadership.

Had a great meeting today with Senator Stewart-Cousins and Senator Ortt. Appreciate the invitation once again. Thank you for inviting us back into your house, and we will say yes again next year. So thank you very much.

Thank you for your father's service as part of the Greatest Generation.

And Senator Ortt, thank you for your service as a member of the New York National Guard, combat veteran. Thank you, thank you as well.

I'd also like to thank the chair of the Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee, Senator Scarcella-Spanton, and the ranking member as well, Jacob Ashby.

But I will tell you, last year I stood up here and I gave you all an invitation to come up to Fort Drum, an open invitation -- and she did. She said yes. And so she got up to see Fort Drum, got to see our families, got to see our soldiers and veterans. And we put her in a helicopter and gave her the best view of Fort Drum you could possibly see.

So the invitation remains open. You just have to call us and come up and visit us; we'll take great care of you. So thanks for coming up and representing -- seeing our soldiers and our families.

I'd like to personally thank the staff of our local Senator, Mark Walczyk, who's deployed currently to Kuwait and will be back later on this fall. His staff has taken great care of us today to get us to all the places we need to be and has made us really feel at home. So thank you to the team there.

A year ago I got to stand up here and tell you about all the great things that Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division was doing or about to do. If you remember -- you probably remember I was pretty excited, because I

got the greatest job in the Army. But I think I undersold the accomplishments of what our families and soldiers accomplished this past year, so let me recap a few of those things to tell you all about it.

Just last week we officially welcomed back our 2nd Brigade Combat Team that was led by Colonel Scott Wence and Sergeant Major Chris Donaldson. Nine months in Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and Jordan. They led over 2,000 soldiers there, and their mission was to ensure the destruction of ISIS and to build stability in the region. This is a mission that's not new to Fort Drum or to the 10th Mountain Division, as we are the active-duty component assigned against that mission pretty much continuously, with one exception. We were relieved by the 44th IBCT recently, out of New Jersey. So it's safe to say that there are constituents from that brigade all across this part of the country that are in harm's way tonight and doing the nation's business until the 10th Mountain gets back there again this fall.

This is a tough mission over there, but none of us could have predicted the events of

October 7th and the impact it would have on that region. And our soldiers were front and center in the center of all that chaos. They endured over 170 one-way drone attacks, ballistic missile strikes, and rocket attacks the originating from Iranian proxies in the region.

They pioneered the Army's counter-UAS capabilities: How do we shoot down drones? They were the ones experimenting on the frontlines out of necessity for their lives, and now they're teaching it to the rest of the Army and doing it with -- light years ahead of where we thought we'd be in technology advancement in an extremely critical area.

And last spring our division headquarters, led by Major General Anderson, deployed for nine months to Romania as part of the Assure, Deter and Assist mission in Southeast Europe. While there, we reestablished our partnership with our newest NATO allies in the High North, Sweden and Finland. And part of our division headquarters went to Southeast Poland as an element of the Security Assistance Group Ukraine, ensuring the rapid delivery of material aid to Ukraine in helping them win the fight.

We also had the opportunity to reestablish our Alpine roots through partnerships with the National Ski Patrol, which originated here in the State of New York, and the National Outdoor Leadership School, started by a 10th Mountain Division soldier.

And people always tell us up at Fort Drum, like, you're the 10th Mountain Division. Where are the mountains? Well, in conjunction with our partners in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and multiple Adirondack Park organizations, we developed multiple training lanes in the Adirondack Mountains for all soldiers to go and maneuver in that terrain to set them up for the next Climb to Glory.

And interestingly enough, we sent soldiers then around the world, to Slovenia, Norway, Finland, Bulgaria and Italy and Chile, to train with their alpine troops. And while there in Chile, skiing in Portillo, they run into no one else but the U.S. Women's National Team, because that's where they go in July to ski, right alongside our soldiers. And they met Mikaela Shiffrin, who's prepping for the next

Olympics.

So they had some very interesting conversations about the history of the 10th Mountain Division as the Army ski division and how it's translated into the modern ski world and industry, and with these athletes. Very great discussion about the origins of the division, fighting in Northern Italy and liberating the north part of Italy through breaking the Gothic Line and freeing the Apennines.

And if you don't know this, the Winter Olympics in 2026 will be in Milan. And because of that relationship established with the U.S. Ski Team and the Olympic Committee -- I'll give you some inside baseball here -- there's a high probability you're going to see a 10th Mountain patch on the Olympians as they march into Milan 81 years after that patch liberated Northern Italy. It's going to be a pretty amazing moment, so keep your eyes out for that.

Additionally, we had -- back here in the North Country we served alongside our community during an unprecedented water outage in

Watertown, New York. I mean, we had to call Watertown just "Town" for about a couple of days.

(Laughter.)

BRIGADIER GENERAL BRAMAN: But in partnership with the local community, relationships already built and established because that's where we work and live, we were able to provide rapid water services until that could be reestablished. But that's nothing new to the North Country.

We held our annual Mountainfest celebration, which is where we open our doors to Fort Drum and invite the community to see what we do through a series of ceremonies, demonstrations, culminating in fireworks and a concert.

So please, come up and see us at Mountainfest again. This year it's July 17th through the 20th.

Today our 3rd Brigade Combat Team is in Finland, our second-newest NATO partner, participating in Defender '24, which is the largest U.S. Army exercise in Europe. Defender '24 is designed to deter adversaries, transform operational mission command, and build

readiness and strengthen the NATO Alliance.

Defender '24 is the largest exercise since the end of the Cold War, and it's specifically focused this year on the High North and Eastern Flank countries. What was most amazing was our soldiers just last week met their equipment at a port in Narvik, Norway, and then convoyed 900 kilometers across Scandinavia to link up with our Finnish allies on the Russian-Finnish border. And they're there for a reason.

We're weeks away from our Combat Aviation Brigade deploying to Iraq, Syria and Kuwait to support the 44th IBCT. We flew all of our helicopters to the port about a month ago, and soon 1500 aviation soldiers will be the true aviation support for the entire CENTCOM region for the next nine months. And late this fall our 1st Brigade Combat Team will be trained and ready to deploy at the needs of the National Command Authority.

So as we like to say about the most deployed division in the Army since 1985, just another day for the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum.

So what else is the state's largest single employer doing when it's not deploying or redeploying its most valuable assets, our soldiers, and taking care of our families? We'll, we're working with the Army on proposals to reestablish energy independence at Fort Drum as part of the Army's climate strategy.

We have seen our STARBASE STEM program at Fort Drum grow. We brought in this year 68 fifth-grade classes to our academy for a week with us from our 14 surrounding school districts. This year we'll reach nearly 3,000 students that have attended that academy in the last two years.

The Army recently announced a new major restructuring initiative that began this spring which will transform our current division structure of the 10th Mountain Division to adapt to large-scale combat operations from where we've been as a counterinsurgency-centric structure for the past two decades. This will bring new organizations to the North Country, to include the Army's newest Multi-Domain Task Force and Long Range Precision Fires units, who get to maximize the capabilities of our brand-new

railhead that we recently opened and the largest Power Projection airfield in the Northeast to rapidly deploy at the needs of our leadership.

We've begun partnering with our tech corridor along the I-90 corridor to leverage Fort Drum's facilities, its ranges, to be the center of excellence in fighting within and against the electromagnetic spectrum through a series of experiments and exercises run by our Division Artillery Headquarters. But larger than that, we're looking for ways to innovate across all domains, and you have folks in your districts that can help us.

So once again, thank you for allowing us to be here today. Thank you for all you do to make Fort Drum and the North Country a place that soldiers and families want to call home for the long game. And please, please come visit us.

Climb to Glory! Be all you can be.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, May 6, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to

adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, May 5, 2024, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Persaud moves to discharge, from the Committee on Children and Families, Assembly Bill Number 8322A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 7452A, Third Reading Calendar 823.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: 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: Good afternoon, Mr. President.

I move to adopt the

Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 2214, 2257, 2278, 2296 and 2300.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: All those in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 2214, 2257, 2278, 2296 and 2300, please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's begin with the resolution honoring our special guests today, Resolution 2214, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton. Read that resolution's title and recognize Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2214, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 7, 2024, as 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day in the

State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

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

And I want to thank you, Brigadier General Braman, and certainly the 10th Mountain Division for making this day, Fort Drum Day, very, very special.

We look forward to your coming. We look forward to thanking you for your service. And one of the things the Brigadier General said to me is that he was trying to figure out what you say, because we all say "thank you for your service." And then he looked it up and credited someone else who gave the perfect answer. What he says back to us now is "You're worth it."

This is a mutual admiration society. So you're worth our celebrating what you do and how you do it: The partnership that we've had since 1974; the 80,000 troops that you train; the deployment; the support of families; the ability to of course contribute to the economic growth and development of New York. But more than that, inspiring us each and every day because of your

courage and your commitment to be, yes, all that you can be on behalf of all of us.

So we know not only from our own families -- and again, thank you for acknowledging my dad and my brother -- but also right here. Senator Walczyk who I know would be lauding Fort Drum, is also deployed. So we are very, very, very much touched by what you do, and the fact that you call it Albany Day and it's part of your calendar.

I'm also happy that there's so many guests and visitors here today, many of whom will also be lauded. But the fact that you've told the history, you've talked about the things that you continue to do not just here, but across the world, across the globe, gives us all a really good opportunity to know that when we talk about service, we are talking about service in ways that we could never, ever imagine, most of us.

And we thank you, thank you, thank you for, again, continuing to serve, continuing to inspire us.

And I want to thank Senator Scarcella-Spanton for presenting the resolution, for actually visiting Fort Drum,

which we're going to have to do because she did the helicopter ride. I was wondering if we could take small kids, because, you know, I have the grandkids. He says no, they're not going to be able to get on the helicopter.

However, I'm told that their video games are like none other. So there is something for everyone at Fort Drum.

And also I just want to personally say he's on his way back, the brigadier general, to the Pentagon. He was promoted just in January. He'd been acting for about two years or so, and so he was here last year. And so now he's been promoted, and as soon as he's gotten promoted he's going to go back to D.C.

But again, we are encouraged because of you and because of the great men and women that serve in the 10th Mountain Division that whether you're here or whether you're in D.C. or across the globe, we are in very, very good hands.

Thank you again for your service. And yes, you're also worth all of the benefits that we in this Legislature can extend to support you.

So thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Majority Leader.

Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the resolution.

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Leader, for that wonderful introduction for Fort Drum.

Welcome, Fort Drum. Thank you so much. I promised Senator Walczyk that I would try to make this a success, and it really seems like it came together. I know he wishes that he could be here. This day was really important to him as well, because he represents the area. But I feel honorary because I did come to visit, so --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: I wanted to say a special thank you to Brigadier General Braman for showing me just what it means to have a military base like this in New York. I was able to get it from a bird's-eye view up in a helicopter, which was an amazing experience.

But really walking away from that, I could see how integral this is to that community overall, to see how they integrate with the civilian life, with the hospital. What they do for the military spouses on that base, making sure that the small businesses look to hire them. I was just so impressed and blown away.

And I really do encourage all of my colleagues to go visit if you have an opportunity, because it's a wonderful experience. And I think it's important to see that this is happening right here in New York.

And with that, I wanted to also say that today really does hold significant meaning as we commend the remarkable efforts of the men and women stationed at Fort Drum and within the 10th Mountain Division, many of whom are constituents of our own.

As a matter of fact, some of the gentlemen back there just returned from a deployment recently. So give a round of applause for them. They deserve it again.

