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NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

May 19, 2025

3:21 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

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

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

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

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

8 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Bishop  
9 Bernard Alex, of Victory Temple Fellowship Church  
10 in Syracuse, New York, will deliver today's  
11 invocation.

12 Bishop?

13 BISHOP ALEX: Second Samuel  
14 Chapter 23 reminds us:

15 "Now these are the last words of  
16 David. Thus says David, the son of Jesse, thus  
17 says the man that was raised up on high, the  
18 anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet  
19 psalmist of Israel.

20 "David said, The spirit of the Lord  
21 spoke to me, and His words are on my tongue.

22 "The God of Israel said, the Rock of  
23 Israel spoke to me: Who governs over men must be  
24 just, governing in the fear and reverence of God.

25 "And then the one who governs shall

1 be like the light of the morning when the sun  
2 rises, even a morning without clouds, like the  
3 tender grass that springs up out of the earth,  
4 shining clear, glistening like the tender grass  
5 after the rain."

6                   So God of our help for the years to  
7 come, the One who shelters us and protects us, I  
8 ask that You continue to guide those who have  
9 accepted the call to govern, that they do so with  
10 the heart and spirit of a servant who serves,  
11 that they continue to provide, and that they give  
12 wisdom to the thought as they move with precision  
13 and integrity in turbulent times, and lives that  
14 are filled with questions find guidance.

15                   As the residents of the great State  
16 of New York, those from the tip of Montauk Point  
17 to the rolling waters of the Niagara, from those  
18 that stand on the borders of the neighbors to the  
19 north and the rolling hills of the Southern Tier,  
20 God, we ask that You give them senatorial  
21 leadership to make decisions that are equitable,  
22 considerate, and with the people at its core.

23                   And may the decisions made reflect  
24 the principles upon which our country was  
25 founded, that we remain one nation, under God's

1 divine guidance -- not divided, but with united  
2 spirits, and with liberty and justice for all.  
3 Keep us all those who serve, that we remember to  
4 whom much is given, much is required.

5 This is our petition and our  
6 request. In Your name, Amen.

7 (Response of "Amen.")

8 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Reading  
9 of the Journal.

10 THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Friday,  
11 May 16, 2025, the Senate met pursuant to  
12 adjournment. The Journal of Thursday, May 15,  
13 2025, was read and approved. On motion, the  
14 Senate adjourned.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Without  
16 objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

17 Presentation of petitions.

18 Messages from the Assembly.

19 The Secretary will read.

20 THE SECRETARY: Senator Fernandez  
21 moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
22 Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders,  
23 Assembly Bill Number 2398 and substitute it for  
24 the identical Senate Bill 1814, Third Reading  
25 Calendar 986.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    So  
2    ordered.

3                   Messages from the Governor.  
4                   Reports of standing committees.  
5                   Reports of select committees.  
6                   Communications and reports from  
7    state officers.

8                   Motions and resolutions.

9                   Senator Gianaris.

10                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Good afternoon,  
11    Madam President.

12                  On behalf of Senator Addabbo, I wish  
13    to call up Senate Print 2000, recalled from the  
14    Assembly, which is now at the desk.

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
16    Secretary will read.

17                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
18    235, Senate Print 2000, by Senator Addabbo, an  
19    act to amend the Insurance Law.

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

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
23    Secretary will call the roll on reconsideration.

24                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

25                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 52.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
2    is restored to its place on the Third Reading  
3    Calendar.

4                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    I offer the  
5    following amendments.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
7    amendments are received.

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

11                   By Senator Bailey, page 16, Calendar  
12   Number 425, Senate Print 5313;

13                   Senator Bailey, page 21, Calendar  
14   Number 584, Senate Print 5045;

15                   Senator Comrie, page 28, Calendar  
16   Number 708, Senate Print 5553A;

17                   Senator Comrie, page 28, Calendar  
18   Number 710, Senate Print 6846;

19                   Senator Sepúlveda, page 46, Calendar  
20   Number 893, Senate Print 5294;

21                   Senator Rivera, page 46, Calendar  
22   Number 898, Senate Print 7457;

23                   Senator Stavisky, page 47, Calendar  
24   Number 906, Senate Print 6891;

25                   Senator Webb, page 56, Calendar

1 Number 1021, Senate Print 2047;  
2 Senator Skoufis, page 57, Calendar  
3 Number 1024, Senate Print 4857A;  
4 Senator Hoylman-Sigal, page 55,  
5 Calendar Number 1005, Senate Print 4914A;  
6 Senator Bailey, page 49, Calendar  
7 Number 925, Senate Print 6895;  
8 And Senator Bailey, page 49,  
9 Calendar Number 927, Senate Print 7287.  
10 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
11 amendments are received, and the bills will  
12 retain their place on the Third Reading Calendar.  
13 Senator Gianaris.  
14 SENATOR GIANARIS: At this time,  
15 Madam President, let's take up previously adopted  
16 Resolution 821, by Senator Gianaris, read its  
17 title only, and recognize me on the resolution,  
18 please.  
19 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
20 Secretary will read.  
21 THE SECRETARY: Resolution 821, by  
22 Senator Gianaris, memorializing Governor Kathy  
23 Hochul to proclaim May 4, 2025, as Star Wars Day  
24 in the State of New York.  
25 (Laughter as two Star Wars

1 stormtroopers enter the chamber and flank  
2 Senator Gianaris.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
4 Gianaris on the resolution.

5 SENATOR GIANARIS: Hello, there.

6 Madam President, I have a bad  
7 feeling about this.

8 (Laughter.)

