NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

May 14, 2024

3:13 p.m.

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 and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Please join me in a moment of silence to honor Vincent Giammarva, an almost 20-year veteran of the New York State Thruway Authority, who tragically lost his life last Thursday, May 9th, while on the job at the Thruway work site.

Vincent leaves behind his wife, Patty, of 40 years; two adult children; and three grandchildren.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, May 13, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, May 12, 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 Codes, Assembly Bill Number 4737B and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Number 2376B, Third Reading Calendar 731.

Senator Ashby moves to discharge, from the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, Assembly Bill Number 7476 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 5939, Third Reading Calendar 952.

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 wish to call up Senate Bill 4305, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 220, Senate Print 4305, by Senator Parker, an act to amend the Public Service Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will call the roll on reconsideration.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 53.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is restored to its place on Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The amendments are received.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Amendments are also offered to the following Third Reading Calendar bills:

By Senator Parker, page 25, Calendar Number 498, Senate Print 6852;

By Senator Ramos, page 54, Calendar Number 945, Senate Print 7676.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The amendments are received, and the bills will retain their place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 2349, 2379, 2414 and 2419.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: All those in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolutions 2349, 2379, 2414 and 2419, 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 now begin by taking up Resolution 2419, by Leader Stewart-Cousins, read that resolution's title,

and recognize Senator Webb on that resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2419, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, congratulating the 2024 New York State Senate Women of Distinction.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Webb on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today with great pride and enthusiasm to speak in support of this resolution congratulating the 2024 New York State Senate Women of Distinction.

I also want to thank our Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who as we know is the first woman to lead the Senate.

When you think about the contributions of not only our Majority Leader but all of the distinguished women that have joined us today in the Capitol, it is most certainly a momentous occasion, but it also serves as a reminder about the important role that women play across our communities every single day.

This initiative -- which was

established 26 years ago in 1998 -- the Senate's Women of Distinction Program, is a testament to our commitment to honor exemplary women from across our great state.

The 2024 Women of Distinction have demonstrated outstanding professional or personal achievements, an unwavering -- and I would dare say unapologetic -- commitment to excellence, and a track record of accomplishments that merit this special recognition.

Today as we recognize the Women of Distinction we celebrate the diversity of our state and the contributions made by women from every economic, ethnic, religious and every other background.

These women have shattered glass ceilings, and in some instances brick ceilings, fighting against stereotypes, bigotry, prejudice, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, paving the way for future generations of trailblazers. We applaud their character, their initiative and commitment to their communities.

From the pioneers of the women's suffrage movement to the present day, women have played and continue to play a crucial role in

shaping the history of our great state. The 2024 Women of Distinction have contributed to the advancement of our culture through both traditional and nontraditional roles in society. They have dedicated themselves to enhancing the well-being of their communities, showcasing a long and sustained commitment to excellence.

They have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State. Let us, as the New York State Senate, proudly stand together to congratulate the 2024 New York State Senate Women of Distinction.

Mr. President, I proudly vote aye.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Webb.

Senator Helming on the resolution.

SENATOR HELMING: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm honored this afternoon to speak on behalf of the Republican Conference as we recognize the outstanding female leaders from across our great state. On this, I think we can all agree: New York State is a state with a

history of formidable and courageous women. We're the proud home of Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the Women's Rights Movement.

I want to start by saying just two days ago, on Sunday, we celebrated Mother's Day. And I want to take a moment to wish all the moms who are here today a Happy Mother's Day. Whether you're a first-time mother, a grandmother, a single mom, a working mom, a stay-at-home mom, I hope you all enjoyed your special day.

Women of Distinction is a lot like Mother's Day, as we recognize the females in our state who are doing extraordinary things in business, in education, in our hospitals, our nursing homes or working direct care, on our farms, in nonprofits, in law enforcement and the military, in the halls of government and right in their own living rooms. Their stories are uniquely motivating. But what all of our Women of Distinction have in common is a commitment to serving others. And in doing so, they're shaping the future of our local communities and our state.

Every single day they inspire us. And through the state's Women of Distinction

program, they are inspiring the next generation of female leaders in New York.

I like to think of the women that we're honoring today that they've distinguished themselves by what I refer to as the four C's -- contributions, character, caring and commitment. They embody the enterprising and altruistic spirit of New York. Every day they live our motto of Excelsior: Ever upward. They're achieving the highest standards of excellence and raising the bar for us and for future generations.

To all of our Women of Distinction, on behalf of the Republican Conference, thank you. Thank you for being the light for others as we shine a light today on your accomplishments.

I want to conclude quickly by acknowledging the honoree from my district, Mari Potter. Mari is the owner of 13 McDonald's restaurants in the greater Rochester and Finger Lakes area. She is one of only 10 female operators in the Empire Region stretching from Buffalo to Albany.

Mari is here today with her husband, Tim, and many members of her McDonald's team.

So Mr. President, in closing, let me say this about the leadership of all of the remarkable women we are honoring today. Ba-da-bap-bap-ba -- I'm lovin' it.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR HELMING: Congratulations to all of our women.

I'm proud to support this resolution. I vote aye. Thank you.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Helming.

To our guests and the many Women of Distinction in our chamber, 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: 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: Now let's move on to Resolution 2414, by Senator Ryan, read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Ryan.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2414, by Senator Ryan, commemorating the two-year anniversary of the mass shooting at Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo, New York, on May 14, 2024, and honoring the victims, survivors, families and community at large in the wake of this devastating tragedy.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Ryan on the resolution.

SENATOR RYAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's hard to believe that it's been two years since we were standing here talking about the tragedy in Buffalo that took 10 lives on May 14, 2022. I have a vivid remembrance of that day because it was a beautiful, sunny day. It was one of the first weekend days where it was

warm, we were coming out of our winter hibernation, and people are running errands, the streets are full of people in cars or who are walking around.