(Standing ovation.)

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: For many years Fort Drum has been the proud home of

the renowned 10th Mountain Division, a division distinguished as one of the most deployed units in the United States Army.

Braving the harsh climate and terrain of the Adirondacks, truly the best of the best of our armed services have come out of this remote installment.

Today and every day we pay tribute to the 10th Mountain Division for their invaluable contributions to our defense overseas and their unwavering valor, especially in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

Beyond this critical role in national defense, Fort Drum stands as the largest employer in Northern New York, serving as our state's largest single-site employer in the entire state.

The 33,000 soldiers and family members of Fort Drum have become an integral part of Northern New York, enriching our communities as neighbors, coworkers, classmates, friends and fellow New Yorkers. I can say, coming from a military family, I understand the challenges of deployment, and that's why my takeaway to seeing the work you do for those families when their

significant other is deployed is so incredibly important. And it was really refreshing to see the work that you do with that as well.

The supportive community fostered within Northern New York, particularly during these deployments, is what truly sets Fort Drum apart from other installations. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to shine a spotlight not only on the brave soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, but also on every service member family member, and the entire Fort Drum community here in the State Senate today.

Thank you to my esteemed colleagues, and I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Ortt on the resolution.

SENATOR ORTT: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. I want to thank Senator Scarcella-Spanton, the sponsor of this resolution today.

I certainly want to thank Senator Walczyk -- who is not here today, but as has been

mentioned several times, is currently deployed. He is extremely proud, as we all are of our districts. As I know Senator Skoufis is of West Point, Senator Walczyk is equally proud of representing Fort Drum and all that it means, not only to the North Country, not only to New York State, but to the United States of America and, I would argue, the globe. The 10th Mountain Division has probably done more to protect free peoples and protect the interests of the United States than most.

And I certainly want to thank Brigadier General Braman for his leadership, for being here today, for his kind words.

I also want to recognize Sergeant Major Mobar, because of course as we all know, any officer in the United States military knows, when you're on post, when you're in cantonment at the barracks, it is the sergeant major who is -- they are running the show there. And I'm sure Brigadier General Braman would not mind me saying so -- in fact, I'm sure he would agree -- but I want to thank both of them for their leadership and everyone who helped make this day possible and who showed up.

Fort Drum is important. It's important economically to the North Country. The economic impact is -- really, you can't really overstate the economic impact in just dollars alone to the North Country, to New York State. And that's true for a lot of military installations, having been to several. If those installations were gone, the surrounding area would really kind of dry up pretty quickly or be negatively impacted.

A lot of members of the 10th Mountain, when they leave their service, when they separate from service, a lot of them stay in New York and become part of our communities, whether it's in the North Country, whether it's downstate, whether it's in Western New York.

But it's broader than that. The 10th Mountain Division is the most-deployed division since 9/11. When you think of the United States' Global War on Terror, when you think of the two conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, when you think of all of our foreign policy challenges since September 11, 2001, it is the 10th Mountain Division that has been front

and center in all of that.

And it will be the 10th Mountain Division who will be front and center going forward. If you look at the faces here who just came back from deployment, these are young people. I always say the irony of who fights America's wars -- it is not middle-aged folks, it is not older men and women, it is young men and women. Most people that we would call interns or young staffers in this building, those are the people leading platoons. Those are the individuals leading squads under fire in combat with the 10th Mountain on their arm.

And so we should be proud that this division, a storied unit in every major conflict in the United States, they call New York home. They call this state their home. And that is why we are proud to recognize you, your service, your sacrifice. But it's why we are proud to recognize that Fort Drum is a New York installation, and we want to keep it that way for the foreseeable future.

So I certainly want to thank all of you for your service. I want to thank you for being here. Brigadier General Braman I know is

off, as the leader said, to the Pentagon. So a mix of congratulations and condolences, but congratulations on the promotion. That is almost an equally as dangerous deployment, I'm sure he would agree, as somewhere overseas.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ORTT: So be careful, Brigadier General. I'm sure you will. And I'm sure and I know the 10th Mountain and Fort Drum will be in good hands going forward.

And again, we look forward to having you here next year. And I look forward, even though I was there several times, I never got a bird's-eye view. I was usually in the woods or out in the field, and I was miserable and I wanted to go home.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ORTT: But I'm looking forward to going back in a different kind of way, and I would love to get the Senator Scarcella-Spanton tour, as it were, when I return.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ORTT: So thank you again for your service.

Mr. President, thank you for your indulgence.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Ashby on the resolution.

SENATOR ASHBY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank the Majority Leader. I want to thank our chairwoman. Thank you, General. Thank you, Sergeant Major.

And it should come as no surprise that the most storied unit in our nation's history just got back from deployment and is looking to go out again.

And I can tell you that not just on Fort Drum Day, you are remembered here in this chamber. Last year and years prior, we passed the Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez Family Legacy Act, who was a member of the 10th Mountain Division. And I believe that this bill will do more good than many of the things that we come across in this chamber, and it is a bipartisan effort. And it stems from Fort Drum. It stems from the desire to serve and sacrifice, which is what you all represent, for the betterment of our

country and our state.

And even though our Governor decided not to sign it into law, I am calling on her again today to do so on Fort Drum Day. And I'll do it every day. Because it's the right thing to do. It's the right message to send.

And I want to thank you for coming here to remind us what we stand for each and every day, and to continue that fight and taking it overseas.

Thank you to the enlisted for being the backbone of the Army. As a junior officer, I relied on you guys a lot. And myself, I had those same views as our leader did at Fort Drum in the woods. Sometimes lost as a junior officer, I had to lean on my enlisted to find my way.

And hopefully someday I'll get the Senator Scarcella-Spanton tour as well, from the sky.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

To our guests from Fort Drum, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate.

We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house. Please rise and be recognized.

(Extended standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: As we are adopting the resolution, the question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's move on. We have a robust agenda of resolutions and introductions today, so let's move on now to previously adopted Resolution 2026, by Senator Stavisky, read that resolution's title, and recognize Senator Stavisky.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2026, by Senator Stavisky, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 7, 2024, as

Queens Day in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Stavisky on the resolution.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Deputy Majority Leader, from the Queens delegation.

First let me welcome our friends from the Queens Chamber of Commerce, particularly Tom Grech, the executive director; Joanne Persad, the chief operating officer; and Howard Graf, the chair of the Queens Chamber of Commerce Board -- but also the people who came up to Albany today to celebrate the rich cultural heritage that Queens represents.

And I must tell you I am so proud to represent a district in Queens County which covers a good chunk of area from Astoria to the Nassau County line, and then south to Jamaica Avenue, representing so many different communities.

And Queens is a county of neighborhoods. People don't say, Where do you live? Oh, I live in New York City, or I live in Queens. They say: I live in Astoria, I live in

Laurelton, I live in Queens Village. I live in Whitestone. We are neighborhoods with a sense of community, which I think is so unique to our city.

There are a lot of people in Queens County, 2.4 million people. We are the largest borough in the City of New York, approximately 108 square miles. And yet we know each other, we work together with each other. The Queens delegation is united. We're all friends, we look out for one another, and I think Queens benefits as a result.

The other -- a number of other things that I do want to mention. We have an amazing school system where over 130 languages are spoken in our schools. And in fact, of the almost 2.5 million people, most or many were not born in Queens. And I was not born in Queens. I am a resident by choice. I moved to Queens when I got married. But I've been in the Senate, and as I said, I am so proud to represent Queens County.

Queens was settled back in the 17th century, interestingly, by the Lenape Native Americans who came from New Jersey and

Pennsylvania. They were part of the Algonquin Tribe. And they moved into Queens and settled here. Until the Dutch came along, and then the British. And in fact, Queens was named after the queen consort for Charles II back in the 17th century.

Queens is considered the birthplace of religious freedom, for example. The Flushing Remonstrance was issued to establish religious freedom. In fact, Peter Stuyvesant was the person to whom it was addressed. And in Albany, if you go across to the -- I can't remember if it's the library -- the State Library or the State Museum, it exists there. We brought it down a number of years ago on the -- on an anniversary. But it is sitting partially damaged, unfortunately, here in Albany, which I think is significant.

In fact, Queens was a separate town. It was called the Town of Newtown when it was first organized, until 1898, when it became part of the City of New York when all of the five boroughs became part of the city.

And I know there are a lot of people who wish to speak, and we have a lot of

resolutions today. So let me just close by thanking everybody for coming. I know my colleagues are going to talk about the -- I'm sure the sports teams that we're so proud of, but also the restaurants. And tonight at 5 o'clock at the Hart Lounge, the Queens Chamber of Commerce has brought along some samples for you to try. It's Taste Queens -- A Taste of Queens, and we invite everybody to join us.

So, Mr. President, I thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Gianaris on the resolution.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise once again to remind all my colleagues that of the 62 great counties in New York State, Queens is the greatest.

(Laughter; applause.)

SENATOR GIANARIS: We could talk about the food, the entertainers. I'll let Senators Comrie and Sanders talk about the hip-hop artists that stem from Queens. Political figures, except for one guy who we don't talk about on this side of the aisle. We'd like to

disown him, but that's a whole separate conversation.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR GIANARIS: But Queens really does have it all. You see that reflected in our own delegation here in the Senate as well as in the Assembly. All of the world is represented in Queens County. And I don't think there's a place on earth that can say that the way that Queens can. And we have some great leaders from Queens with us today. There's going to be a great sampling of the food I just referenced at the Taste of Queens, if we can make it out of here on time. And I'm sure we will, because we don't want to miss out on the great expression of all that Queens has to offer.

My colleagues are going to talk at length, I'm sure, about the additional greatness that you should all be thankful for. And I'll leave that to them. But for today, as Queens Day here in the State Senate, I thank our friends from back home who have journeyed up to see us today and look forward to catching up with them over at the Egg a little bit later.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Comrie on the resolution.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to speak on the resolution because it's Queens Day. I said it, I'll say it again. It's Queeeens Day.

(Hooting.)

SENATOR COMRIE: You know, I'll second what Senator Gianaris said. Queens is the best borough that's been. I've been proud to have spent my entire life serving the borough, my entire life in public service working on behalf of Queens.

Queens reflects the world. Queens is changing the world. Our borough boasts so many renowned alumni, from Jerry Seinfeld to LL Cool J to Leslie Odom to Richard Rodgers to Idina Menzel, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Tony Bennett, Martin Scorsese, Fran Drescher, Lucy Liu, even Jon Favreau -- and so many more.

Queens has worked with so many people that have transformed music, theater, film, literature, journalism and politics.

Over the past few decades we've been

able to see so many new thriving businesses, including a growing tech hub, including the expansion of the stadiums, the ability to redo and improve La Guardia Airport and now Kennedy Airport, which is so needing of improvement, so that we can deal with all of the folks -- everybody in New York comes through Queens.

You get to experience Queens traffic and congestion, but then you get to experience all of the restaurants and the diversity of Queens. You can actually go on one block in certain areas of Queens and see seven different cultural types of restaurants and have a great experience at each one.

I want to not forget taking time to thank Tom Grech and the Queens Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to them for making sure that we continue to bring Queens to Albany so -- because Queens is coming to Albany not just to show its culture but to boast about its business. Not just to give you an opportunity to have a taste of great restaurants, but to show what we are trying to do economically, what we are trying to do to help young people, what we're trying to do with the innovative and enterprising,

entrepreneuring spirit that we have with all of our businesses in Queens that need help.