9 SENATOR GIANARIS: A long time ago  
10 in a galaxy far, far away. It was almost a  
11 half-century ago when those iconic words, the  
12 most famous words to begin a film, first appeared  
13 on the screen and launched a cultural phenomenon  
14 that has endured and grown through the decades --  
15 and I think has affected all of us in our  
16 everyday lives.

17 How many times have you walked into  
18 a supermarket and pretended to use the Force to  
19 open the doors?

20 (Laughter.)

21 SENATOR GIANARIS: I do it at the  
22 parking garage on the way in here every day.

23 (Laughter.)

24 SENATOR GIANARIS: Or how many  
25 times have you had a lightsaber fight with your

1 friends? In fact, two of our colleagues were  
2 doing it just today here in the well.

3 And of course the phrase that  
4 launched it all, "May the Force be with you," has  
5 now led to a fan-grown phenomenon where May 4th  
6 is celebrated as Star Wars Day for "May the  
7 fourth be with you."

8 Now, we had this resolution prepared  
9 by then, but as you all know, we were in the  
10 middle of the budget and thought it would be in  
11 poor taste to take this resolution up while we  
12 were dealing with such weighty issues. But we do  
13 have it before us today.

14 And you may all remember, that  
15 budget was hard-fought, it was at times divisive,  
16 it was partisan. But here is a day when we can  
17 all come together, where indeed the most  
18 conservative members of this chamber and the most  
19 progressive can share in the joys of celebrating  
20 what Star Wars has brought to so many of us.

21 I don't want to out anyone who  
22 doesn't want to be spoken about, but Senator  
23 Borrello, Senator Stec and myself are on a Star  
24 Wars text thread, which I think most people would  
25 find an odd combination of people.

1 (Laughter.)

2 SENATOR GIANARIS: Senator Rivera  
3 is sometimes joining us and has brought his own  
4 official lightsaber I know here to the chamber  
5 today.

6 So perhaps in Star Wars the Senate  
7 was a tool of the emperor and eventually was  
8 disbanded. Here it is uniting us and bringing us  
9 together to make us ever stronger.

10 I want to thank our own personal Mon  
11 Mothva, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, our  
12 leader, for allowing this display to happen in  
13 the Senate chamber today.

14 (Laughter.)

15 SENATOR GIANARIS: And I must take  
16 the opportunity to make a plea to our friends at  
17 Lucasfilm: Please bring back "The Acolyte." It  
18 was a good show, and it has grown in popularity  
19 since it was taken off the air.

20 So hear us, Lucasfilm!

21 To my colleagues here, a plea for  
22 all of us as well: May the Force be with us.

23 Thank you, Madam President.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
25 you, Senator.

1                   May the Fourth be with you. The  
2 resolution was adopted -- oh.

3                   Senator Borrello on the resolution.  
4                   (Laughter.)

5                   SENATOR BORRELLO:    (Brandishing  
6 lightsaber.) Now it's not going to work.

7                   Thank you, Madam President. Thank  
8 you, Senator Gianaris.

9                   Today I rise to celebrate and  
10 recognize May 4th as Star Wars Day around the  
11 world. "May the Fourth be with you" is a play on  
12 words from the iconic line "May the Force be with  
13 you." What started off as a pun turned into an  
14 international celebration to recognize the impact  
15 that Star Wars has had on our culture and what it  
16 means to fans around the globe.

17                   The first appearance of "May the  
18 Fourth be with you" can be traced back to 1978,  
19 just one year after the release of Star Wars: A  
20 New Hope.

21                   By then, Star Wars was firmly rooted  
22 in popular culture. The phrase gained wider  
23 attention on May 4, 1979, when British Prime  
24 Minister Margaret Thatcher was congratulated in a  
25 newspaper ad reading "May the 4th be with you,

1 Maggie -- congratulations!"

2           The pun also gained traction with  
3 Lucasfilm. In 1982 a sound designer coined it  
4 while working on Return of the Jedi in Northern  
5 California's Redwood Forests. He shared it on  
6 set and would go on to send an annual May the 4th  
7 message for years to come.

8           From these early mentions,  
9 grassroots enthusiasm by fans took over and  
10 helped establish May 4th as Star Wars Day, a  
11 global celebration of the saga and its impacts.

12           New York is home to some of the  
13 largest events and celebrations of science  
14 fiction and fantasy such as New York's Comic-Con,  
15 held every October in New York City.

16           At Comic-Con, Star Wars panels,  
17 experiences, meetups and guests are among the  
18 biggest draws, bringing fans together from across  
19 the galaxy. For me, Star Wars was bigger than  
20 life when it hit the movie screens in 1977. I  
21 was just 10 years old at the time. It was the  
22 state-of-the-art special effects. It was a story  
23 that had nothing to do with Earth or even our  
24 galaxy, as it starts off "A long, long time ago  
25 in a galaxy far, far away."

1                   This was a novel concept at the  
2 time, but it was based on the epic battle between  
3 good and evil. It drew inspiration from many  
4 classic hero stories, from the swashbuckling  
5 adventures of movies of the 1940s and '50s to the  
6 dogfight battles -- oh, it died. Here we go, all  
7 right --

8                   (Laughter.)

9                   SENATOR BORRELLO:    -- like those in  
10 World War II.

11                   I'm actually worse than the  
12 stormtroopers when it comes to aim, so --

13                   (Laughter.)

14                   SENATOR BORRELLO:    George Lucas  
15 started with an idea that has grown into a  
16 movement. There are new fans born every day.  
17 Then there are those of us that have grown up and  
18 even grown old with Star Wars.

19                   So today we celebrate the global  
20 phenomenon that it has become. It is ingrained  
21 in our culture and continues to inspire  
22 generations with its enduring themes of hope,  
23 courage and redemption.