And I went to the backyard for a few hours, left my cellphone in the kitchen. I was doing yard work, and I started hearing a helicopter buzzing over and over, and I started hearing a lot of sirens. And my wife came out and said, "You'd better come inside because your phone's blowing up." And it's not what I expected when I picked up that phone.

So we know the story. A murderous racist drove two and a half hours, seemingly for no reason, to come to Buffalo to open fire on innocent people at a supermarket.

Celestine Chaney. Roberta Drury. Andre Mackneil. Katherine Massey. Margus Morrison. Heyward Patterson. Aaron Salter. Geraldine Talley. Ruth Whitfield. And Pearl Young. They all lost their lives within minutes that day.

Christopher Braden, Zaire Goodman, Jennifer Warrington -- they were all wounded but miraculously survived.

The only thing that any of these people did to make them a target that day was to go live their ordinary lives and go shopping at a grocery store in a prominently Black neighborhood.

Two years have passed, but the memory is still just as fresh, it's just as raw. And for the families of the victims, grief hasn't gone away. For the survivors, the trauma hasn't gone away. For our entire Buffalo community, the anger, the sorrow, the losses we all feel hasn't gone away.

But I guess it's not supposed to go away. You know, when we experience loss, grief doesn't dissipate over time. If you lose somebody and someone says, It will get better, it will go away, that's a lie. It doesn't go away. What happens is we grow our life around it. We take that pain, we hold onto it, but we move forward, because that's what we have to do. We learn how to live with the grief. We don't let it hold us back, but it doesn't go away.

On May 14, 2022, the white supremacist came to our city with one goal, and that was to tear a hole in the heart of the Black

community. And there was no doubt he opened up a painful wound. On that awful day it was hard to see past the tragedy at hand. But even today, the pain is never far from the minds of those who lost loved ones. In Buffalo's Black community, who witnessed a direct attack, they feel it every day.

But in our collective grief, Buffalo has come together. With time, the community has begun to get back on its feet. And while we continue to mourn the losses, the people of the East Side are persevering. They're living their lives. They're celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries, holidays, graduations and weddings. But each of those remembrances, each of those celebrations, there's something missing from everybody because something was taken that day that can never be put back.

But every day the people are sending a clear message, and that's one hateful act, no matter how much pain it caused, will not rip apart and break the spirit of our community.

But the tragedy, it didn't happen in a vacuum. The East Side of Buffalo, which is home to what we call Black Buffalo, has had much

more to contend with than this awful, catastrophic day. The attack was layered upon decades of grinding, persistent, systemic racism.

African-Americans came to Buffalo as part of the Great Migration, full of hope, with job opportunities to work in the steel and auto industries, to fill a labor need. But they were met with the North's version of Jim Crow. It's not as obvious, it's not as pernicious, but, boy, is it every bit as destructive.

They were met with redlining, housing discrimination, employment discrimination and, decades later, still persistent segregation. So May 14th was the exclamation point of this slow-moving tragedy.

So while the community has slowly recovered from the attack, the baseline that they're returning to is as much of a problem today as it was two years ago. The area is still a food desert. The neighborhood is still barren from decades of demolitions and disinvestments. Every social indicator, every social indicator, whether it's individual wealth, family wealth, homeownership, health outcomes, Black Buffalonians in the East Side are worse off than

anywhere else in the whole city.

So we're left with the important question to ponder: What are we going to do about it? Will this tragedy catalyze us? Will it make us address the issues that have been weighing down Buffalo and other cities, communities, for decades?

I'm optimistic. I think we're finally starting to move in the right direction. But we have a lot of work to do as a state and as a country. But we're finally recognizing the institutional racism that led to the inequality that we see today.

But real change, it's going to come slow. And it's only going to come if we all work together and we're all pulling in the same direction.

Jillian Hanesworth was Buffalo's first poet laureate. She wrote a poem called "Water" where she talks about that reality. The poem was installed at Tops Supermarket as part of the in-store memorial to the victims of the shooting. The poem is a hopeful call to all of us in the community to recognize that we all have a part to do. And as Jillian puts it, our small

marks on this huge world are necessary.

But let me read it to you in Jillian Hanesworth's words. And I don't know where she finds her optimism, but I applaud her for it.

Let the hopeful healing waters flow
Ushering in a rebirth of our sense of self
Let the flowing waters remind us of time
Current yet fleeting like life itself
Large yet within reach just as the ancestors
Let the hopeful healing waters flow
Cleansing all pain and fear
All hurt and regret
Let the water heal our people
Reminding us that even our small marks
On this huge world are necessary
Let the hopeful healing waters flow
Let the water tell the stories of those that came before us
Those who fought and believed for us

Those with the strength and power of a high tide

Those with the meekness of a still pond

Let the beauty of the unknown offer comfort and hope

For within water there will always be life.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Ryan.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: I want to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity and thank Senator Ryan for his incisive words.

The question becomes, with all of us, where were you at the time of these shootings? And there are so many shootings going on that you start to blur. You can't remember if you were here or there or was it this one or was it that one. And the danger, of course, is that America becomes numb from the many shootings.

The goal of the white supremacist was to accelerate a racial war. In their minds -- or in his mind, America is descending into a pit, a racial pit, and he wanted to

accelerate it. He wanted to plunge us ever further into a madness.

The proper response, of course, of all good Americans is to do something that he would hate and the separatists would hate. And that is that we need to figure a way to turn to each other and not on each other. A way to figure out what are the commonalities that we all share, what are the goals that we believe in, what are the things of America that we want to hold on to and that we want to move forward.

And this is why, Senator Ryan, that there is a certain amount of hope, even from this audience right here, this area right here.

The -- the study you mentioned of the many problems of Buffalo -- and they are enormous, and not to be discarded, as there are many problems in other places. But we in this body have said that we are going to study the issue. We're going to study reparations. We're going to see what are the commonalities and how do we solve these things so that we are taking some steps. We're taking steps together. They may be halting with some, tepid with others. Some may have to be pulled with us.