I see we have also partners in government that are here today, everyone from Citi Field, folks from Citi Field to folks from Resorts World, folks from the hospitals that are here today to show you what we have done in Queens, how Queens is changing the world, how Queens is becoming a major influence.

And I want to just say that also while we have a diverse community, all Queens residents want the same thing. They want to have a better life, a great community, an opportunity for their children to learn and thrive. Queens people are New Yorkers. Queens people are leading the way as New Yorkers because we are trying to make sure that we are the best borough to ensure that we work on things as a family, we figure out things as a unit, and we do things to make sure that the borough can continue to grow.

I will end by saying that while I love being in Queens and it's been a great opportunity for me and my colleagues, I look forward to spreading the love of Queens throughout the state today by having A Taste of

Queens, and also inviting you to come to Queens so that we can show you what the best borough has.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: It's easy to speak of this one, Mr. President, when you look at some of the great things of Queens.

Before they leave, I encourage you all to look at the greatness of Queens which is rising above us, seems to rise above us at all. Tom Grech, who stands above everyone, seemingly -- but all of the greatness in Queens.

This way when you have trouble -- the world has so much trouble getting along, having difficulty solving things from the Middle East to Europe to wherever. They all need to take a trip to Queens. Perhaps we should insist that the UN return to Queens again, and that way we can solve some of the problems of the world. And that the Queens Chamber of Commerce, of course, can teach us all.

And that's what we're going to learn

tonight in between some of the great food of Queens. I absolutely give a Queens "Yes" to this one.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Addabbo on the resolution.

SENATOR ADDABBO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Stavisky for this resolution, and certainly great work with my Queens colleagues. And I want to welcome all those who are coming from Queens. Again, born and raised in Queens my whole life, I am very proud of the borough.

And I think I said it last year. With two airports in our borough, two major airports, La Guardia and JFK, when you set foot into Queens, you set foot into the world. With half our residents in Queens foreign-born, and over 800 languages spoken in our borough, it truly is reflective of the world.

And I think that diversity is what gets us through -- to Senator Sanders' point, it gets us through a lot of our conflicts, a lot of our troubled times. And I do want to thank those colleagues, but also those here from Queens like

Tom Grech and the Queens Chamber and all those who work with us throughout the year to make sure that our residents in Queens are taken care of.

Some of the sports were mentioned -- Citi Field Mets. Let's go, Mets! Right, Senator Gianaris? But also home to the U.S. Open and the Billie Jean King Tennis Center. Home of the new stadium for the New York City Football Club, the soccer stadium. Still home to Aqueduct, while we still have it for a couple of years. The iconic Aqueduct. And right next to Aqueduct, as chair of the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee I want to thank Resorts World for being such a great neighbor, not only for its economic impact locally and to the state of $4 billion to education every -- to this point 11 years later. But during the pandemic, during Hurricane Sandy, during any real issue that happens in our borough, Resorts World has been there, and I want to say thank you.

But again to the chamber, because we have so many small businesses which are the backbone for our borough, who provide so many great local jobs -- I want to thank the Queens Chamber also for guiding us through the pandemic,

but that these businesses have been through a lot -- Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, pandemics. And yet they are resilient in their efforts to stay open.

And I want to thank those small businesses. I want to again say thanks to the chamber. But to all those who work with us to make Queens a great place to live, work and raise a family, thank you very much.

I'll be voting yes on the resolution. Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Ramos on the resolution.

SENATOR RAMOS: Thank you. Happy Queens Day to everyone.

You know, for my speech I usually ask my constituents what their favorite things about Queens are, and usually they just give me back whatever their favorite restaurant is -- which is very controversial stuff, I've learned.

So this year I asked them what's their favorite block. And people shouted out some beautiful streets in Astoria and Sunnyside and Forest Hills and Jackson Heights and beyond.

But after hearing from so many trolls trashing it over the last few years, it filled my heart to hear some love for Roosevelt Avenue. It's been my favorite for as long as I can remember too. And I want to dedicate this Queens Day to everyone who makes Roosevelt Avenue the vibrant place that it is.

I fell in love with Roosevelt Avenue at an early age. Growing up, my father would take us down to Roosie after church on Sundays to our favorite restaurants and to help different ongoing community organizing efforts. Even back then, Roosevelt Avenue was poorly lit and teemed with immigrant-owned businesses. I remember these immigrants, among them my parents, advocating for resources from their elected officials, and then being largely ignored.

Then when I was 14, I started my first job at a law firm right on Roosevelt Avenue and 83rd Street. I worked there for seven years, and throughout those years I met day laborers who got hurt on construction sites, sex workers that needed to be bailed out of jail and were scared to report their traffickers, and all sorts of immigrants applying to legalize their status in

our country.

Not much has changed. There's just more immigrants now. People on Roosie work like crazy to make their American dreams come true. I call it the New York hustle. Day laborers, street vendors, small business owners, deliveristas and everyone else there are figuring it out while they continue to be ignored by city government, just like my parents and their friends many decades ago.

Consistent city budget cuts have slowed sanitation pickups and DOT seems fine leaving the avenue riddled with potholes. There's human trafficking and the city looks the other way. I've lived off of Roosevelt Avenue in Corona and Jackson Heights for nearly 20 years of my life and counting. I love Roosevelt Avenue, and I'll keep fighting until the city does their job and we win immigration reform.

From the perspective of our work here, I'm proud that we won MTA upgrades to the seven train stations at 82nd Street, 103rd and 111, and I hope next year our one-house budget win for a new 74th Street Station makes it into the new MTA capital plan.

I'm so proud to be a daughter of Queens today and every day. I vote aye.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Persaud on the resolution.

SENATOR PERSAUD: Thank you, Mr. President.

How do I follow that? I'll just be brief. You know, we've heard great things about Queens. I am a representative of Queens, but I have the smallest constituency of the Queens delegation.

And there's this conversation about which is the better borough. I straddle two boroughs. And to me, they're both great boroughs.

SENATOR RAMOS: But one's better.

SENATOR PERSAUD: No, they're no -- one is not better than the other.

(Laughter; catcalls.)

SENATOR PERSAUD: Today we're -- today we're celebrating Queens. Let me tell you, today we're celebrating Queens. But both of my boroughs are great boroughs.

Happy Queens Day to everyone.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Liu on the resolution.

(Laughter; overtalk.)

SENATOR LIU: Mr. President, the food is served at 5:00 p.m. in the Hart Lounge.

I agree with everything that my colleagues have said already, except they forgot one thing, Queens being the birthplace of hip-hop.

(Groans; overtalk.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gonzalez on the resolution.

SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. President.

I think my colleagues have said it best. Queens, as one of the most diverse places in the entire world, language capital of the world, has really made me who I am. As someone who was born and raised in Elmhurst, and has the incredible opportunity of representing Astoria and Long Island City, I do really want to speak to the fact that growing up in Queens is what taught me how to be an organizer. It is an incredibly diverse community of immigrants that

work together to support each other in every possible way, whether it was in a pandemic or just helping each other every single day make our way, navigate really complex systems.

And so it's of course the food, it's of course the people. But it really is the spirit of organizing, for me, that makes Queens so special.

So I want to thank Senator Stavisky for this resolution. I want to thank the Queens Chamber of Commerce for all of the work that they do organizing the small businesses in our -- especially in our neighborhoods. And I want to thank all of my colleagues for the incredible Queens delegation that's been working hard to bring back wins.

So thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR PERSAUD: Oh, no.

SENATOR BAILEY: Roxy, I gave you -- I applauded you on your borough-straddling discussion. And I will honestly state that Queens is an incredible place. The Mets, the

Tennis Center, the people, the food -- so many amazing things about Queens that are indisputable, can't take away.

However, there seems to be a continuous perpetuated incorrect rumor that we need to put to bed today that Queens somehow had a hand in the creation of hip-hop. Now, my colleagues will say Queens made it better. And yes, I will agree that there are so many luminaries -- see, I'm using the Eminem 8 Mile battle technique: I know what you're gonna to say; I'm gonna say it first.

Yeah, there are great MCs in Queens. But on August 11, 1973, at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the Borough of the Bronx, in Senator Serrano's district -- not at whatever location people purport it to be in the great Borough of Queens --

SENATOR RAMOS: Queensbridge.

SENATOR BAILEY: Didn't start in there.

But even though the Bronx did once say "The bridge is over, the bridge is over, biddy-bye-bye, the bridge is over, the bridge is over, hey, hey."

I will say that the relationship between the Borough of Queens and the world is not over. I do salute you all, Queens, my colleagues, I appreciate the work that you do. And most importantly, the people of the great Borough of Queens, I salute you for all that you do and all that you are. You are truly the world's borough, even if you're not the creators of hip-hop.

I vote aye, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Senator Thomas on the resolution.

SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Stavisky, for this resolution. There's been a lot of debate from my colleagues about which is the best borough. You know, whether it is Queens or Brooklyn. But I just want to remind folks that both Queens and Brooklyn are on Long Island. So this is --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR THOMAS: -- this is about Long Island. So happy Long Island Day. All

right?

(Laughter.)

SENATOR THOMAS: And we've got a very diverse population, great food, amazing elected officials. So please join us today for some amazing food from Long Island.

And Happy Queens Day.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution was adopted on March 26th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize Senator Rivera for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Rivera.

SENATOR RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. President.

And no, I'm not going to wade into this, although we all know that hip-hop was created in the Bronx.

I will, however, Mr. President, stand up. We're very lucky in this chamber to, from time to time, welcome national leaders and international leaders. And I'm very glad to welcome Carlos Alvarado Quesada, former

president, the 40th president of the Republic of Costa Rica.

He is -- when he became president back in 2018, Mr. President, he was the youngest -- he was 36 years old, I believe -- 38. Thirty-eight. Still, president of a Latin American country at 38.

He was somebody -- under his leadership, Costa Rica contributed to the global efforts against global climate change, defended human rights, democracy, and multilateralism.

And in the case of President Alvarado Quesada, in 2019 he was not only named to Time's 100 Next Emerging Leaders from around the world who are shaping the future and defining the next generation, he also launched Costa Rica's national decarbonization effort, the first of its kind since the Paris Agreement of 2015. And in 2022 he was named -- received the Planetary Leadership Award by the National Geographic Society.

So I am glad that he is here in Albany. He is talking to some of my colleagues about an important piece of legislation that I will talk to you about individually that could,

from the State of New York, shape what happens around the world. But we wanted to make sure that we welcomed him to the chamber this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Rivera.

Mr. President, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize Senator Krueger for another introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Krueger.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you very much.

I rise to introduce my guests from my district, the Knickerbocker Greys. Why don't you stand up, everyone. Thank you.

The Knickerbocker Greys, founded in 1881, is a not-for-profit charity and the oldest

after-school program for children ages six to 16 in New York City. Cadets are afforded opportunities to develop character, confidence, perseverance, social skills, and problem solving in a fun and unique way unlike any other found in the city and likely the country.

They operate out of a fabulous armory on 67th and Park. They are -- well, I guess the history of the Greys is fascinating, since it's over 136 years old, with over 4500 New Yorkers who have been members of the Greys Cadet Corps. But I just want to mention a few names of previous cadets people probably will know here: Nelson Rockefeller; David Rockefeller; Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.; Pierpont Morgan Hamilton; Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.; John Lindsay; and Lowell Thomas.

Today they drill proudly in the Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue and 66th Street. Boys and girls from a diverse list of independent, magnet, parochial and public schools located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and even Westchester County have participated in the Greys.