24                   I wanted to thank my co-conspirator,  
25 Senator Gianaris, on this. Thank you very much.

1                   And May the Fourth be with you.

2                   Thank you, Madam President.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Thank  
4                   you, Senator.

5                   Senator Rivera on the resolution.

6                   SENATOR RIVERA:    And on the other  
7                   side of the aisle.

8                   (Laughter.)

9                   SENATOR RIVERA:    Madam President, I  
10                  remember the first -- I'm just going to put this  
11                  down. Do not light the saber unless you're  
12                  willing to use it, good sir.

13                  (Laughter.)

14                  SENATOR RIVERA:    Now, in 1983 I was  
15                  eight years old, and the first movie I remember  
16                  seeing in the movie theater was Return of the  
17                  Jedi. It is the reason why up to this day, even  
18                  though people might not like it, I still love me  
19                  some Ewoks and I still sing the Yub Nub song.  
20                  That's a very inside thing for others that are  
21                  Star Wars fans.

22                  But in all honesty, Madam President,  
23                  it is actually one of the things that as you saw  
24                  very clearly, Senator Borrello and I would agree  
25                  on very little. We do agree on this being

1 something that we both share and is shared by  
2 millions of people across the world.

3 And I will say that it is something  
4 that is one of the things that has maintained my  
5 sanity. I've been here for 15 years, and one of  
6 the things that I do to maintain my sanity is  
7 that every now and then I go into -- I put -- I  
8 take my iPad or I'm at home and I get on my TV  
9 and I just put one of these sci-fi blockbusters  
10 on and enjoy myself and am able to forget the  
11 rest of the world for a little bit.

12 So I will say, as has been said  
13 before, once again, Madam President, to everyone  
14 present (lightsaber squealing): May the Fourth  
15 be with you.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
17 you, Senator.

18 Senator Stec on the resolution.

19 SENATOR STEC: I too want to  
20 join -- no, I'll pass on the lightsaber, George.

21 As has been mentioned, Star Wars is  
22 important to a lot of us in here. I was eight  
23 years old when Star Wars came out. I remember  
24 going to that movie with my family and becoming a  
25 big Star Wars fan. It's an odd journey that

1 brings me here to my mid-50s, and as  
2 Senator Gianaris pointed out, opposite sides of  
3 the aisle, maybe sometimes there are many things  
4 we don't agree on, but Star Wars and our love of  
5 Star Wars and its impact on us as kids is among  
6 the things that brings us together, along with  
7 tens of millions of Star Wars fans around the  
8 world.

9                   You know, it's nice to recognize  
10 that iconic "May the Force be with you" to be  
11 Star Wars Day, "May the 4th be with you." So I  
12 thank Senator Gianaris for bringing this  
13 legislation to the floor. That might be the  
14 first and only time that he may ever hear that  
15 sentence from me.

16                   (Laughter.)

17                   SENATOR STEC: And as I tried  
18 telling him during the budget process -- it  
19 didn't work, I'm going to have to go back to  
20 school and seek out Yoda, but I'll try it again  
21 here: This is not the budget you're looking for.

22                   (Laughter.)

23                   SENATOR STEC: Anyways, I support  
24 the resolution. And again, Happy Star Wars Day,  
25 everybody.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Thank  
2    you, Senator.

3                   The resolution was adopted on  
4    April 29th.

5                   Senator Gianaris.

6                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    I want to  
7    welcome and appreciate that our two guests here  
8    have flanked me during this conversation.  They  
9    are going to make their way to the Majority  
10   Conference Room, and they'll be there for about  
11   an hour for photos, if anyone would like to sneak  
12   out and get their photo and return.  That's open  
13   not just to members but to anyone that would like  
14   to do that.  So thank you.  Thank you, both of  
15   you.

16                  And on to the next resolution,  
17    Madam Speaker.

18                  (Applause as Star Wars stormtroopers  
19    exit the chamber.)

20                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    Previously  
21    adopted Resolution 963, by Senator May.  Please  
22    read that resolution's title and recognize  
23    Senator May.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
25    Secretary will read.

1                   THE SECRETARY:    Resolution 963, by  
2    Senator May, commemorating the 10th Anniversary  
3    of the New York Cider Association.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Senator  
5    May on the resolution.

6                   SENATOR MAY:    Thank you,  
7    Madam President.

8                   It's a tough act to follow, but  
9    let's change the subject a little here and talk  
10   about upstate New York.

11                   Upstate New York is one of the best  
12   places in the world for growing apples.  And we  
13   are blessed with an abundance of orchards and  
14   apple products, including hard cider.

15                   I have the honor to represent the  
16   beautiful Lafayette Valley, where 1911 Cider is  
17   located.  And we have many other orchards in my  
18   district.

19                   Later this afternoon you are all  
20   invited to the Well to taste a delicious variety  
21   of ciders produced by our craft cider makers from  
22   across the state.

23                   For now, I am pleased to recognize  
24   the 10th anniversary of the New York State Cider  
25   Association.  This group came together to

1 advocate for the cider industry, which used to  
2 labor under the shadows of other craft beverages,  
3 but now I think it's fair to say that cider is  
4 having its moment, thanks to the relentless  
5 advocacy of the New York State Cider Association  
6 and their great products, as well as the  
7 legislation that we passed last year to allow  
8 direct shipment of cider and other craft  
9 beverages direct to consumers.

10 We are joined today by Scott Ramsey  
11 and Adrian Luna of the New York Cider  
12 Association, as well as representatives from  
13 Nine Pin Cider, Rockland Cider Works,  
14 Indian Ladder Farms Cidery, Brooklyn Cider House,  
15 Merchant's Daughter, Treasury Cider, and  
16 Clarksburg Cidery.