But we are taking some steps, and we're taking them forward as Americans, as New Yorkers, towards a better future, towards a more perfect union.

And I close with the words of Benjamin Franklin. And he taught us then as we should understand now. He said we'd have to hang together or certainly we will hang separately.

That racial war that they speak of, the only way to defeat that is to not get into that swamp and to figure out ways of all of us moving to someplace better.

So thank you for having us remember this. And it was not just a pain of Buffalo; it was a pain of all New Yorkers. All Americans should feel that pain and say that we are going to make sure that it doesn't happen again and that Buffalo will not have to stand by itself.

Thank you for reminding us.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Ryan, for your

words, your dedication, and the spirit that you stirred today.

I wasn't going to speak on this resolution, though I'm not shy to speak on resolutions generally, Mr. President, especially those of import in this city, state, country about divisions that we can continue to overcome. But something stirred me today, and it was "within water there is life."

And there's so many metaphors that come to mind about the flow of water and how water never dies, how energy never dies, it's just transferred.

And so I think about my role in this space as a legislator, as a new father for the third time. And I look at my newborn son, and I have an opportunity to shape his thoughts, his ability to learn, his ability to ambulate, his ability to be a citizen of positivity.

If I have that ability to teach a new life that, I think we all have the ability to teach others around us. We can re-teach. We can unlearn. And we can move forward.

I've often said that in this chamber we are able to get past certain points that maybe

we didn't think we could. Every piece of legislation matters that we do in this chamber. It matters not just for our constituents; it matters for the greater good of humanity in terms of unifying folks. In terms of people understanding, yes, there still is a problem with racism in America. Yes, there still is a problem with white supremacy in America. Yes, there still is a problem with guns in America.

But if we're not talking to each other about that, and we stay in our respective echo chambers, nothing will change.

I don't know about you, I don't know about anybody else in this chamber, but I think I'm pretty adept at reading the room. I think that we all want things to change for the better. And I think that it all starts with us.

And so may God bless the legacy of the lives and legacy of those folks that we lost in Buffalo. And I'm truly hopeful that we can learn from this and continue to understand that water is in fact life. Senator Ryan, thank you for that stirring poem.

I vote aye, Mr. President. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

The question is on the resolution -- I'm sorry. Senator Comrie on the resolution.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to just say a few words about the resolution.

And thank you to our leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and to Senator Ryan for his stirring words.

You know, when this happened two years ago, this travesty that happened in Buffalo and is still compounding and impacting the lives of people up there, it made me recall and understand that we have a lot to do as a citizenry to make sure that we teach our young people the incredible diversity of this state.

The fact that this state was founded by people that wanted to change the world and change how they were respected in the world. The fact that Buffalo has always been a location where people came to try to make a new life. A lot of folks -- Buffalo was part of the Underground Railroad, and it had many stops in Buffalo where people were able to take in and

help people while they were trying to make sure that they could be able to be part of this incredible country that we all are in.

We're all immigrants to this country, almost everybody in this room. I don't think there's a Native Indian here. Maybe some folks that have some Indian in their blood. But all of us are immigrants to this country. And we must continue to remember that and continue to remember that we have to make sure that we pass on all our traditions to our children, that we pass on all our history to our children, that we can make sure that no child grows up in this state that doesn't understand that diversity is strength, that everyone's culture, while it needs to be respected, needs to be recognized and needs to be understood.

And we've done a terrible job in this state of making sure that other people's cultures are understood, because our education system is not taking care or not embracing the fact that we need to share our diversity with people in the school system, because we can't wait for other folks to do it.

We have a responsibility as

legislators to make that happen. And what happened in Buffalo was a result of a young man who had no cultural diversity, who had no understanding, who was pushed to the internet to come up with hate in his heart to want to go kill people. For no other reason than he was listening to hate on the internet.

We have to do better as a state. We have to make sure that there's a curriculum throughout the state that teaches our children the beauty of our diversity, the beauty of our cultures, the understanding that we all need to be respected as people so no one can go out and think that they're better than anyone else.

Because we all are trying to do the same thing in New York. No matter what side of the aisle you're on, you're trying to make a better life for your family, a better life for your community, opportunities for people to be understood.

And the pain of Buffalo that's still happening, as Senator Ryan said, it is the same problems are still endemic. We haven't made the correct changes. We need to make those changes happen or we'll have another tragedy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Comrie.

The question is on the resolution. All those 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: Now let's move on to previously adopted Resolution 2343, by Senator Gounardes, read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Gounardes.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2343, by Senator Gounardes, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 14, 2024, as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gounardes on the resolution.

SENATOR GOUNARDES: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to speak to commemorate a tragic event in history that occurred on April 24th, that we commemorate nationwide on April 24th, and that of course is the genocide of millions of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire.

Mankind has committed many terrible atrocities over the course of the 20th century, but what many historians consider to be the first genocide of the 20th century still does not always get the recognition and remembrance that its victims deserve.

On April 24, 1915, a generation before the terrible atrocities of the Holocaust in Nazi Germany, ultra-nationalist Turkish factions known as the Young Turks began a years' long campaign to systematically wipe out Armenians as well as Greeks, Pontians, Assyrians, and other Christian minorities that lived in the Ottoman Empire.

These communities were forced into death marches and placed in concentration camps. Their churches were destroyed. Their towns and neighborhoods were set on fire. In 1923, the

Ottoman Empire set fire to the entire city of Smyrna, where my family hails from, in attempts to kill everyone living there.

The victims were not only those killed during massacres at home. Many others died during deportations under conditions of starvation, dehydration and disease.

On the eve of World War I there were as many as two million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. By 1922, just a few years later, there were fewer than 400,000.

Today we pause to mourn the murdering of 1.5 million Armenians, along with 800,000 Greeks and hundreds of thousands of Assyrians, Pontians, and others.

Mr. President, we have an obligation to not only never forget this awful legacy but to proactively remember and honor the victims. And today is an opportunity to do just that. It's also a chance to uplift and celebrate the Armenian community that has survived and thrived throughout the world, including right here in New York.