I'm delighted they got to be here

today on Fort Drum Day. It seems very appropriate that you young people got to see our actual soldiers and the role that they play in our state and government. And I'm very proud of the work that all of you are doing. And I'm also very proud of David Menegon, who runs the program as a volunteer and has been doing an amazing job with it for years.

And you might hear from me on some of their issues, because for some reason the armory which we in the State of New York rent to an arts group now isn't sure they want to let the Greys stay there, after 136 years. And that is not acceptable.

So I am delighted they came today. I know they got to participate at the Assembly level also. I hope you had a good educational day here in our beautiful Capitol. And thank you for joining us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please continue to rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize Senator May for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator May for an introduction.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I am thrilled to welcome the Moravia Blue Devils, the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams from Moravia, in the Finger Lakes. Both the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Teams finished the year this year with a 23 and 3 record. Both of them went on to win with the Class C State Basketball Championships. In the girls' case, they came from behind and won by one point. In the boys' case they were tied at the half and won by three points.

And with those victories they became the first time two teams from the same high school have held the Class C championship.

I just want to congratulate you.

I'm thrilled that you are able to be here with us. I know that you were in the Assembly before. We at the Senate are very happy to welcome you and congratulate you.

The Moravia Blue Devils are coached by Head Coach Todd Mulvaney and Assistant Coaches Gabe Short, Parker Dickenson, and Cory Langtry.

And I ask my colleagues to welcome them and congratulate them.

Thanks for being here.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator May.

To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Now let's take up Resolution 2257, by Senator Sepúlveda, read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Sepúlveda.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2257, by Senator Sepúlveda, celebrating March 26, 2024, as Bangladesh Day and commemorating the 104th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, and the 53rd anniversary of Bangladesh independence.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Sepúlveda on the resolution.

SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to speak on this resolution, something that I've done here in the Assembly and the Senate for the last 12 years.

And it always makes me proud to bring members from the Bangladeshi community, many of them today are either from Queens or from the greatest county in the world, the Bronx.

I must remind my confused deputy leader that the greatest county has a team called the New York Yankees that has 27 titles, as opposed to two for the New York Mets; has the greatest zoo in the world, the Bronx Zoo; has the greatest botanical garden in the world, the Bronx Botanical Garden. And as my colleague so eloquently put it, the real place, the real birth of hip-hop.

But today we're here to celebrate a resolution of profound significance which celebrates March 26th as Bangladesh Day in our state.

We're joined by Consul General Najmul Huda; Deputy Consul General Nazmul Hasan; one of the true great leaders of the Bangladeshi community, Abdus Shahid; Jamal Hussain; Abdur Rahim Badsha; Mohiuddin Dewan; Nurul Islam; Reza Abdullah; Maksuda Hamin -- I'm sorry, Maksuda Ahmed; Rukan Ahmed; and Sakhawat Ali.

This resolution is not just a mark on the calendar but a profound recognition of the courage and determination that defines the spirit of the Bangladeshi people. Fifty-three years ago Bangladesh declared its independence, embarking on a harrowing journey for freedom. This was a fight not just for territory but for the fundamental rights to equality, justice and self-determination.

We also commemorate the 104th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the revered father, founding father of Bangladesh, whose vision for his people ignited the flames of independence. His iconic words,

"Our struggle is for our freedom. Our struggle is for our independence," resonated across the villages, towns and hearts of millions in Bangladesh.

This resolution also honors the thousands who sacrificed their lives during the nine-month-long liberation war. This is a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience of the Bangladeshi people. It was their sacrifice that allowed the dawn of freedom to break on December 16, 1971, when a new nation, Bangladesh, was born.

Furthermore, this resolution recognizes the vibrant community here in New York whose contributions enrich our culture, strengthen our economy, and enhance our communities. From the bustling streets of Jackson Heights to the vibrant gatherings in Parkchester, the echoes of Bangladesh's rich heritage and the contribution of its people are evident throughout this state.

In celebrating Bangladesh Day we not only recall the historic struggles and triumphs of the Bangladeshi people, but also underscore the values of diversity, perseverance and unity

that are so crucial to the fabric of New York State. Let us pass this resolution with a unanimous voice, affirming our solidarity with the Bangladesh community, recognizing their struggles and contributions and celebrating the indomitable spirit of the freedom that guides us all.

And to all my friends that are here, I say (in Bangla).

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Fernandez on the resolution.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: (In Bangla), Mr. President.

I wanted to stand and speak on this great resolution. While a little late, it's never a bad day to celebrate our beautiful cultures and history, not just in the world but again right here in New York State.

I now represent, proudly, Parkchester, home of Bangla Bazaar, on Starling Avenue. And I want to welcome our guests here today, not just my constituents and from even Albany, but our Consul General, who has shared amazing progress of what Bangladesh has

become, is now, and the contributions to this great state and city in all of our neighborhoods.

So I just wanted to express my gratitude to their contributions, not just in Parkchester but, as we mentioned, Jackson Heights in Queens and probably every part of this state.

But the resolution, as Senator Sepúlveda said, is important for highlighting, again, the beautiful fabric that the city, the state and the country is made up of, and the Bangladesh community is a bright, beautiful piece on that fabric.

So thank you so much for being here. I proudly vote aye. And Happy Independence Day from March.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Thomas on the resolution.

SENATOR THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you to Senator Sepúlveda for introducing this resolution.

As the first South Asian to be elected to this chamber, I stand here with Senator Cooney to welcome the Bangladeshi community to Albany. I know --

(Applause from the gallery.)

SENATOR THOMAS: I know the sacrifices that all of you have made to be here in this country. You know, the immigrant dream, the dream that we work hard and we persevere and we make New York great.

You know, it's been decades since the first South Asian stepped foot here after the immigration laws were changed. And when we came to this country at that time, we were trying to survive. We were trying to make things better for our families back home. And now we are here, we are entrepreneurs, we are, you know, major professionals. We have so many links to the community. And all of you make New York great.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause from gallery.)

SENATOR THOMAS: And thank you to my colleagues here for representing this amazing community.

Thank you, and God bless.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Thomas.

Senator Ramos on the resolution.

SENATOR RAMOS: Thank you.

I rise as the proud State Senator representing the eastern side of Bangladesh Street in Jackson Heights. I used to have more of a corner of that part of Jackson Heights, but I now have Senator Gianaris having the western side of Bangladesh Street in Jackson Heights.

But it's very clear that the community's imprint extends well beyond Queens and well beyond New York City. And we couldn't be prouder to have Bangladeshi students go to school with the rest of our children, for us to be able to share in the vibrancy of such an incredible neighborhood.

And I'm only looking forward to what the future may hold for the amazing Bangladeshi community here in New York City and beyond.

Korbo Lorbo Jeetbo.

(Applause from gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Ramos.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, I used to have a sizable Bangla-speaking community in the previous

iteration of my district, the Norwood section, 204th Street. But since redistricting, they have taken me from my brothers and sisters in the Bangla-speaking community, but you will never take me away from you.

Because when I ran for office, the very first interview that I did, it wasn't on a major network, it wasn't on public access, it wasn't even on News 12. It was on Time TV, a Bangla television station. That was my very first interview when I was running for office. I have never forgotten that, I have never forgotten how you have embraced me. I have never forgotten that you are, as Senator Thomas and everybody has said, industrious, hardworking individuals who truly make our borough, our city and our state -- because it's not just the Bronx. But in the Bronx, there is a certain liveliness that you provide to our community that it would not be the same without you.

I am grateful for all of the work that you do, for all of the innovation and the friendships and the food and all of the excellence that you bring to our community.

Thank you, Senator Sepúlveda, for

introducing the resolution. Dhonnobad.

(Applause from gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Senator Liu on the resolution.

SENATOR LIU: Mr. President, I agree with everything everyone has said already.

On Bangladeshi Day, I want to welcome the Consul General, Ambassador Huda, our old friend. I can say old because he is old, like I am now.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR LIU: Abdus Shahid.

And all of the community members.

Thank you for everything you do for New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Liu.

(Applause from gallery.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The question is on the resolution.

All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize Senator Webb for an introduction.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to lift up this resolution, which is recognizing the contributions of landscape architects to the well-being and prosperity of New York State.

The American Society of Landscape Architects, founded on January 4, 1899, has reached the remarkable milestone of its 125th anniversary. And this is a chance for all of us to reflect upon the significant contributions of this incredible profession.

Landscape architects shape our

communities. They transform the built environment to create accessible public spaces for humans to live. Their work improves public health, increases our safety, and enhances the beauty of our surroundings and our neighborhoods.

Because of the work of landscape architects, our communities are more accessible, walkable, and bike friendly, just to name a few. And with their thoughtful stewardship, landscape architects have helped our communities adapt to the changing climate, ensuring that our neighborhoods incorporate innovative, resilient and sustainable design practices.

For all of these reasons and more, I vote aye on this resolution to commemorate and recognize the 125th anniversary of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the enduring contributions of this profession to the well-being of our state.

Additionally, Mr. President, I also rise on the occasion of this resolution to welcome our distinguished guests from the American Society of Landscape Architects, representing landscape design firms from across our great state. And they are here with us here

in the chamber.

I also want to lift up in this moment, if I wouldn't be remiss, folks here from my district, Senate District 52: Scott Whitham, who is the principal at Whitham Planning Design Landscape Architecture out of Ithaca, New York; and Michael Haas, who is the director of landscape architecture at Delta Engineers, Architects & Surveyors out of Endwell, New York -- and all of our distinguished guests here.

And with that, Mr. President, I ask that you welcome our distinguished guests to our chamber. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Webb.

To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize Senator Ramos for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Ramos for an in -- troduction.

SENATOR RAMOS: I am here, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Ramos.

SENATOR RAMOS: Hi, Mr. President. Thank you.

I'd like to welcome my friends and constituents from the Lexington School for the Deaf. It's a New York institution dating back to 1864, when it started as lessons with a private tutor in a living room in downtown Manhattan.

By 1968, their student body grew so much that they needed a permanent home. They moved to East Elmhurst and have been an active part of our community ever since.

And now it's become the largest school for deaf children in the entire State of New York. In addition to providing classes for students from preschool through high school, they offer support classes for parents of deaf children, foreign language transition classes, special needs classes, and a dormitory for students requiring additional academic support.

Queens is very proud to have them as a neighbor. And I am prouder still to say that for the first time we allocated the Lexington School their own line item of $903,000 in addition to the 4201 School funding in the final enacted budget.

I care about this institution not only because they are a valued member of my community, but because the support they provide is quite personal. My mother is partially deaf, and the support that the Lexington School provides to families like mine is invaluable.

I'm looking forward to tonight's basketball game, where I know that my neighbors are going to make everyone who's #SeenIn13 proud.

Go, Blue Jays!

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house. Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation, signed applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Next up, Mr. President, is Resolution 2296, by

Senator Cleare. Please read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Cleare.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2296, by Senator Cleare, honoring longtime educational professional Delores Roberts for a lifetime of service upon the occasion of her retirement.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Cleare on the resolution.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to speak on Senate Resolution 2296, which recognizes one of the true unsung sheroes of Senate District 30 and New York City -- a woman so inspired by the education she received as a youth at Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing and Visual Arts that she has devoted her entire adult life to giving back to the school and community in innumerable ways.

Delores Roberts adopted "The Wadleigh Way" as her motto, and she would spend her entire three decades as a teacher, mentor and special education professional at Wadleigh. The mission and goal for Delores was simple --

provide and support her students in all ways possible, allowing them to succeed and grow academically and emotionally.