17 And I ask you to welcome our guests  
18 and give them the privileges of the house.

19 Thank you.

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

24 Please rise and be recognized.

25 (Standing ovation.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
2 resolution was adopted on May 13th.

3                   Senator Gianaris.

4                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Please recognize  
5 Senator Brisport for an introduction.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Senator  
7 Brisport for an introduction.

8                   SENATOR BRISPORT:    Thank you,  
9 Madam President.

10                   I rise to introduce visitors from  
11 the Brownsville Community Justice Center, BCJC,  
12 which improves public safety in Brownsville,  
13 Brooklyn, by investing in local residents,  
14 transforming public spaces and reimagining the  
15 criminal justice process.

16                   The Community Justice Center works  
17 to reduce crime and incarceration, strengthen the  
18 trust in the justice system, and promote vibrant  
19 civic life in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Programming  
20 at the Brownsville Community Justice Center  
21 centers on three key elements: Alternatives to  
22 incarceration, youth development, and reimagining  
23 public space. This holistic approach guides all  
24 of the services and opportunities offered at the  
25 Community Justice Center, which are uniquely

1 designed to uplift and empower Brownsville youth.

2 I want to thank staff Lenny, Lavont,  
3 Robin and Hailey for being here, as well as our  
4 Youth Leadership Council members and  
5 participants: Javon, Sela, Emilio, Havi, Nema.

6 Today they were lobbying for the  
7 Right to Remain Silent bill, legislation from our  
8 own Senator Bailey. I really want to thank you  
9 all for showing the New York State Senate the  
10 power and future of Brownsville.

11 "Never ran, never will." Thank you.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
13 you, Senator.

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

17 Please rise and be recognized.

18 (Standing ovation.)

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
20 Serrano.

21 SENATOR SERRANO: Thank you,  
22 Madam President.

23 We have a privileged resolution by  
24 Senator Mattera. Please take that up,  
25 Resolution 1020. Please read that title only and

1 call on Senator Mattera.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: There is  
3 a privileged resolution at the desk.

4 The Secretary will read.

5 THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1020, by  
6 Senator Mattera, memorializing Governor Kathy  
7 Hochul to proclaim May 19, 2025, as Italian  
8 American Day in the State of New York.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
10 Mattera on the resolution.

11 SENATOR MATTERA: Thank you,  
12 Madam President.

13 Today as a proud member of the  
14 New York Conference of Italian-American  
15 Legislators, it is my honor to stand before you  
16 as we jointly proclaim today Italian American Day  
17 in New York State. What a great day.

18 This day is the opportunity to  
19 recognize the profound impact Italian-Americans  
20 have had on our state and nation. Just so  
21 everybody understands, 25 percent of New York  
22 residents are Italian-Americans, and we are very  
23 proud of that.

24 These individuals have helped shape  
25 America into the great nation it is today, and

1 they continue to lead us towards a brighter  
2 future. Their contributions are vast and they  
3 remind us of the importance of honoring those who  
4 paved the way for all of us.

5 Today's designation of Italian  
6 American Day also celebrates the Republic of  
7 Italy's national holiday, Festa Della Repubblica  
8 Italiana, which celebrates the day Italy voted to  
9 become a democratic republic.

10 This shared history gives us an  
11 extra reason to celebrate both here and in Italy  
12 and I am going to be going to Italy in July, so  
13 I'm very excited about that for my first time.

14 This shared history gives us an  
15 extra reason to celebrate both here and in Italy.  
16 It is a day to honor all who have made our state  
17 and nation stronger.

18 As someone who is proud of my  
19 Italian heritage, I know that I stand in the  
20 shadow of all who have come before me, and I am  
21 proud to celebrate and remember their legacy.

22 That is why today the New York State  
23 Conference of Italian-American Legislators  
24 honored some of the deserving Italian-American  
25 New Yorkers who have worked to preserve the

1 history of Italian-Americans to ensure that their  
2 contributions are always honored and serve as an  
3 inspiration for all who follow.

4           And I'm going to mention these names  
5 because these are very, very important people  
6 that are here today. Dr. Joseph Scelsa. He is  
7 the founder of the Italian American Museum on  
8 Mulberry Street in Manhattan. You know, and I  
9 appreciate that he is here and what he is doing.

10           Antonietta Marisello {ph} is here  
11 today. Maria Milito. Christopher Macchio.  
12 Chris Vaccaro. Philip Foglia. Assemblyman  
13 Philip Palmesano.

14           And our Republican leader that is  
15 being honored today also, Leader Rob Ortt. And  
16 just so everybody knows, Leader Ortt is half  
17 Italian. And I said to the leader, "That is  
18 definitely your better half."

19           (Laughter.)

20           SENATOR MATTERA: That's going to  
21 be good. No, I just had to say that.

22           And congratulations to all of our  
23 scholarship winners. Great job, all of our  
24 high school and our college students.

25           These New Yorkers have made their

1 own contributions to our state today, and we  
2 celebrate Italian Independence Day. We are  
3 honored to celebrate their contributions and  
4 their accomplishments. I thank them for all  
5 their dedication and hope they understand the  
6 lasting impact they have had.

7 As I close, I want to note how  
8 Italian American Day is remembered and the  
9 strength of our state's diversity. It highlights  
10 how every community and every race contributed to  
11 the building of New York, which is the greatest  
12 state in the union. We have built this great  
13 state together, and it is only through that  
14 shared commitment that we continue to thrive.