We're lucky enough today to be joined today by many members of that community,

some who have traveled from New York City, some who live right here in Albany, and some who are even visiting from Washington, D.C.

In particular I want to thank the cultural advisor to the Armenian Embassy, Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian; Father Stepanos Doudoukjian, who is the parish priest at St. Peter's Armenian Apostolic Church; and others who have joined here from organizations such as the Armenian Youth Federation, the Armenian National Committee of New York, the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America, the Armenian Bar Association, and the Daughters of Vartan of the Mid-Atlantic Region.

And Mr. President, just before we started session today, I learned that one of our very own sergeant-at-arms, Greg Krikorian, is also of Armenian descent. He's probably outside right now in the Senate lobby.

I'm very grateful to all of you for joining us here today.

Your presence is also an opportunity to chart a course for a brighter future and to identify ways that we can support New York's Armenian community for generations to come,

whether that be through support for cultural initiatives and community spaces, through investments in economic and social development programs, or through increasing opportunities for political and civic engagement.

In recognizing and remembering the Armenian genocide here today, we pay tribute to their lives and we remember the tragedy that occurred to the Armenian, Greek, Assyrian and Pontic people. We also carry their memory to this present moment when many ethnic, racial and religious minorities around the world face renewed hatred and bigotry. And we commit ourselves to ensuring that on our watch, such atrocities shall never happen again.

Mr. President, I proudly vote aye.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Gounardes.

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 May 7th.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Now let's move on to Resolution 2379, by Senator May, read that resolution's title and recognize Senator May.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2379, by Senator May, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 12-18, 2024, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator May on the resolution.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I am pleased to sponsor this resolution for Fibromyalgia Awareness Week and to welcome members of the Fibromyalgia Task Force of New York State: Minda Conroe and Dr. Becky Mosteller.

The task force is composed of fibromyalgia patients, researchers, physicians and advocates throughout the state.

I am one of the lucky ones. I was

diagnosed with fibromyalgia about 20 years ago, but I've been pretty much symptom-free for about 10 years now. But I know what it feels like when every muscle and tendon in your body aches and all you want to do is lie down and rest, but you have to care for a baby or put food on the table or do a day's work.

I also know what it feels like when doctors look at you and say, Oh, there's nothing we can do -- or, worse, It's all in your head.

It's because of advocates like you that this is changing, that people -- doctors medical professionals, and people in the communities around you are recognizing that fibromyalgia is real, it is debilitating, it is something we need to take seriously, and it is something we need to find treatments and cures for.

So I want to thank you for what you are doing and urge my colleagues to pay attention to this disease and not dismiss it the way it has been dismissed in the past.

I vote aye. Thank you.

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: 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, previously adopted Resolution 2071, by Senator Rhoads. Read its title and recognize Senator Rhoads.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2071, by Senator Rhoads, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 17, 2024, as Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Week in the State of

New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Rhoads on the resolution.

SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I am proud to rise in support of this resolution as its sponsor.

We get to take to the floor to do many things and use this incredible platform to celebrate happy occasions -- the championships of many of our student athletes, and incredible accomplishments of many of our students and their academic excellence. We commemorate tragic occasions, as we've done today, speaking about the tragedy in Buffalo and the tragedy of the Armenian genocide.

We also use this platform to raise awareness about many conditions and illnesses that unfortunately impact our world today, in an attempt to try and find solutions and cures for those.

And I rise before you to commemorate an issue that's close to my heart as well as close to the hearts of many of our constituents.

Necrotizing enterocolitis is a

devastating gastrointestinal disease that primarily affects premature infants. It's a silent enemy that actually attacks the gastrointestinal lining, killing that vital tissue and ultimately severely damaging and the oftentimes leading to the death of newborn infants.

NEC has a mortality rate as high as 50 percent, a lethality rate for premature babies higher than meningitis, smallpox and cholera.

But through awareness, education and advocacy we can make strides in preventing and treating this insidious condition.

Necrotizing enterocolitis is the most common cause of death in hospitalized premature infants after two weeks of age. Babies born prematurely with medical complications like congenital heart disease are most at risk of NEC. Thousands of babies develop NEC each year, and hundreds of babies die from this complex intestinal condition.

This illness is one where parents have to be trusted and valued as the most important tools and members of their baby's care team. And healthcare providers should partner

with families to provide the best care for infants at risk for NEC.

And although the risks of necrotizing enterocolitis cannot be fully eliminated, and there are not yet sure ways to stop or cure NEC, preventative measures are effective at reducing risks.

Breast milk is actually one of the most effective ways to help prevent NEC in medically fragile infants. And when the mother's milk is unavailable, pasturized donor human milk is the next safest option for babies at risk of NEC, as formula does not protect against the risk of NEC.

There are -- there's one organization, the NEC Society, which is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, founded and led by a bereaved mother from California whose son died from complications of NEC. And the NEC Society is the world's leading charity working to accelerate NEC research, education and advocacy.

And with us today in the chamber is a young woman by the name of Stephanie Ruidiaz, from my hometown in Bellmore. She has been a

champion for necrotizing enterocolitis research after experiencing firsthand the severity of this condition and after facing a devastating loss of her own. She serves on the board of directors for the NEC Society.

And I want to take a moment -- Stephanie, thank you so much for being here. And I must say, in my 10 years of public life, first as a county legislator and now having the honor of serving in this chamber, one of the things that touches my heart most are people like yourself, who have taken an enormous tragedy and turned it into an opportunity to do good for others. It's the most beautiful way to pay honor to those that we've lost, to those that have been affected by this illness.

And I want to thank you for your tremendous work. I want to thank you for your advocacy. And I want to thank the NEC Society for everything that it does to raise awareness.

And I am happy that I can stand up today on the floor of this chamber and raise awareness both to the members here, as well as to the public watching today, of this tragic illness. And I am happy to stand in support of

this resolution asking that the Governor proclaim today, May 17, 2024, as Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day in the State of New York.