During her three decades of excellence, Delores was able to create and develop many schoolwide initiatives, programs and events aimed at developing successful global productive citizens, including the Swap Students Court, which was a peer-to-peer system to address low-level infractions where students themselves served as judges, lawyers and jurors. The program was successful and helped students resolve individual conflicts and disputes with one another, while gaining firsthand knowledge of how the legal system works.

She also created the Harlem LIFT Wheel of Enhancement: Leadership, Innovation, fundamentals, Teamwork, to guide the interconnected and overall work of the school and of life after school.

Delores was known to be so dedicated to her students she would do whatever was necessary to see them complete their education, no matter if they were becoming new mothers or even in pretrial detention under the presumption

of innocence.

Under the leadership of Delores Roberts, Wadleigh students had the opportunity to participate in college tours, the CFES, College For Every Student program, foreign exchange programs to Amsterdam and parts of Europe, Big Brother/Sister Internship programs, and a variety of extracurricular activity, including the local precinct Youth Council and the FBI Unique Squad.

Wadleigh has been targeted for closure no less than four times in the past few decades, and each time Delores Roberts has rallied the entire community around the school and helped save it.

There are literally tens of thousands of individuals from multiple generations who have Delores Roberts to thank for believing in them and helping them succeed in life.

There's a story of Delores Roberts that always sticks with me before it was ever popular. A student had gotten in trouble. She had had a fight. She was arrested and taken to Rikers Island. She stayed there for the next two and a half months until her trial came up.

She was a very bright young lady. Delores Roberts believed in her so much that she wrote the commissioner and asked that she could come and send her work to her every day. And she actually went to Rikers Island and got permission to have her sit for her final exams.

That young lady came back to school the day before graduation, and she walked. And today she is now a business owner, a wife, a mother of two, and living productively out her life.

This is the type of dedication that goes above and beyond. We thank you, Delores, on today, which just happens to be National Teacher Appreciation Day, in the heart of National Teacher Appreciation Week. And we want you to know exactly how we feel.

Joined in the gallery with her today are her special guests: Her son, Troy Roberts; Sam Douglass; Dr. Tawanna Gilford, a former student and today a licensed psychologist; Ruth McDaniels; and Linda Richardson.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Cleare.

Senator Mayer on the resolution.

SENATOR MAYER: First I want to thank Senator Cleare for using this wonderful opportunity to celebrate Delores Roberts on National Teacher Appreciation Day.

And the story that Senator Cleare told, the extraordinary story of a teacher being so devoted to a student, even in the toughest of times, to help that student make it through, is a story that I hear from teachers and students and families across the state.

We have long not given teachers the credit that they deserve for pouring their hearts and souls into the students that they have, even students with challenges, students with their ups and downs, students who face life's own vicissitudes.

So it was so very touching to have Senator Cleare talk about Delores Roberts and her impact on her school, on her students, on her community, and a fitting tribute to this particular day where we celebrate teachers and honor them and remember that I suspect each one of us has a teacher that we believe changed their lives. Today we honor them, as we honor

Ms. Roberts.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Mayer.

To Ms. Roberts and her guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Next up is Resolution 2278, by Senator Rivera. Read its title and recognize Senator Gustavo Rivera.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2278, by Senator Rivera, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2024 as STOP THE BLEED Month in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Rivera on the resolution.

SENATOR RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. President.

So obviously we've had a lot of recognitions on the floor today. This one's an important one. We have joining us -- and I'll introduce a host of them in a little bit -- a bunch of medical professionals here.

The resolution is to memorialize STOP THE BLEED Month. Now, what this refers to, Mr. President, is the training that happens across the country to train all sorts of different folks -- certainly medical professionals, but others as well -- to be able to stop any type of serious bleeding quickly.

And the goal here is to bring attention to this issue, because if people can get trained in this, that means that lives can be saved. If there is someone who is bleeding profusely, there are various ways in which one

can stop that bleeding, get that person to be able to be treated by, if it's an emergency, an EMT or taken to the hospital.

But the point is that this training is incredibly valuable, saves lives every single day. And so the resolution is to recognize this month as STOP THE BLEED Month.

But to do that, we are joined by a host of folks who I'll be introducing, and I'll ask them to stand as I do. We are joined by many folks from the American College of Surgeons, start with Babette Atkins, its executive director; Jacob Moalem, the president of the New York Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, from the University of Rochester, which I believe that you are familiar with; Patrick Timmins, from St. Peter's Hospital right here in Albany; Shani Fruchter -- and I should say, I'm sorry, Dr. Jacob Moalem, Dr. Patrick Timmins; Dr. Shani Fruchter from Westchester -- she is a Westchester trauma surgeon; Dr. Arthur Jenkins, also from Westchester; Dr. Arthur Cooper, pediatric surgeon from Columbia; Cory Bloom; Dr. Mark Reiner; Dr. Anthony Vine; Catherine Hendricks, all from the

American College of Surgeons. And lastly, Dr. Omer Hassan, resident in training at SUNY Downstate.

All these folks who are here to talk about this issue, but who do work every day to make people healthy across the State of New York and to save lives across the State of New York.

So I thank them for coming and being up here with us, and I'd ask that you give them all the privileges of the house.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Rivera.

To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

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

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Next up is previously adopted Resolution 1605, by Senator Gallivan. Please read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Gallivan.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1605, by Senator Gallivan, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 5-11, 2024, as Correctional Officers and Employees Week in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gallivan on the resolution.

SENATOR GALLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

As I was sitting here listening to my colleagues talk about the various boroughs and counties in Long Island --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR GALLIVAN: -- I want everyone to know there is another part of the state from way out west. And even though Senator

Kennedy is not here, Western New York is doing very well --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR GALLIVAN: -- and is a good place. Which is not why I rise.

I rise today first to welcome representatives of NYSCOPBA to my right, AFSCME Council 82 to my left, the respective collective bargaining organizations representing correctional officers, supervisors from across New York State. I want to thank them first for being here, representing the over 16,000 correctional officers and supervisors that work in the various prisons across New York State.

And many of you know, I think, my background is in law enforcement as a state trooper, former sheriff of Erie County, and member of the Board of Parole. And my experiences in my professional life have really led to the point that gives me tremendous respect for all of the components that make up our criminal justice system.

Over the years I've visited many correctional facilities, many prisons throughout the state. I've met and spoke with hundreds if

not thousands of correction officers and employees. I believe that those who work in our jails and prisons have one of the most difficult and challenging jobs in all of law enforcement. Their work is demanding, it is difficult and very often dangerous. It's a job that quite frankly most of us would not do and we don't often think about -- but it's critical to protecting our communities and all of the residents of New York State.

These dedicated officers and employees are responsible for the care, custody and security of the over 30,000 individuals incarcerated across New York State. Many of these hardworking men and women also work to help the incarcerated individuals restore their lives and to become productive members of society. Many are involved, when off duty, in volunteering and working with other like-minded citizens to make their communities better for all of us.

Thank you to all of the correction officers, all of the supervisors, all correction employees and all correction families, for all that you do. You should know you have my tremendous respect and gratitude.

And I think it is most appropriate that all of us in this body recognize these public servants. And I'm very proud to call upon the Governor to proclaim this week as Correctional Officers and Employees Week in the State of New York.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Gallivan.

To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution was adopted on January 17th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's take up Resolution 1799, by Senator Helming, read its title, and recognize Senator Helming, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1799, by Senator Helming, honoring Mary E. Ferris upon the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of

distinguished service to Wood Library in Canandaigua, New York, on March 1, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Helming on the resolution.

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you, Mr. President.

We've had a lot of resolutions this afternoon. And while Queens may have the greatest food and Brooklyn may or may not be the birthplace of hip-hop, I'm so proud to share with this chamber that in Ontario County we have one of the greatest librarians in New York State. And it's my honor to welcome her to the chamber: Mary Ferris.

Mary was the first ever children's librarian at Wood Library in Canandaigua. She recently retired after 50 incredible years of service. Mary's work has touched generations of families, including my own.

When I was a young mother, I was just as excited as my two children to attend Mary's Story Time programs. She really is so incredibly innovative and just so engaging with the children. But what was always so important to me was how she also inspired the adults in

these children's classes to really learn how to bring stories to life, to engage the listeners, and to create readers for a lifetime.

I remember so often to get excited about continuing their summer reading, Mary would design and wear these really, really creative costumes. They were unforgettable. Everyone in the community looked forward to seeing what she was going to reveal. I remember Mary being dressed as a globe, a LEGO brick, a mad scientist, a superhero, a pirate, a detective, and even one year the Cran.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR HELMING: Mary really -- she has done so much for our community. She brought reading beyond the walls of the library, establishing a Story Walk at a local park, and the Adventure Backpack program for children to learn about and explore the great outdoors.

She cheered for kids every year at the start of the school year. She would be there to cheer on those kindergarten bus-run kids and read stories at summer camp. She's the founding member and longtime chair of the Community Reading Partnership that offers literacy programs

and promotes reading in the home and in the community.

Mrs. Ferris also served our state as a 50-year member of the New York Library Association, where she held numerous positions, including that of president. Over her career Mrs. Ferris has earned many well-deserved awards, including the Pied Piper Award from the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association, the Business Ethics Award from the Canandaigua Rotary, the Woman of Distinction Youth Services Award from the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce, and the Business and Professional Women's Club.

And because Mary Ferris is so amazing and so incredible and has such a remarkable impact on the people of our community, I honored her twice. At her retirement celebration in March, I had the distinct privilege of presenting Mary Ferris with the New York State Senate Commendation Award. If you think about it, over a half a century -- just imagine the thousands and thousands of lives that Mrs. Ferris has touched, whether with a good book, a kind word or a gentle hug, and of course

that magical flannel board.

Mrs. Ferris is here today with her husband, Kim, and several of her colleagues and friends from Wood Library: Executive director of the library, Jenny Goodemote; Executive Assistant Cyndi Fordham; Adult Services Librarian Alexis Lawrence; Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Toomey; Circulation Supervisor Carrie Magnan.

Mr. President, it's my honor to bring forward this resolution and to recognize Mary Ferris on her truly storied career.

Congratulations, Mary.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Helming.

To Mrs. Ferris and her guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution was adopted on February 13th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Okay. Last but certainly not least, previously adopted

Resolution 2195, by Senator Persaud. Please read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Persaud.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2195, by Senator Persaud, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2024 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Persaud on the resolution.

SENATOR PERSAUD: Thank you, Mr. President.

ALS -- everyone has probably heard of ALS, or the Lou Gehrig's disease. It's something that -- it's a horrible, horrible, horrible disease. I had a friend who passed from it. And you see someone who is afflicted with ALS, going through, they're there, they can -- they're functioning in every way other than the body is paralyzed. Their mind is sound, and they are going through all of this torture knowing that there is no hope, there is no help, and they are dying.

Just think of that. You're laying there as strong as you know, but you know also that you are on your deathbed. That's ALS.

It is predicted that approximately 70 percent of the world's population at some point in the next 20 years is going to suffer from ALS {sic}. It is not a disease that should be taken lightly.

Many of you in here may have heard of the Ice Bucket Challenge that mimics what the body goes through when someone has ALS. I did the Ice Bucket Challenge. The Ice Bucket Challenge has been around since 1991. And it shocks the system, and your body is paralyzed for a few seconds. It's like your heart stops and you have no control.