15 It was great to see our  
16 Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, when she  
17 attended the U.N. Week. And in the fall when she  
18 visited, she went to Columbus Circle and she  
19 placed a wreath at the Columbus statue. That was  
20 very, very important to all Italian-Americans.

21 It is so important that we also  
22 preserve Columbus Day. And that I want to thank  
23 President Trump for signing an executive order  
24 protecting this precious celebration for all  
25 Italian-Americans. That is our heritage.

1 I hope that we all can join together  
2 as a body to celebrate our diversity by  
3 recognizing Italian American Day. Hope to see  
4 everybody at the festa. God bless all  
5 Italian-Americans, God bless Italy, and God bless  
6 the United States of America. Cent'anni! A  
7 hundred years good health.

8 Madam President, please extend all  
9 privileges and courtesies of the house to our  
10 honorees and to all of our scholarship award  
11 winners.

12 Thank you, and I proudly vote aye.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
14 you, Senator.

15 Senator Chan on the resolution.

16 SENATOR CHAN: Thank you,  
17 Madam President.

18 How can I not speak about the  
19 Italians? First I want to thank Senator Mattera  
20 for introducing this resolution. I'll start off  
21 with "Che si dice." How can I not speak about  
22 this when I lived intimately with my Italian  
23 friends in Brooklyn for 50 years, from  
24 Bensonhurst to Bath Beach, Dyker Heights,  
25 Bay Ridge, Gravesend, Kensington -- you name it.

1 South Brooklyn. From Galileo to Da Vinci, from  
2 Marco Polo to Marconi, from Prada to Gucci. How  
3 can we dispute the contributions of the Italians  
4 to the betterment of mankind and civilization?

5 As our beautiful neighborhood of  
6 South Brooklyn changes, our Italian culture is as  
7 prevalent as ever. Together with the Italians,  
8 we forge forward. We have people that I grew up  
9 with named Venuto and Conigliaro, Trippes, Neris.  
10 I know 10 Sally Boys and about five Fat Tonys.

11 (Laughter.)

12 SENATOR CHAN: And one of them is  
13 Chinese. He's a Chinese cop.

14 (Laughter.)

15 SENATOR CHAN: My chief of staff is  
16 named Vito LaBella.

17 From the land of Lioni Italian  
18 heroes, to Villabate Bakery, Bari Salumeria,  
19 Spumoni Gardens, Villa Fiorita Ristorante, La  
20 Bella Markets -- no relations -- Mr. Phil's  
21 Pizza, our Lady of Guadalupe Roman Catholic  
22 Church, and of course the Santa Rosalia Feast  
23 enjoyed by all coming from all over the city.

24 We thrive as a neighborhood in  
25 motion. And it's not just the Italians, but

1 today it is about the Italians. And all of us  
2 have common goals. People speaking different  
3 languages somehow able to communicate with each  
4 other because we have a common goal and we do the  
5 same things.

6 From Mulberry Street in Little Italy  
7 to 18th Avenue in Brooklyn, can you feel it? I  
8 can. Fuggedaboutit. Come to South Brooklyn.  
9 I'll tell you what I'm talking about. I'll show  
10 you.

11 I proudly support this resolution on  
12 behalf of the people of South Brooklyn. We love  
13 this! Gracie.

14 (Applause from galleries.)

15 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
16 you, Senator.

17 Senator Rhoads on the resolution.

18 SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you,  
19 Madam President.

20 I proudly rise as an  
21 Italian-American myself with my maternal  
22 grandparents, Fred and Frances Salacca, coming  
23 from Bari and Naples respectively. I'm also  
24 married to a lovely lady who is 100 percent  
25 Italian. So even though the other half of me is

1 Irish and German, you know what half dominates  
2 our house, and that is Italian.

3 I rise actually, in addition to it  
4 being Italian American Day today, the committee  
5 also awards two scholarships -- actually, four  
6 scholarships, two in the area of athletics and  
7 two in the area of academics. The 5th Senate  
8 District was blessed this year to have two  
9 honorees, two scholarship recipients, one of whom  
10 is in the chamber today. But I would like to  
11 recognize both. First, Thomas DiLeo, who is the  
12 recipient of the Senator John Marchi Athletic  
13 Scholarship, was a Plainview-Old Bethpage-JFK  
14 high school graduate of the Class of 2023. He's  
15 currently a sophomore at Stony Brook University  
16 as part of the university's eight-year Scholars  
17 for Dental Medicine Program.

18 Tommy has two passions: Cooking and  
19 baseball. Although severely asthmatic, through  
20 years of conditioning and training he was able to  
21 overcome that obstacle playing for the varsity  
22 baseball team, earning MVP honors and two league  
23 championships. Today Tommy is the starting  
24 left-fielder for Stony Brook University's Club  
25 Baseball Team and has played for Stony Brook's

1 Rugby Team.

2 He has also maintained a 100 percent  
3 GPA throughout his high school career while  
4 leading the Investors Club, the Veterans Club and  
5 is on the Leadership Council of the Saint Pius X  
6 Youth Group, which for those of you who have been  
7 here a while know that I have the honor of  
8 serving as youth minister.

9 And knowing Tommy for the better  
10 part of the last six years, he is truly an  
11 exceptional not only athlete, but just an amazing  
12 person. He's currently maintaining a 3.8 GPA  
13 while making the Dean's List in each semester  
14 while taking physics and organic chemistry. And  
15 he is truly a worthy recipient.

16 Unfortunately, he could not make it  
17 with us here today in the chamber because he's  
18 actually taking a final exam at college.

19 But with us in the chamber here  
20 today is Damien Crowley. Damien Crowley is the  
21 recipient of the James Conte Academic  
22 Scholarship. He is a senior at Wantagh High  
23 School and will be attending Stanford University  
24 in the fall to study chemical engineering, with a  
25 focus on environmental sustainability.