I proudly vote aye. And I would ask that you, Mr. President, recognize our guest in this chamber and provide her the privileges and courtesies of the house.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Rhoads.

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

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution was adopted on April 3rd.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Previously adopted Resolution 2231, by Senator Parker. Let's take that up, read the resolution's title, and recognize Senator Parker.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2231, by

Senator Parker, commemorating the inaugural Prince Hall Day at the New York State Capitol on May 14, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Parker on the resolution.

SENATOR PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President.

As you know, I'm State Senator Kevin Parker. I represent the 21st District in Brooklyn, which is Flatbush and East Flatbush, Midwood, Ditmas Park, Canarsie, Flatlands, Bergen Beach, Marine Park and Mill Basin.

I'm the majority whip here in the New York State Senate, as well as the chairman of the Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

What many of you don't know, I'm also the senior warden of Sons of Kings Lodge No. 123 in the Second District of Brooklyn, a member of a very noble fraternity of Prince Hall Masons. And I am very proud of this organization, very happy to have helped organize today.

Some people don't know what Masonry is; some people are confused by it. It simply is this. It is a beautiful and profound system of

morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. But at its base, it's two things: It's a fraternity and it's a charity.

And Prince Hall Masons have been around since the founding of America. In fact, it is the -- Prince Hall Masonry is the third largest -- sorry, the third oldest organization here in the State of New York, in our great state, right, after Mother Zion AME Church and Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Prince Hall Masonry begins approximately March 6, 1776, when 15 African-American men were initiated in an Irish military lodge in Boston, Massachusetts. Prince Hall himself was an abolitionist, an educator, a businessman, a philanthropist, somebody who did a lot to end the terrible institution of enslavement and actually went around Boston trying to gather help from whites who they thought would come to their aid.

And what he found was that many of those folks in that time were Masons, and so he sought to become a Freemason in order to be in proximity of the power that he thought would help him, you know, achieve abolitionism for African

people in the New World.

From that lodge spread lodges across the state, including -- sorry, across the country, including Pennsylvania, New York and Rhode Island.

And so I'm very, very proud to stand here as a member of an organization that also includes the Order of the Eastern Star, which is a way to include the wives, mothers, widows, daughters and sisters of Master Masons into Masonry. And together, they represent almost 10,000 members across the great State of New York and are found in every single community.

And so here today, this resolution. Mr. President, celebrates Prince Hall Day of advocacy at the Capitol, the first time that Prince Hall Masons have come together to come to the Capitol to meet with state legislators and talk about their legislative agenda, talk about the needs in their community, talk about work that they are already doing.

As I indicated, they're a fraternity, but they're also a charity. They do a lot of work around civil rights, around food insecurity, around addressing the needs on

important health disparities like HIV and AIDS, breast cancer, lupus, prostate cancer. They stand in the gap as it relates to income inequality and trying to make sure that communities have enough food and clothing and shelter.

During the migrant crisis, both chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star and lodges in Prince Hall Masonry have stepped up to welcome migrants and help them find food and shelter and clothing.

And so today we honor them. And today we are joined by the conservator of Prince Hall Masonry, known as Worshipful Grand Master Gregory Robeson Smith, Jr., who is the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in the State of New York.

We're also joined by the Deputy Master, the Reverend Dr. Darren Morton, who is also the pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, as well as the Grand Worthy Matron of the Eureka Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of New York, in the person of Yvonne Ladson.

I want to thank you for your

leadership, thank you for all that you do for the people of the State of New York. And thank you for making this day possible and making sure the voices of the people of our communities are heard throughout the state.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Parker.

Senator Comrie on the resolution.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Parker for initiating this first Lobby Day for the Masonic groups in the New York State.

I want to thank Gregory Robeson for working to make sure that the Masonic world, which is a -- as Senator Parker said, a historic world, a world that has been teaching people to do righteous things and work in the community in a philanthropic area for many years.

I'm an honorary terrible member of Lebanon Lodge 51. When I say that, I only get there once -- 54, rather. I even forgot the number.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR COMRIE: I go there a couple of times a year, but they've embraced me.

Lebanon Lodge, as Senator Parker says, has done a lot of charitable things, working every year to have events for people that are in need, feeding people. Especially one of their specialties is making sure that new mothers are given an opportunity to get all of the things that they need to start their life with a new child. They do many opportunities -- teaching kids on how to eat in a restaurant properly for the first time. They've done many other things in the community as well.

The Grand Master has been working on a theme, "One Family," which has been the motto, linking jurisdictions not just throughout New York State but throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where they're focusing on bridging the gap between other jurisdictions such as the Caribbean Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. He's brought in notable members into Masonry, making sure that there's a new generation of young people that are moving into Masonry as well.

He's been working to make sure that

his platform and the awareness of Freemasonry -- working through new modes like the social media presence, or attending events throughout the state and throughout the Eastern Seaboard, from participating in the walk in Selma, Alabama, to working at the VHPA, the 53rd conference.

He's also a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. We've got to talk about that.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR COMRIE: Because I'm a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

But, you know, it's one of the things that both groups have taught me, the understanding of giving, the understanding of helping others as you move along the way, to use the guiding tenets of Freemasonry as a guiding compass, making sure that members are dedicating themselves to the fight for justice and equity and equality, especially for younger people and younger men who need some direction.

So I want to thank all of you for coming today. It's a great showing, the first of many opportunities for you to come to Albany to show out and show off a little bit, but also to make sure that people understand that Freemasonry

needs to be respected, that your philanthropic endeavors need to be resourced and given opportunities to continue to shine.

And I'm honored to be part of this resolution. And thank you, Senator Parker, for making this day happen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Comrie.

Senator Cleare on the resolution.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I too rise to thank Senator Parker for this historic Prince Hall Advocacy Day resolution here in Albany.