That's what someone with ALS goes through. If you know anyone who's suffering from ALS, spend as much time as possible with that person. Because they are there. Their mind is sound, and they know. They can do nothing for themselves because they are dying.

The average lifespan of someone who's afflicted with ALS is between one to four years. Women, for some reason, are now

being affected by ALS more. ALS paralyzes the body incrementally. It is not something that anyone should go through.

There is no cure. There is no cure. Someone with a diagnosis of ALS knows that they have just been given their death sentence. There are some people, though, who have lived with it for approximately 10 years, even though the general life expectancy is one to four years.

Think of that. You walk and you just feel tremors in your body, you just feel like a slight paralysis in the arm or in the leg. You know, you have tingling and stuff. And you go to the doctor, and they come back with this diagnosis. And all you can walk out of the doctor's office with is like, I am going to be dead in a very short time. That's ALS. That's the reality that families are living with if their loved one is afflicted with ALS.

So I thank all of you for supporting this resolution acknowledging ALS and making sure that we continue to fight to find a cure. Because as I said, there is no cure. It's a death sentence.

And if anyone wants to try it just

to feel what that person goes through, have one of your friends dump a bucket of ice -- cold, cold, ice water on your head. And you will feel what it felt like. That challenge by the young man who started it raised, you know, over $100 million for the cause. But we need to continue to keep it in the forefront.

He passed away, and I don't think anybody's continuing that challenge. They're not. Because it was really exciting for people at the time to participate in that challenge. But now no one is thinking about it. Everyone says oh, yeah, Lou Gehrig's disease, yeah, Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS, yeah. But do you really know what it's about?

So again, I want to thank the ALS Association for bringing this resolution to me and asking me to carry it. And I want us all to fight for those afflicted with ALS. Keep the conversation alive. Let us fund research on every level so that families will not go through what families are going through right now when their family member is diagnosed with ALS.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank

you, Senator Persaud.

Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick on the resolution.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I want to thank my colleague Senator Persaud for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I know this disease all too well. My brother-in-law, Glenn Fitzpatrick, was the general manager of Esquire magazine -- a brilliant, amazing, accomplished professional who died at the age of 47 years old.

So in his memory, I just wanted to mention him because this keeps his memory alive, to know that we acknowledge his loss and how research is needed to prevent this from continuing.

Thank you so much.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

The resolution was adopted on April 9th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President,

all of the sponsors of the various resolutions we took up today would like to open them for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolutions are open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's take up the calendar, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 139, Senate Print 3320, by Senator Sepúlveda, an act to amend the Real Property Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

Oh, Senator Sepúlveda.

SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: On the bill?

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: On the bill.

SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: Thank you for allowing me to speak on the bill.

So this bill we've been trying to pass for a few years now because it's a vital necessity for individuals that live in condominiums.

One of the main issues that is brought to my attention is a lack of transparency with both for-profit and not-for-profit condominiums. People don't have access to the business records, financial records of these condominiums, and sometimes -- or many times the boards make it impossible for people to see the information.

They lack prominent notice about board meetings, and so decisions are made without proper notice to the individual owners.

This bill is going to put a limit on the expenses of condo boards. They can set their

expenses for five years, and if they want to extend that, they have to have specific meetings or go to the Attorney General's office.

This bill will allow any condominium owner to go and inspect all of the records, including bank records, bids for projects, bids for goods, review them all in a very easy manner so that transparency is elevated and people know what is happening with the boards and the financial health of their condominiums.

We want to make sure that everyone gets accurate, up-to-date information. We want to make sure that we increase transparency so that individuals that own condominiums are in a position to make good decisions and also challenge bad decisions. And the bill will allow the Attorney General to execute some of these powers that we're going to give to them according to the bill.

Thank you. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Sepúlveda to be recorded in the affirmative.

The bill has passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Calendar Number 220, Senate Print 4305, by Senator Parker,

an act to amend the Public Service Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 220, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 41. Nays, 19.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 241, Senate Print 5642, by Senator Mannion, an act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 279, Senate Print 1937, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 336, Senate Print 724A, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 336, voting in the negative are Senators Oberacker and Ortt.

Ayes, 58. Nays, 2.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 338, Senate Print Number 1538A, by Senator Hoylman-Sigal, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

act shall take effect on the 180th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 338, voting in the negative:

Senator Oberacker.

Ayes, 59. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 460, Senate Print 5424A, by Senator Martinez, an act to amend the Navigation Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce

the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 537, Senate Print 3328A, by Senator Fernandez, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Lay it aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 625, Senate Print 617, by Senator Myrie, an act to amend the Election Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 625, those Senators voting in the

negative are Senators Borrello, Murray, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 56. Nays, 4.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 680, Senate Print 4621, by Senator Sepúlveda, an act to amend the Correction Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Salazar to explain her vote.

SENATOR SALAZAR: Thank you, Mr. President.

There is abundant research showing that the effects of solitary confinement on mental health are often fatal, both during and after a person's incarceration. Half of all suicides in prisons and jails unfortunately occur

in solitary confinement. Peer-reviewed studies have shown us that the long-lasting health impacts include, for individuals with mental health conditions, that any amount of time spent in solitary confinement increases their risk of death by suicide or overdose within the first year after release from incarceration.

And despite this reality, individuals with mental health diagnoses are still overrepresented in solitary special housing units.

This undermines the spirit of the HALT Solitary Confinement Law, and it threatens, of course, the health of those individuals. This is because DOCCS, in their wisdom, decided to narrowly define what constitutes mental illness to exclude many people from the definition of special populations and avoid giving those individuals access to programs that would improve their mental health and edify them in other ways.

I want to thank Senator Sepúlveda for introducing this bill and continuing to seek to correct this problem. Doing so could save lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Salazar to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 680, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco and Weber.

Ayes, 50. Nays, 10.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 726, Senate Print 2994B, by Senator Harckham, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 726, those Senators voting in the

negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Oberacker, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 46. Nays, 14.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 764, Senate Print 4459, by Senator Ashby, an act to amend the State Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 767, Senate Print 7481, by Senator Cooney, an act to amend the Cannabis Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the

last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 767, voting in the negative are Senators Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Martinez.

Ayes, 58. Nays, 2.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 773, Senate Print 1836, by Senator Griffo, an act to amend the Highway Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect on the 120th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 805, Senate Print Number 7571, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton, an act in relation to authorizing the Silver Lake Foundation Inc. to receive retroactive real property tax-exempt status.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

807, Senate Print Number 8630, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, an act to amend Chapter 334 of the Laws of 2012.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: There is a home-rule message at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 823, Assembly Bill Number 8322A, by Assemblymember Hevesi, an act to amend the Social Services Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the

roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 832, Senate Print 3591A, by Senator Breslin, an act to amend the Public Health Law and the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

There is a substitution at the desk.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Hoylman-Sigal moves to discharge, from the Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 4871B and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 1535B, Third Reading Calendar 850.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The substitution is so ordered.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 850, Assembly Bill Number 4871B, by Assemblymember Kelles, an act to amend the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the first of April.

SENATOR O'MARA: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 850, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Lanza, Oberacker, Ortt, Stec, Tedisco and Weik.

Ayes, 51. Nays, 9.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 851, Senate Print 2129B, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Lay it aside.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of the calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's move on to the controversial calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 537, Senate Print 3328A, by Senator Fernandez, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Stec, why do you rise?

SENATOR STEC: If the sponsor would yield for a few questions, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Sure.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: All right, thank you very much.

Good afternoon. We voted on this bill last year. It was vetoed by the Governor. And in her veto message she said: "Requiring DEC to promulgate air-quality standards and develop regulations for monitoring plans for fenceline systems that are already overseen by DEC under existing regulatory authority is duplicative, unnecessary, and could divert state resources from implementing other crucial programs to protect New Yorkers."

Has this version of the bill changed in any way from the bill that was vetoed?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: No, it has not.

SENATOR STEC: No, it has not?

Okay. All right. If the sponsor would continue to yield, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: What is the need for this bill as emissions of air contaminants from major stationary sources are already covered by the federal Clean Air Act and Article 19 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law and regulations promulgated thereunder? DEC already administers these aforesaid laws via major source air permits and monitoring programs.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Well, this bill would take the guidelines that exist and make them rules that need to be followed. It is just a recommendation that the monitoring of the fenceline or communities where we walk, breathe, live are meeting -- or not meeting -- actually, no, they're meeting safe levels of pollutants. Right now the Clean Air Act only cares about the level of pollutants coming from the top of the smokestack, but we need to think about us on the ground and how that smoke and those pollutants are hitting us.

So this would require that the guidelines be acted upon, administered, and that we focus on what is the contamination on the ground.

SENATOR STEC: Will the sponsor

continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: Thank you.

How would the limits of reporting be determined? Would DEC conduct air sampling around major sources to determine threshold levels of reportable analytes and then set a standard or establish threshold limits after monitors are installed?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Can you repeat that?

SENATOR STEC: How would the limits of reporting be determined? Is DEC going to conduct air sampling around major sources and then set a standard to establish these threshold limits after the monitors are installed?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: DEC has the discretion to evaluate and to decide how best to assess the area.

SENATOR STEC: Will the sponsor continue to yield?

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: (Sotto voce.) I don't want to.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: (Chuckling.) The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: How will DEC assure consistent and standardized monitors are reporting accurately so that emissions from major sources across the state are comparable?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: You asked how they were reporting accurately?

SENATOR STEC: So that emissions from major sources all around the state will be comparable to one another.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Well, constantly checking and doing this bill would allow us to see what is the contaminants and decide where they're coming from.

We can't control the wind or the rain and how it pushes anything from anywhere, but this would help us figure out what is here and where it's coming from.

SENATOR STEC: Will the sponsor continue to yield for a few more questions.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: Thank you.

Will DEC set a level of ambient air quality standards above which a fenceline-monitored deviation will be penalized? And if so, what will these penalties entail?

(Pause.)

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: DEC has the authorization to assess and figure out what are the proper penalties, as they are doing now with other violations.

SENATOR STEC: Will the sponsor continue to yield?

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: I want to circle back to the first couple of questions that I asked, because I think I need a little more

clarification.

You mentioned that there are guidelines that are already established and that this new law would just formalize those guidelines that DEC already has or follows. Is that -- am I understanding you correctly?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

SENATOR STEC: Okay, if the sponsor would continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: So in that case like can you tell me what the frequency of calibration of these fenceline instruments is going to be? I mean, if they're already in guidelines. Or what the threshold limits are going to be, since they're already in guidelines?

(Pause.)

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: So for different pollutants and their effects, different practices may be done. But it's really important to know that the EPA is currently moving in this

direction with having more frequent monitoring and thus understanding the effects of the pollutants.

SENATOR STEC: If the sponsor would continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Sure.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: I'm sorry, I'm not sure I heard the answer to my question.

You said that these guidelines are already in place. So my questions are, then what is the frequency of calibration? You know, another question might be the number of monitors, the placement, the spacing along the fenceline.

I mean, if these guidelines already exist, can you tell me what they are? That we're just merely formalizing into law.

(Pause.)

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: So your question is looking for a case-by-case determination, and they're not currently in the guidelines.

But if we codify these guidelines and make them rules then, again, we are able to assess what needs to be done in what areas. More information is never a bad thing. Collecting data is always helpful. And this bill would allow us to frequently collect data to then make sure we know how to assess the various areas and where to put the monitors at the fencelines.

SENATOR STEC: Would the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: All right, thank you.