1                   As a high school student he's worked  
2 with Ph.D. candidates and post-doctoral  
3 researchers at Stony Brook University in the  
4 chemical and materials engineering department to  
5 advance plastic sustainability and curtail soil  
6 erosion and land degradation as a student  
7 research intern with the Garcia Center for  
8 Polymers at Engineered Interfaces.

9                   He also continues to serve as a  
10 research intern at Vesta Earth, modeling sediment  
11 transport and developing potential solutions to  
12 ecological degradation.

13                   As a former Wantagh Warrior myself,  
14 I got the chance to meet Damien for the first  
15 time through his work with the Leukemia and  
16 Lymphoma Society as a volunteer, competing for  
17 two consecutive years in a seven-week fundraising  
18 challenge. The team he captained, Warriors for a  
19 Cure, in the last two years has raised over  
20 \$200,000 for LLS.

21                   But in his spare time Damien is  
22 president of the Wantagh Animal Rights and  
23 Recycling Club, captain of the Wantagh High  
24 School Science Olympiad Team, vice president of  
25 Future Business Leaders of America, secretary of

1 the Italian Club, treasurer of the Key Club,  
2 member of the Mathletes Team, co-captain of the  
3 Wantagh's Varsity Winter Track Team, a sprinter  
4 co-captain of the Wantagh's Varsity Spring Track  
5 Team, has received the AP Capstone diploma, is an  
6 AP Scholar with Distinction, is a National Merit  
7 Scholarship Winner, has received the New York  
8 State Seal of Biliteracy in Italian, has given  
9 oral presentations at the 2024 and 2025 Materials  
10 Research Society, and has published a research  
11 manuscript in the Journal of Emerging  
12 Investigators and articles in the Journal of  
13 Ethics and Scientific Technological Innovations  
14 as a high school student -- all while maintaining  
15 a cumulative weighted GPA of 108.78.

16 Madam President, I would ask that  
17 you recognize Damien, and Thomas in absentia. I  
18 would ask that you grant them the privileges and  
19 courtesies of the house, and your congratulations  
20 on our scholarship award winners.

21 Thank you, Madam President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
23 you, Senator.

24 Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the  
25 resolution.

1                   SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON:    Thank  
2    you, Madam President.

3                   And thank you, Senator Mattera, for  
4    introducing this very important resolution in  
5    honor of Italian American Day.

6                   As a proud Italian American myself,  
7    Scarcella -- if that doesn't give it away, and  
8    probably my accent as well -- I really just  
9    wanted to say that today is a really special day.  
10   We have Festa tonight.

11                  And Italians have such an incredibly  
12   rich culture. My dad's grandparents came over  
13   from Italy in 1903, Oronzo and Josephine. He  
14   worked in the coal mines in Pennsylvania for some  
15   time, then he started to sell life insurance.  
16   With that money, he opened a store in Hazleton,  
17   Pennsylvania, on Carson Street.

18                  So today we have my -- yes? We  
19   have -- you know, I rise today thinking of mostly  
20   my dad, Michael Scarcella, and his family. They  
21   are the reason why we're here today, and I  
22   proudly vote aye.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Thank  
24    you, Senator.

25                  The question is on the resolution.

1 All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

2 (Response of "Aye.")

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Oh.

4 Senator Weik on the resolution.

5 SENATOR WEIK: Thank you,

6 Madam President.

7 As a proud German-American who's got  
8 0.02 percent Italian in me -- I'm told that  
9 counts -- I'm so proud to be able to recognize  
10 Bob Fonti, who's the president of the Italian  
11 American Political Action Committee and president  
12 of the Lt. Detective Joseph Petrosino Association  
13 in America. And he's one of the only officers  
14 ever killed on foreign soil, is what I am told.

15 And so they play such a great big  
16 part on Long Island and across New York, and I  
17 thank them for being here today and for joining  
18 us.

19 And I proudly vote aye on today's  
20 resolution.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
22 you, Senator.

23 The question is on the resolution.

24 All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

25 (Response of "Aye.")

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Opposed,  
2    nay.

3                   (No response.)

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   The  
5    resolution is adopted.

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

9                   Please all rise and be recognized.

10                  (Standing ovation.)

11                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Senator  
12    Gianaris.

13                  SENATOR GIANARIS:   Next up,  
14    Madam President, is previously adopted  
15    Resolution 588, by Senator Webb. Please read  
16    that resolution's title and recognize  
17    Senator Webb.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   The  
19    Secretary will read.

20                  THE SECRETARY:   Resolution 588, by  
21    Senator Webb, mourning the death of John "JR"  
22    Gaudet, distinguished citizen, respected  
23    firefighter, and devoted member of his community.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Senator  
25    Webb on the resolution.

1                   SENATOR WEBB:    Thank you,  
2    Madam President.

3                   I rise with a heavy heart to honor  
4    the life, the service, and the enduring legacy of  
5    John "JR" Gaudet.  He was a beloved husband,  
6    father, son, community leader, and firefighter  
7    from my district in Binghamton, New York, who  
8    tragically lost his life in the line of duty on  
9    February 12th of this year at the age of 40.

10                  For anyone that knew JR, they knew  
11    that he was more than a public servant.  He was a  
12    cornerstone of our community in Binghamton.  Born  
13    and raised right in my district, JR exemplified  
14    what it means to dedicate your life to others.  
15    His commitment to protecting our community was  
16    only matched by his deep love for his family;  
17    specifically, his wife, Felly, and their three  
18    children:  Charles, Vanessa and Michael.