Prince Hall Lodge -- well, I've grown up with this institution in my district as a child. I'm a child of a Freemason. And I can tell you that they have been ever-present in our community doing good works, service, charity, teaching values, character.

These are so important to our communities that may not belong to certain pedigrees, but we have always had the Masons and the Eastern Stars to be an example for our

children to stand in the gap, as Senator Parker mentioned. And they continue to stand in the gap today.

So I'm just really happy to see them here today and am proud to have Prince Hall Masonic Temple in my district and Grand Master Robinson -- Robeson, I'm sorry, and Reverend Morton and Grand Worthy Matron Ladson, I thank you for your work and your continued service in Harlem and throughout the State of New York.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Cleare.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, sir (to Senator Parker). It's good to see you in your uniform.

To the leadership, it's good to see you here.

Senator Parker, in his attempt to put a lot of information out and to be brief at it, left out an important fact of the Prince Hall Masons, that they were indeed the first Masons in

the United States. They received their charter from England weeks before the other group received their charter from England. So were it not for racism, I guess all Masons would be Prince Hall Masons in the U.S.

It is good that you're out here, it's good that you're giving back. And please continue to give back.

I represent Southeast Queens, and we have felt the goodness of your hearts and what you have done. We appreciate your role in giving leadership to such a community.

Continue to come out, continue to make sure that they understand that you are here, and continue -- and I know you will continue when you have such an illustrious son sitting amongst us.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. And I take a seat.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders.

Senator Webb on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Mr. President.

I too want to thank Senator Parker

and of course all of our distinguished leaders that are here today.

I am a daughter of a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and also a proud member myself, Sheba Chapter No. 3.

And so one of the things I just wanted to lift up -- and of course all of our guests that are here -- is that these are organizations that not only, as Senator Parker alluded to, do a lot of work in areas of charity but also in education. In our communities you will find members of this great organization leading initiatives to lift up young people, also getting them more involved in our communities through civic engagement and so much more.

So again, congratulations on this most certainly beautiful occasion, being here in the chamber and in our Capitol. And I look forward to supporting the continued good work that this organization provides to everyone, because it is an inclusive organization.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the

resolution.

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator Parker, for bringing forward this resolution today.

We have some people here from my district, Silver Lake Lodge No. 59. We have the Dr. Reverend Carolina and Shawn Stradford, two of my wonderful constituents.

And I will say that they do tremendous, tremendous work in our community on Staten Island. Whether we have back-to-school giveaways or we have a business who's in need of help or we have a family who needs something during the holidays, these are usually my first couple of phone calls. They are ingratiated in everything that we do to give back to our community.

And I want to thank them for being here, thank them for everything that they do. And also I have to give a special shout-out to the Silver Queens as well on Staten Island.

So thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Weber on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBER: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I want to thank the sponsor, Senator Parker, for bringing this resolution to the chamber today.

You know, I've had the honor of meeting many great Masons over the years, including my constituent and my good friend right up there, Grant Valentine. Grant Valentine and I have known each for a long time. Grant Valentine is someone who embodies public service, like most of the Masons do, is someone who always steps up to fill a void, to do extra work within the community.

So I'm proud to recognize him today. His lovely wife Linda is there too as well. Thank you for being here, and thank you for continuing to do all of the things that you do in your community. Thank you.

I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Fernandez on the resolution.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Thank you,

Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Parker, for this resolution in welcoming and honoring our brothers and sisters.

I rise to share that I am too a sister, Order of the Eastern Star, Lorelei Chapter 581.

And it's just a great feeling to always see and recognize other members, brothers and sisters, whether it's through the pin, whether it's through wardrobe and through action.

And it is so heartwarming to see that everywhere I go, there is another brother or sister out there doing the work secretly or not secretly. So in this moment that we are being not secret, it is truly commendable the legacy that has been and continues to be of the work by our Freemasons and our sisters.

And I'm just very honored to stand in unity with you here in our Senate chamber. So thank you so much.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,

Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Parker, for introducing this resolution.

When I think about the Masonic order, I think about service. When I think about service, I think about the Reverend Dr. Darren Morton, who is not only the city comptroller of Mount Vernon, he is the pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, he is a member of the Masonic order, and he is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha. And that's a lot of service.

But Dr. Morton is not alone in having that level, those degrees -- no pun intended -- in the amount of service that he does. Throughout my life I have been shaped by Masons. My grandfather, James, was a Mason from Johnson County, North Carolina, and my grandmother Lena was also from -- was a Star in also Johnson County North Carolina. So I've learned about the legacy of service that you wonderful folks at Prince Hall are doing.

So I just wanted to throw my couple of -- two cents in and just say thank you for all the work that you do in the city of Mount Vernon and the Bronx and well beyond. Anywhere where

you can hear your voice, we know that a brother or sister of the order is there.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Senator Borrello on the resolution.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd also like to extend my warm welcome to our brothers that are here from the Prince Hall Lodge. As a member of the Silver Lodge in Silver Creek, New York, No. 757, thank you all for being here and thank you for your advocacy and the amazing work that the Freemasons do throughout the world, particularly here in New York State.

There has never been a day where I haven't said thank God for the Freemasons and the work that they have done. As Senator Fernandez said, sometimes it's secret -- but always out there, helping the people.

And God bless you all, and welcome to your Advocacy Day.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Borrello.

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 April 16th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Next up is Resolution 2349, by Senator Webb. Please read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Webb.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2349, by Senator Webb, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 14, 2024, as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Webb on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to thank my Senate colleagues and of course our Majority Leader for bringing

this resolution forward to memorialize and proclaim May 14th as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Day in New York State.

This resolution that I'm speaking on today is important. Earlier today we introduced a series of bills, a nine-bill package, around this important issue as it pertains to domestic violence. And so as we know here in our chamber, we have and continue to push through policy and practice, resources, to address this important issue.

Domestic violence impacts New Yorkers from all social groups. It does not discriminate. It impacts us regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sex or sexual orientation, ethnicity or age.