Again, I apologize, I'm still not hearing an answer. You said the guidelines exist. And then you just said we're going to codify these guidelines so that we can later come up with the spacing and frequency and calibration and threshold limits for various contaminants.

I mean, is this in the bill or is it in existing guidelines that we're just codifying?

Has DEC done this already?

Or another way -- let me ask the question another way, Mr. President.

Why should we proceed with this bill in advance of getting DEC's recommendations for the answers to my questions -- how often they should be calibrated, what the spacing should be, what these threshold limits should be. It sounds like this bill is ahead of DEC, the cart is in front of the horse.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: I disagree. And -- I mean, the fact that this is being challenged, that we don't want to know what the pollutants are doing to our communities, to ourselves, is in and of itself troubling to me.

But the guidelines that exist that are at times being followed are able to find, again, the source, the amount, the -- what's the other word I'm looking for -- the severity of the pollutants in various areas to figure out where more monitors need to go.

And I think that you would agree you want clean air. You represent upstate, with some of the cleanest air in this country. And that's something that we're trying to help every part of

the state achieve, by having these guidelines set into rules so we can properly assess what the pollutants are that this state unfortunately is feeding into our communities.

SENATOR STEC: If the sponsor would continue to yield for another question.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

The sponsor yields.

SENATOR STEC: So I'll go back to my first question.

This bill is in fact identical to the bill that Governor Hochul vetoed last year. And she -- in her words, because it would require DEC to promulgate these air quality standards. And she feels that these fenceline systems are already overseen by DEC -- the monitoring plans are overseen by DEC under existing regulatory authority and are duplicative, unnecessary and could divert state resources from implementing other crucial programs to protect New Yorkers.

In other words, the Governor is saying this is wasteful and unnecessary. And yet this bill hasn't changed from last year. Do you have any reason to believe why this time the

Governor is going to not veto it?

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: From last year to now, as I mentioned, the EPA is taking these steps.

So as we continue to bang the drum about what we need to do to help make our air cleaner, make our water cleaner, our federal partners are doing that. So trends are changing. And this bill deserves another chance to pass on this floor and in the Assembly and let the Governor look at it one more time.

But the fact is that we need to be stronger on our climate resiliency and taking these measures to make sure that our communities, especially some like mine, are living with the cleanest air possible.

SENATOR STEC: On the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Stec on the bill.

SENATOR STEC: Thank you, Mr. President.

I don't often say this, but I in this instance agree with Governor Hochul. This bill is duplicative, unnecessary, and will divert state resources from implementing other crucial

programs to New York.

It's also going to have an economic impact on an area of our economy that has already taken a beating at the hands of state government. These thresholds don't exist. The limits don't exist. The work hasn't been done by DEC.

That we're monitoring smokestacks and now we want to monitor at the fenceline, the solution -- a lot of environmental engineers will say, tongue in cheek, that the solution to pollution is dilution. And what will happen is you will have companies looking to make their smokestacks taller so that it dissipates before it gets to ground level. It won't do a thing to change what's coming out of those smokestacks; it will just be pushing them up higher into the atmosphere.

So again, it's duplicative, unnecessary, in the Governor's words. It's a bad bill. I'll be voting against it.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard?

Seeing and hearing none, debate is closed.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, we've agreed to restore this bill to the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is restored to the noncontroversial calendar, and the Secretary will read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Fernandez to explain her vote.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

For those that are voting no, you know, I'm sorry that -- for your constituents you don't care about the clean air that is in front of us that we're breathing, that you're breathing.

And Senator Stec, I mentioned before, you represent the Adirondacks, some of the cleanest air. That's very lucky for you. But for my communities, and many in this state, we need these monitors. We need the rules set

and followed. And DEC, if they're not doing their job, then we need to do our job and make sure that they are held accountable.

And if it is, you know, concern about what this would cost DEC, the effective date is not for a couple of years, so we can assess and give the proper budget to make sure this is happening.

But this bill is a part of the Earth Day package because it is setting a standard that needs to be made, that needs to be set, that needs to be respected and followed so our communities can breathe clean air as best as possible.

So I proudly vote aye, and I thank everyone else for voting aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Fernandez to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 537, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 47. Nays, 13.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 851, Senate Print 2129B, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Borrello, why do you rise?

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor yield for a question?

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Did I hear one question? Just clarify it.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Can I modify that?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Was that one question?

SENATOR BORRELLO: With multiple follow-ups.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Oh, with multiple follow-ups. I was relieved -- I was scared he really only had one question.

Of course I will respond to one question and multiple follow-ups.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The

sponsor yields to one question and multiple follow-ups.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you, Mr. President.

Since we have to do this one at a time, I guess the first question is we talked -- through you, Mr. President, we talked about this in the Finance Committee. And I guess, you know, my first question is we're going to assess fines to, you know, polluters, as we call them, people that have supplied energy that have actually made America run for decades, centuries, whatever it might be. But now we're going to assess a fine to them.

So I'm going to assume that, you know, they're not just going to get an invoice in the mail and they're going to pay -- you know, write out a check and send it back to us.

So how do we plan to get -- in the case of international companies that are not based here in New York or the United States, how are we going to get them to pay the bill?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Through you, Mr. President. It is correct that many of these companies are internationally based. None of

them are actually based here in New York.

But we will assess them, and if they don't pay their assessments, we will not allow them to do business in New York. Because they want to continue selling us these products as long as they can. But we believe that because we can prove they knew they were polluting the climate for decades and decades, and we know that we are now facing enormous costs of the damage that has been done by the products that they knew would do this, and we either have to pay the full cost of the remediation and adjustments in our lives or we can expect the polluters to pay some share of it.

So this assessment or fine, as my colleague just used the term, is an opportunity for them to help pay back some of the costs of the damages they knowingly created.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield for a follow-up question.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The

sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So -- through you, Mr. President. So we have the cap-and-invest program, which pretty much relies on these energy companies to pay New York State to continue to do business in order for you to get this cap-and-invest -- this cap and tax is really what it is, a cap-and-tax program, and the revenue for that.

So if they decide that we're just not going to pay this fine that New York State has assessed, therefore we're not going to have to continue to do business here, which therefore means we won't be participating in the cap-and-invest program, how are we going to go about getting the money for the fine and then also the cap-and-invest money if they're not going to continue to participate?

SENATOR KRUEGER: So we're still waiting to see the final regulations proposals from the Governor on how cap and invest will work and who exactly will need to be making the payments.

But it's not clear at all that it's the same universe. Because again, these are the

largest international and national companies, as opposed to companies here in New York, who are creating current pollution and expected to pay some formula through a cap-and-invest program to both try to decrease the amount of pollution that they are currently doing through their activities in New York, and then using that money to hopefully help us also deal with the costs of these realities going forward.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So I know we discussed this a little bit in the Finance Committee. But how do we come about assessing these so-called damages? You know, how -- what was the process by which -- because it sounded like you had a very intricate, I guess, process of determining right down to the company and the citizen of New York State exactly how much damage has been done.

What was the -- can you show your work on that, as they would say in school? How do you get to that?

SENATOR KRUEGER: So there were a group of economists who have actually done international analysis of what companies existed in what years, how much of the percent of climate-damaging pollution was created in each of those years, and how much of their business was a percentage of that pollution.

So who created the pollution, how much of the pollution was caused by businesses based on the size of the business and the activity, and then how much of that would translate down to the impact on the United States, based on our population. Then, how much of that population is here in New York State.

Hence the amount of hitting them with 3 billion a year for 25 years, which would be 75 billion in total. And there's tables and charts, and I can give them to you after this debate.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Sure.

Mr. President, will the sponsor

continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So we're making the assumption, then, that 50 years, 60 years ago, 70 years ago there would have been a way to mitigate that and still produce energy. Right? Aren't you saying that there would have been a way to avoid the pollution, which is how you prove negligence, right? There has to be an alternative.

So how do we say to a company 70 years ago, when solar panels didn't exist, that you could have been producing energy from solar panels instead of from fossil fuels? How are we making that connection?

SENATOR KRUEGER: I'm sorry. Can you just try it once more? I shouldn't have been asking --

SENATOR BORRELLO: Sure.

We're making an assumption that in order to prove that there was an alternative for

them, they could have avoided somehow providing energy for New York State without, you know, creating any type of emission. Would which mean that 50, 60, 70 years ago they would have had to been able to, I don't know, produce a solar panel that didn't exist 70 years ago or, you know, whatever it might be to provide energy.

So how do you prove negligence, which would be the way to assess some kind of a fine, when there was no alternative to -- other than using fossil fuels to produce energy for New York State?

SENATOR KRUEGER: So through you, Mr. President. While the data goes back that far, we're only applying the years 2000 to 2018 in order to calculate the damages or the assessment on the damages done.

And, frankly, we do know that they knew exactly what they were doing between 2000 and 2018. We know that there were some alternatives available between 2000 and 2018. So we're not addressing the question of did they know something 70 years ago or 50 years ago.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So then you're saying that in the year 2000 there would have been an alternative to using any type of emission-producing fuel that would have been able to power New York State. New York City, which is the largest user of power not just in this state, but probably the entire country, that there would have been enough alternative fuel sources to power New York City without any rolling blackouts, brownouts, anything else.

We're making that statement by assessing this fine, that there would have been a clear alternative to being able to actually power this state without any emissions.

SENATOR KRUEGER: We actually don't know that, Mr. President, and that's not actually relevant to the bill.

But what -- we do know that they knew they were causing pollution. We do know that the science of climate change was

well-established, including the impact of fossil fuels, known by the industry. And that a reasonable corporate actor would have attempted to address this issue as best they could.

And we're really just saying we know that you caused this, and we would like you to help us pay for the damage. We're not even asking them to justify their behavior. We're not applying damages for bad behavior. Although I do believe that courts have gotten awfully close to arguing there is evidence of bad corporate behavior. But that's not what we're doing here.

We're saying your activities caused this amount of damage. We, the people, now have to pay an enormous amount to deal with it. We would like to assess your companies some share, relatively small, to help us pay these costs.

And when I say relatively small, I know that we all think 3 billion a year sounds like a lot of money on this floor, and I'm not pooh-poohing the amount of 3 billion. But if you look at the profitability of these exact same companies in '22, '23, '24 -- or parts of '24 still -- it's the largest amount of net profits they have ever seen in their existence as

businesses.

And the jump in the damage done by emissions skyrocketed after the year 2000. So in 2000, we already knew the problems. We knew that there were supposedly companies saying we're going to do something about it. And then we saw emissions skyrocket beyond anything we imagined would happen.

So to even make the argument -- which my bill does not -- that these companies knowingly lied to us I think is a legitimate charge, but it has nothing to do with what's happening within this bill.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Does the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes, I yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So currently New York City is about 70 percent reliant on fossil fuels for power right now, today. You're telling the companies that are providing that power that they are going to pay a fine for

2000-2018.

But nothing fundamentally has changed between the way power is delivered, particularly in New York City. I mean, up where I live, we're 90 percent green, largely due to hydroelectric power.

So are we going to assess fines for them to continue to provide power to New York City in particular, which is 70 percent reliant on fossil fuel, going forward? How are we going to -- are we basically saying: You need to stop providing power to New York State that produces any kind of emissions, otherwise you're going to face further fines?

SENATOR KRUEGER: So we're looking backwards in time. You're asking about going forward?

SENATOR BORRELLO: I'm talking about today.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Okay. Today forward.

SENATOR BORRELLO: The power's on today largely because of fossil fuels.