19                  He was a proud graduate of  
20    Binghamton High School, my alma mater, and JR  
21    went on to attend both Binghamton University and  
22    SUNY Cortland, where he played collegiate  
23    lacrosse, a sport that remained close to his  
24    heart.  And for anyone that knew him, they knew  
25    that he also prided himself on being a coach and

1 he was very enthusiastic about his love for that  
2 sport.

3 He later gave back as a youth coach  
4 for lacrosse, football and basketball, and always  
5 showed up with an infectious smile, a joke,  
6 tireless energy, and unwavering positivity.  
7 Those who knew JR describe him as someone who  
8 always put others first, whether it was on the  
9 job or in his family and throughout our  
10 community.

11 Whether it was responding to  
12 emergencies as a firefighter or mentoring young  
13 athletes on the field, JR's dedication to service  
14 and humanity touched countless lives.

15 Madam President, JR Gaudet embodied  
16 the very best of us. His spirit will live on not  
17 only through his family and friends, but also in  
18 the community that he loved and gave so much to.

19 As we mourn his loss and his  
20 transition, let us also honor his legacy by  
21 committing ourselves to a life of service,  
22 compassion, and care for one another.

23 To Binghamton Fire Department  
24 Captain David Holleran, who is here today, and  
25 the Binghamton Fire Department, I just want you

1 to know that your commitment to keeping his  
2 legacy of service alive is a part of your work as  
3 public servants, and we appreciate everything  
4 that you do for our community in every way that  
5 you show up.

6 And to his wife, Felly, and to his  
7 children and the entire Gaudet family, please  
8 know that the 52nd Senate District and the entire  
9 State of New York grieves with you. And we thank  
10 you for sharing JR with us for the time that he  
11 was here. We appreciate your continued great  
12 service and support all of the great things that  
13 you do for our community.

14 May his memory continue to be a  
15 blessing, and may we carry forward his legacy of  
16 love and service.

17 Madam President, please extend  
18 privileges of our house to Binghamton Fire  
19 Department Captain Holleran, and prayers to the  
20 family of JR Gaudet and all those whose lives  
21 he's touched.

22 I vote aye and encourage my  
23 colleagues to do the same.

24 Thank you, Madam President.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank

1 you.

2 To our guests -- God bless you --  
3 our condolences to you and the entire Fire  
4 Department and to the family of JR. I welcome  
5 you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you  
6 the privileges and courtesies of this house.

7 Please rise and be recognized.

8 (Standing ovation.)

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
10 resolution was adopted on April 2nd.

11 Senator Gianaris.

12 SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize  
13 Senator Hinchey for an introduction.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
15 Hinchey for an introduction.

16 SENATOR HINCHEY: Thank you,  
17 Madam President.

18 Pop quiz: Who can tell me what the  
19 four H's are in 4-H? I bet the students in the  
20 gallery can tell us. The answer is head, heart,  
21 hands, and health. Head, to clearer thinking.  
22 Heart, to greater loyalty. Hands, to larger  
23 service. And health, to better living.

24 We're excited to welcome students  
25 from across New York State to the Senate chamber

1 today because today marks the 90th Annual 4-H  
2 Capital Days Conference. That's 90 years of  
3 4-Hers coming to Albany to learn about state  
4 government, meet their representatives and  
5 connect with fellow 4-Hers from different  
6 communities.

7           If you're not familiar, 4-H is the  
8 largest youth development organization in the  
9 country, thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension.  
10 Every year when I go to the Ulster County Fair,  
11 the Columbia County Fair, the Greene County Youth  
12 Fair, I'm blown away by the creativity,  
13 confidence, and self-expression coming from our  
14 4-Hers.

15           You take the things you care about  
16 and turn them into projects that teach, advocate  
17 and open minds. Whether it's raising animals,  
18 learning about food and farming, protecting the  
19 environment, creating art, or sharpening your  
20 public speaking skills, 4-H is about building  
21 real-world skills and giving you the space to  
22 explore and run with your curiosities about the  
23 world.

24           The impact of that speaks for  
25 itself. 4-Hers are four times more likely to

1 have a positive impact in their communities,  
2 three times more likely to feel confident, and  
3 twice as likely to pursue STEM and make healthy  
4 choices.

5 Last year alone, more than 400,000  
6 students across New York State took part in 4-H.  
7 That's incredible. So keep asking questions,  
8 keep taking risks, keep being curious, keep  
9 showing up for yourself, for your community, and  
10 for what drives you. It takes courage to try  
11 something new. And that can be a really  
12 vulnerable place to be. But it's also where the  
13 real growth happens.

14 Thank you all for being here and for  
15 reminding us what service and courage look like  
16 in action. And a special shout out to 4-Hers  
17 Ella Maxwell and Zachary Maroney, who are here  
18 representing Ulster County, from my district,  
19 from Highland and my hometown of Saugerties.

20 Madam President, please welcome our  
21 guests to the chamber and offer them all the  
22 privileges. Thank you very much.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
24 you, Senator.

25 To our guests, we welcome you on

1       behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the  
2       privileges and courtesies of this house.

3                   Please all rise and be recognized.

4                   (Standing ovation.)

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Senator  
6       Gianaris.

7                   SENATOR GIANARIS:     One more  
8       introduction, from Senator Gounardes, please.

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Senator  
10      Gounardes for an introduction.

11                  SENATOR GOUNARDES:     Thank you,  
12      Madam President.

13                  I rise today to honor and introduce  
14      a remarkable New Yorker who was a giant in the  
15      field of public transportation and public transit  
16      because he spent 20 years serving on the board of  
17      the MTA.