While domestic violence certainly does not discriminate, as I said a moment ago, its impact is experienced disproportionately by women, Black women and Black men, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

It is critically important that we raise awareness of this pervasive issue in all the forms that it may take. Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used by an individual to

maintain power and control over their intimate partner. It may include physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse. It can cause physical, mental, emotional and financial trauma to survivors.

Here in New York we have some of the greatest demand for domestic violence support services in the country. I implore us all to continue to work to increase support for survivors and domestic violence support services and policies to ensure that survivors and their families have safety and the ability to heal.

I am honored to be voting in favor of this resolution, and I hope my colleagues will join me by voting aye.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the resolution.

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

And thank you to Senator Webb for introducing this resolution today.

We're going to be voting on a

package of bills. It's always about making sure that we look out for these victims. But something I always want to point out is I think it's very important that we highlight the different forms of abuse. Whether it's physical, emotional, psychological, financial, spiritual -- everything boils down to power and control.

And it's very important too -- in the language that we use, we often will say "domestic violence," but that sometimes carves out other victims who are suffering from all different forms of this abuse.

At the root cause of this is coercive control over another person. We must continue to modernize our laws to encompass technology abuse, ways that people can be tracked.

And I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

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: Now is -- excuse me. Next up is previously adopted Resolution 2335, by Senator Breslin. Please read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Breslin.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2335, by Senator Breslin, commending the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce upon the occasion of celebrating the Military Appreciation Event on May 14, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Breslin on the resolution.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'm here to recognize, through the creation by the Capital District Chamber of Commerce, the economic military impact to the Capital District.

Now, I know legislators sitting here

come from all parts of the state, but it's hard to recognize in a quiet way the impact the Capital District has on the military economy as well as the local economy.

And I cite a couple here. It's the Unified Military Affairs Council, and they support, among others, the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airport Wing; the Naval Support Facility in Saratoga Springs; the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa; the Watervliet Arsenal; as well as a number of other military establishments.

And I don't think many of you are aware of the fact that the Watervliet Arsenal, known as "America's Cannon Factory," began its manufacturing operation during the War of 1812. And I don't remember it at that time.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: So that is the oldest continuously operated arsenal in the United States. Today it manufactures weaponry for the high-powered tank and artillery systems that serve as the bedrock of America and allied militaries.

The 109th Airlift Wing, located in

Scotia in Schenectady County, flies the world's only large specialized ski planes that support the Arctic and Antarctic operations.

The recruitment offices throughout this area -- in total, there are hundreds and hundreds of people working for government-related facilities that provide tremendous impact to the economies of the Capital District.

And I salute the Capital District Chamber of Commerce for recognizing that economic benefit which provides a protection benefit to all of us.

So we're blessed here today to have with us the vice president of the Capital District Chamber of Commerce, Tom O'Connor, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Merchant of the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion-Albany, and he's the battalion commander. And Sergeant First Class Roberto Wells of the 2nd Platoon, B Company.

And I would ask that the State Senate salute the three of them.

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 resolution was adopted on May 7th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, all of these resolutions are open 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: Please recognize Senator Ramos for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Ramos.

SENATOR RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to say "Namaste" and "Tashi delek" to Adhikaar, an amazing organization that operates in my district, led by Narbada Chhetri, its executive director, and her entire team, who are here.

I just want to recognize all of their hard work in serving our immigrant population, particularly our Nepalese and Tibetan neighbors and beyond. They have very great adult education programming, and they do a great job of organizing our nail salon workers in Queens and beyond.

Thank you for all you do.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: To our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you all 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 the reading of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 140, Senate Print 3340, by Senator Mayer, an act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 5. 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: In relation to Calendar Number 140, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Stec, Tedisco and Weik.

Ayes, 48. Nays, 12.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 206, Senate Print 303, by Senator Salazar, an act to amend the Executive 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: Senator Salazar to explain her vote.

SENATOR SALAZAR: Thank you, Mr. President.

This bill as well as, collectively, the nine bills passing today related to crime victims and survivors, serve, for one, to improve access to services and supports for victims and survivors, to clarify parts of the law that are ambiguous; to prevent harm, including domestic violence, from continuing or happening in the first place; and to empower victims and survivors to take back what has been taken from them and to heal from the harm that they have experienced.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I vote aye.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 237, Senate Print 1716, by Senator Skoufis, an

act to amend the General Municipal 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 237, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Martins, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison and Ryan.

Ayes, 51. Nays, 9.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 304, Senate Print 1304, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York.

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: In relation to Calendar 304, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Martins, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 42. Nays, 18.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 311, Senate Print 653, by Senator Ortt, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. 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 350, Senate Print 4555B, by Senator Fernandez, an act to amend the Penal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as Section 66 of Chapter 777 of the Laws of 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Fernandez to explain her vote.

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much.

I just wanted to thank this body, this chamber, for not debating this bill --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR FERNANDEZ: -- because it is very self-explanatory.

And it's something that, yes, must be in effect as soon as possible. Because as of right now in New York State if you choose to have a beverage, an alcoholic beverage, maybe you have a little too much and you then get sexually assaulted or raped, it's technically your fault.

So this bill would repeal that and remove the voluntary intoxication exclusion from any defense, giving the survivor a fair and real chance at seeking justice from their attacker.

So I truly thank this body for its support, and I vote aye.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 486, Senate Print 5131, by Senator Webb, an act to amend the Retirement and Social Security Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the

last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 8. 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: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 543, Senate Print 1815, by Senator Stavisky, an act to amend the Criminal Procedure 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 543, voting in the negative:
Senator Brisport.
Ayes, 59. Nays, 1.
ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.
THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 544, Senate Print 1951, by Senator Hoylman-Sigal, an act to amend the Penal Law.
ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.
THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the first of November.
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 584, Senate Print Number 5502, by Senator Scarcella-Spanton, 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 90th 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 731, Assembly Bill Number 4737B, by Assemblymember Lavine, an act to amend the Penal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 7. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it 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 Number 731, voting in the negative: Senator Brisport.