SENATOR KRUEGER: We have passed a multiple series of laws, both at the state level,

at the New York City level, at the federal level through international treaties that all head us towards, yes, getting off of oil and gas and moving to alternative energy. That's not a new concept on this Senate chamber floor. And we have passed our CLCPA and, again, international treaties.

So yeah, we're going to be getting off of oil and gas, and in my opinion the faster the better.

We do have alternatives in green energy, in technology that is not as polluting, and the faster the better. Will these companies still want to sell to us in New York State? Oh, yes, sir, they will. For as long as they are possibly legally able, they will still sell to us in New York State even if we have assessed them. Why? Because there's far more companies that aren't going to be on the list that will be happy to sell to us, and they don't want to lose out competitively to them.

So if you're one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world and you realize your share of a $3 billion assessment is sort of chump change, you're not going to walk away from

selling to New York State, where you're still going to make money as long as we, the government, allow you to sell your product in our state.

So I'm not concerned that this law will result in these 30 companies saying we walk away from New York. I'm quite sure they won't.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Senator yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So what you're saying is this isn't really about cleaner air, this is about money. Because they're going to have to continue to deliver power to New York City. They're going to have to continue to do so with basically the same mix of largely fossil fuel.

Right now, today, the lights are on here, the lights are on everywhere in New York State largely due to mostly fossil fuel, particularly in New York City. So what you're

saying is you're going to continue to pollute, that's okay. Just pay us, because we need to keep the lights on here.

SENATOR KRUEGER: No, I actually don't think we're saying that since again, as I just said, we have passed a series of laws making sure that we are phasing out of oil and gas. But obviously we're not doing it overnight. So we are making those efforts. We have already taken those steps.

I'm saying if you break it, you own it. They broke it. They broke the climate. We are paying those costs already, we the people. Ratepayers are paying it. Every one of our constituents are paying it, higher utility costs. We are paying -- we are expected to pay even more and more and more. Don't we think the polluters ought to pay some share of the damage they have done?

It's not even a radical notion. We have a federal Superfund Act in effect, and it's exactly the same model. But it's for polluting the earth, the land. If you buy a piece of land and you discover that it has been polluted to such a level of damage that the Superfund kicks

in, then the previous owners, even though they're gone, owe the money for repair of that land. If you buy that land, you face the liability of it.

So it's not a radical notion to assess the polluters a share of the damage they've done. It's just a different concept because the pollution is to our air and our water. Which, by the way, it doesn't matter whether you live in New York City or your county, because this funky thing about air and water, it just moves around all over. Once it's polluted, we all have to face it.

So New York City may or may not disproportionately use oil and gas. I actually think we're not even a disproportionate polluter. There's a variety of reasons for that. But it doesn't matter. It's water, it's air, it travels from your county to my county.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So I'm sure you're familiar with the due-process clause of the 14th Amendment, where anyone is afforded due process.

Do you think that this assessment runs afoul of the due-process clause, runs afoul of the Constitution of the United States?

SENATOR KRUEGER: No, I don't. Because happily for me, not only have I worked with some of the most famous economists on these issues, I've also worked with the most famous lawyers on environmental law on these issues, and they assure me that it does not impact a -- it's not a violation of the Constitution, and it isn't a violation of the Clean Air Act.

We know the big oil and gas companies will file lawsuits the day this bill is signed. That's why it's so important that we need to get started now, because it's going to take a while to get through the litigation and start collecting the money and relieving New York's taxpayers of this full burden themselves.

But not only am I sure this is constitutional, but because it's taken so long to

get this through New York, I actually offered it to the United States Congress, said, maybe you should do it on the federal level -- actually probably should do it on the federal level if we had a functioning Congress.

And the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and President Biden all said, yeah, our people say it's legit and it will hold up in court. And so they put it in the Build It Back Better bill. But then one Senator who had the power to risk the bill not passing -- and he was a Democrat, unfortunately -- had that section pulled out.

So this has been vetted by people who vet cases that are going to go before the U.S. Supreme Court, and they still believe that they should pass this and that it was constitutional and would stand up.

But I admit, we're going to get sued, yeah.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield?

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Will the sponsor yield?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Yes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The sponsor yields.

SENATOR BORRELLO: So there's no precedent for this anywhere. This hasn't been done. I'm sure the people that you're going to pay by the hour are going to be happy to bring this and say it's going to be a great lawsuit -- because it will be for them, absolutely. They're going to get paid.

(Overtalk.)

SENATOR KRUEGER: -- definitely representing us, so I think they get paid every way anyway.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Well, I'm sure they're going to job it out, so.

That being said, if these folks don't pay, you know, they're going to sue, you're going to have to sue them. You know, how -- how much -- without a precedent anywhere else, nowhere else has this happened, how much is this going to cost New Yorkers in lawsuits and counter-lawsuits and -- what is this going to cost?

SENATOR KRUEGER: Through you, Mr. President. A whole lot less than $75 billion

in revenue if we win that lawsuit. I don't know how you evaluate the cost of an individual lawsuit. It's not going to go near the actual win for the State of New York.

And I don't know if it's unprecedented, because I'm not sure what happened in Vermont today, but I was told they were passing the bill in Vermont today. And that the Governor -- I believe a Republican -- already said he would sign it.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Mr. President, on the bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Borrello on the bill.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

So I understand that there are times throughout history where companies have been held accountable for something that they may have done in the past. It could have been asbestos. It could have been, you know, any kind of toxic pollutants. But in this case we're talking about energy, energy that's being supplied pretty much today as it was in 2018 and 2000.

And we're saying to the people that

provide the energy to New York State, the people that keep the lights on in this room and every room across the state, the people that make sure that hospitals have power, that we're able to get to work -- all those things, natural gas, gasoline, electricity, you name it. We're saying to them: You've done something wrong, you have to pay New York State for that. But continue to do that. Don't shut it off. Don't stop. Just keep doing what you're doing. And you know what? Somewhere down the road we'll probably assess another fine.

I don't think that's really the right way to handle this, really. Is it? If we had a solution and there was a solution in place in 2000 or 2018 or 1965, then maybe I could see.

But no, it's essentially the same. We're going to punish them for providing the power that keeps New York going. Okay.

But what this is really about, in my opinion, is this. We know the cost of converting New York, this CLCPA, the Climate Action Council Scoping Plan, is tremendous. Tremendous. Hundreds of billions if not a trillion dollars. And my colleagues that support this know that.

So they're looking under every rock to find whatever dollar they can to offset that cost. Because they know the cost of keeping the lights on in New York City with all-renewable energy is going to be so tremendous, so unreliable, so costly that it's going to turn us into a Third World country, probably. Unreliable, expensive energy.

And so what's the government going to do? Well, we're going to do what third world countries do. We're going to confiscate it from the people that are actually producing that. We're going to confiscate it from the productive people, the people that -- the manufacturers, because this is probably going to spread. It's going to spread to companies that use a lot of energy. Right? They're going to have to pay too.

So if you manufacture something here in New York State, use a lot of energy, you're going to pay. Keep manufacturing, keep those jobs, you're going to pay too.

You know, at the end of the day we've got to find a trillion dollars of other people's money to pay for this ridiculous idea of

the CLCPA. So we're going to find 75 billion here, 100 billion there, we're going to cap and invest. Eventually we're going to try and cobble together a trillion dollars, but we're not. It's not going to happen.

This is a bad idea, and I'll be voting no. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard? Seeing and hearing none, debate is closed.

(Off the record.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Krueger on the bill.

SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you.

You know what, I so appreciate my colleague's questions, but I think he's missing a point here. Even the closing comments about we're doing all this to pay for the CLCPA and the movement to green energy.

We do have costs associated with having to transform our economy to a non-oil/gas-based economy. That's true. But actually this money is primarily going to go to remediation of the damage that has been done by the old economy by the oil and gas companies.

So even if we didn't have a CLCPA, even if we were foolish enough to think we didn't need to transform to a renewable, non-polluting model of electricity and other energy, we would still be stuck with all the costs of climate change and climate damage. We're dealing with it every day in every district in the state.

Our water tables are going up in our oceans and our rivers and our lakes. The temperatures are changing so that we have new invasive species. We have increased forest fires throughout the world. We are having tornados and earthquakes in New York State -- those were things you watched happening in other states.

We are struggling with adequate water supply throughout this country. We have been told by the federal government that we must spend $55 billion on a seawall at the bottom of Manhattan to prevent Manhattan from collapsing into the water -- I believe parts of Brooklyn as well, and I believe parts of Staten Island. Apparently Staten Island is already building itself another seawall.

These things cost enormous money. That has nothing to do with CLCPA. That's the

damage that we have to deal with day in, day out, at every juncture in every part of the state.

Where's the money going to come from? It will come from the state and our localities because we have to make those repairs. We can't not deal with that reality. So we're paying for it.

I'm suggesting with this piece of legislation that the companies who knowingly continued down the path of selling us products that caused all of this should hold some responsibility for paying some of those costs.

Now, we can never make them do that, I get it. But then I'm telling you, you don't get off. We have to pay it. The costs are not going away. And they have nothing to do with CLCPA.

I believe taking the movements of participating as actively as we can with the implementation of CLCPA and moving to green energy and sustainable energy will help us stop seeing things get even worse, even more unlivable, even more expensive to deal with. But that's not what this bill is.

It's just saying ya broke it, you

have to help pay for it. Thank you. I vote yes. I encourage my colleagues to vote yes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I believe that closes the debate?

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: It does. Debate is now closed.

SENATOR GIANARIS: We have agreed to restore this to the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The item is restored to the noncontroversial calendar.

Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Rhoads to explain his vote.

SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Senator Krueger, for

the answers to Senator Borrello's questions.

I don't necessarily have a problem with the result, but I do have an issue with respect to the process. You know, essentially what you're doing is you're saying that you're able to prove that these companies were aware of the damage that they were doing. If you have the ability to prove the damages they were doing, the location or venue where you would prove that is in court. So essentially by act of the Legislature, we're assigning a fine.

And take a -- it doesn't even have to be with respect to energy, you know, with respect to oil companies. You know, can you make the same argument that potato chip manufacturers know that their product is fattening, and as a result we have additional Medicare and Medicaid costs that the state has to pay because people eat potato chips and there are health problems that result.

We wouldn't just be able to establish a fine by act of the Legislature against companies and assign them amounts of money that they have to pay based on their percentage of sales of potato chips in the State

of New York. You would have to go to court and you would have to prove that, and the court would determine whether or not we were able to make out our case.

So my concern isn't necessarily with the result that you're achieving. My concern is the process that you're going through in order to get there. And I think it establishes a very dangerous precedent, because you can apply this to a host of other private businesses, private companies, and it establishes a -- really a way to circumvent what would normally be due-process considerations that we would have to meet in order to achieve the result that you're seeking.

So I'm going to vote no.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Rhoads to be recorded in the negative.

Senator Martins to explain his vote.

SENATOR MARTINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I have the great honor of representing the North Shore of Nassau County, from the Queens border to the Suffolk border. And we have the distinction of

having a sole-source aquifer just below our feet from which we get our drinking water. We also have issues with our -- the effects of climate change on our communities. We have felt that over the years, whether it's Sandy or every 500-year storm that seems to impact us every other year.

So when it comes time to holding people responsible and companies responsible for the harm that they do and ask them to contribute to fixing what they broke, I'm for it.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Martins to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 851, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 43. Nays, 17.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the

reading of today's calendar.

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

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 8th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 8th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, the Senate adjourned at 5:54 p.m.)