Ayes, 59. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 772, Senate Print 1382, 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 863, Senate Print 8977, by Senator Webb, an act to amend the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Webb to explain her vote.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank again our Senate Majority Leader and all of my colleagues for their support.

This legislation aims to save lives and reduce these statistics, as I mentioned earlier, by providing law enforcement with a tool designed to help them identify victims who are most at risk for intimate partner homicide.

According to a 2021 report, of the estimated 4,970 female victims of murder and non-negligent manslaughter in 2021, data reported by law enforcement agencies indicated that one-third, or 34 percent, were killed by an intimate partner.

By comparison, about 6 percent of the 17,970 males that were murdered that year were victims of intimate partner homicide.

This legislation seeks to reduce these statistics by requiring that officers conduct a lethality assessment when responding to a domestic violence incident. That information will be included in the domestic incident report which is currently already done by law enforcement, which includes information about the victim, the alleged offender, and the details of the incident.

Officers will be required to advise the victim of the results and refer them to local domestic violence programs for support. The officer must also provide the victim with the number of the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline.

Based on the assessment, the officer may file for an Extreme Risk Protection Order if there is credible information suggesting a likelihood of serious harm.

New York State will join other states, once this is hopefully signed into law, that currently do this particular lethality

assessment, including Maryland and, most recently, Florida and Utah.

There are also counties currently right now in New York State that also utilize this lethality assessment, including my home county of Broome, but also Westchester and Dutchess counties.

We know that lethality assessments do work to reduce female homicides committed by men by 40 percent. Not only lethality assessments help law enforcement identify potential victims, but they also empower victims with self-protective steps to help them escape fatal encounters. Women who participated in the program were significantly more likely to remove or hide their partner's weapons, obtain formal services for domestic violence, to establish safety strategies with friends and family, and to obtain some form of protection against their partner.

And I'm proud to sponsor this legislation to ensure that we continue to take steps as a state to protect victims of crime in every way that we can. I vote aye and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator Rolison to explain his vote.

SENATOR ROLISON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Webb for moving this bill forward. And I want to thank all of my colleagues for supporting this bill.

As Senator Webb said, Dutchess County has had a lethality instrument tool within its public safety system since 2014. And I can tell you, over those years the tool is helping victims of domestic violence identify the seriousness of their offender and the ability of that offender to reoffend and, as Senator Webb said, to make plans to prevent that from happening, prevent them from being a victim again -- safety plans, working with the criminal justice system through the DA's office and DV advocates.

And I'll leave with just one more statistic. In the past five years in Dutchess County there has been an increase of 49 percent of victims contacting an advocate at the scene of

their report through that police officer. Which means that that assessment tool is showing those victims of their vulnerability and getting connected with that advocate right then and there. And of course the advocates are following up even if they don't make contact from the scene.

Lives are being saved, and families are having a much better chance of staying intact with the offender someplace else, obviously.

So Senator Webb, thank you. My colleagues, thank you. This is a great bill, and it's another demonstration of what we do here, putting public safety first.

Thank you, Mr. President. I proudly vote aye.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 908, Senate Print 1055, by Senator Hinchey, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets 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: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 910, Senate Print 1791, by Senator Hinchey, an act to amend the Public Service 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.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 911, Senate Print 1860, by Senator Brouk, an act to amend the Labor 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 911, voting in the negative are Senators Borrello and Gallivan.

Ayes, 58. Nays, 2.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 912, Senate Print 2352, by Senator Kavanagh, an act to amend the Real Property 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: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 912, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Felder, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 39. Nays, 21.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 931, Senate Print 2463B, by Senator Persaud, an act to amend the Public Health 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: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 939, Senate Print 2278A, by Senator Cleare, an act to amend the General Business 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 Cleare to explain her vote.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you,

Mr. President.

The consequences that a survivor of domestic violence, elder abuse or other forms of exploitation must face are often complex, deep-seated, and extend into all areas of the survivor's life, including finances. Almost every case of abuse has an economic component to it, and the average survivor is often put into thousands of dollars of debt by their abuser.

This bill sets up a formalized process so that any survivor who was the victim of a coerced debt may apply to have the collection activities suspended, pending a review of documentation that the debt was in fact coerced. In the ideal, after the review process the survivor will no longer be responsible for the debt.

In those cases where after review a negative finding of coercion is rendered, both an appeal and a private right of action are possible avenues of redress for the survivor.

In all, this bill ultimately seeks a balanced approach where survivors are allowed to grow, heal, and move on with their life and are not burdened for the rest of their lives by debt

incurred under coercion.

I proudly vote aye.

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

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 939, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Lanza, Mattera, Oberacker, O'Mara and Ortt.

Ayes, 52. Nays, 8.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 952, Assembly Bill 7476, by Assemblymember Steck, an act in relation to permitting the Albany Cemetery Association to file a certificate of amendment of certificate of incorporation with the Department of State.

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 975, Senate Print 259, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Education 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: Senator Serrano to explain his vote.

SENATOR SERRANO: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Communities that I represent in the South Bronx and East Harlem -- and indeed, communities all across the State of New York -- often suffer from health disparities, preventable, chronic diseases that afflict

certain communities. And there are many ways to address health disparities in our community -- increasing access to healthcare, but also ensuring that we have cultural awareness and competency in the medical profession will also go a long way to ensuring better health outcomes and better connection between communities and healthcare professionals.

So I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you. Senator Serrano to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 975, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Felder, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik. Also Senator Scarcella-Spanton.

Ayes, 39. Nays, 21.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: Going back to motions for a second, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Breslin, on page 42 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 798, Senate Print 2798, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The amendments are received, and the bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: On behalf of you, Mr. President, on page 33 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 653, Senate Print 1050A, and ask that said bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The amendments are received, and the bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Gianaris.

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

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: I move to

adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 15th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 15th, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 4:42 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)