18                  We discuss the MTA a lot in this  
19      chamber in the work that we do here in Albany,  
20      and we have -- we talk about it sometimes in the  
21      abstract, we talk about it sometimes in the  
22      real-life. But Norman Brown, who spent 20 years  
23      as a board member on the MTA, who just retired,  
24      lived his service to the MTA every single day.  
25      He devoted himself to the stewardship and

1 improvement of public transit for all New Yorkers  
2 through his service on the board.

3 As a labor representative for the  
4 Metro-North commuter rail, he was a champion for  
5 the workers who helped power our public transit,  
6 and he was a committed voice for the importance  
7 that public transit plays to our region's  
8 economy.

9 But that's not all, because he is  
10 also a scholar of transportation policy, and he  
11 has helped push and advocated for policy  
12 interests -- policy campaigns to help further the  
13 interests of riders and help strengthen our  
14 public transit system for decades.

15 He has a deep knowledge, not just of  
16 mass transit but of freight rail as well. And he  
17 is someone whose expertise ranges from  
18 maintenance issues on the shop floor to the  
19 macroeconomics of transportation.

20 After 20 years of service on the  
21 MTA Board -- without a vote -- he's probably had  
22 more impact on the MTA and on public transit than  
23 many of us in this room and even board members  
24 who have had a vote for even half that time.

25 Norman is with us here today in the

1 chamber with his guests. And so,  
2 Madam President, I'd ask that you'd recognize him  
3 and give him the full courtesies and privileges  
4 of the chamber.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
6 you, Senator.

7 To our guests, I welcome you on  
8 behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the  
9 privileges and courtesies of this house. Thank  
10 you for your service.

11 Please rise and be recognized.

12 (Standing ovation.)

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
14 Gianaris.

15 SENATOR GIANARIS: Next up is  
16 previously adopted Resolution 279, by  
17 Senator Rhoads. Please have that resolution's  
18 title read and recognize Senator Rhoads.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
20 Secretary will read.

21 THE SECRETARY: Resolution 279, by  
22 Senator Rhoads, memorializing Governor  
23 Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 2025 as  
24 Aphasia Awareness Month in the State of New York.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator

1 Rhoads on the resolution.

2 SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you,  
3 Madam President.

4 Again, I rise and I thank the leader  
5 for allowing this resolution to come to the floor  
6 to recognize June 2025 as Aphasia Awareness Month  
7 in the State of New York.

8 Many people don't know what aphasia  
9 is, but it impacts over 2 million people a year.  
10 In fact, 40 percent of individuals who suffer a  
11 stroke are eventually diagnosed with some impact  
12 of aphasia.

13 And aphasia is an impairment of  
14 language affecting the production or  
15 comprehension of speech and the ability to read  
16 or write. And this condition occurs when the  
17 part of the brain that's required for  
18 communication abilities is damaged due to a  
19 stroke, brain injury, or other neurological  
20 condition.

21 Those affected by aphasia often  
22 struggle to come up with words, to say what they  
23 mean, read quickly or to their full ability, or  
24 even remember how to spell words that they used  
25 to be able to read and write. They have

1 difficulty understanding conversations as well as  
2 following conversations. And this becomes a  
3 particular problem when they're trying to  
4 communicate with their own doctors, which leads  
5 to them not asking the appropriate questions to  
6 professionals and to signing forms without proper  
7 understanding of the situation.

8 Raising awareness is key.

9 And with us in the chamber we are  
10 honored to have Matthew Weingartner. Now,  
11 Matthew was an avid college baseball player.  
12 Matt had two open-heart surgeries in 2006 and  
13 2017, resulting in an infection, which triggered  
14 a stroke on April 18th of 2018 and a diagnosis of  
15 Broca's aphasia.

16 Like so many people that we  
17 recognize in this chamber, Matthew, though, took  
18 a personal tragedy and turned it into an  
19 opportunity to try and do something positive for  
20 others, using it as a chance to raise awareness,  
21 becoming a national spokesperson for the National  
22 Aphasia Awareness Foundation, as well as creating  
23 his own YouTube channel, A Matter of Matt, which  
24 I would encourage everyone to follow, to hear  
25 about his life story and his efforts to raise

1 awareness of aphasia.

2 Matt also I'm sure would want me to  
3 mention that he is having his first annual  
4 Aphasia Awareness Resource Fair on June 25th of  
5 2025, from 10:00 in the morning to 12:00 in the  
6 afternoon at Long Island University Library  
7 Room L123, the Zwicker Conference Center, again  
8 on June 25, 2025.

9 So, Madam President, I certainly  
10 rise in support of the resolution, which was  
11 previously adopted. But also I would ask that  
12 you recognize Matthew, his dad, Wayne, who has  
13 joined him as well as I believe he's brought two  
14 other guests to us in the chamber. Please  
15 welcome them on behalf of the Senate and please  
16 grant to them the privileges and courtesies of  
17 the house.

18 Thank you, Madam President.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
20 you, Senator.

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

24 Please rise and be recognized.

25 (Standing ovation.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
2 resolution was adopted on February 4th.

3                   Senator Gianaris.

4                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Now on to  
5 previously adopted Resolution 962. Please have  
6 that resolution's title read and recognize  
7 Senator Cleare on her resolution.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The  
9 Secretary will read.

10                  THE SECRETARY:    Resolution 962, by  
11 Senator Cleare, commemorating the 100th Birthday  
12 of Malcolm X, an advocate for human rights and  
13 one of the most influential African-American  
14 leaders in history.

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Senator  
16 Cleare on the resolution.

17                  SENATOR CLEARE:    Thank you. Good  
18 afternoon, Madam President.

19                  I rise to pay tribute to one of the  
20 most important Americans -- New Yorkers -- in the  
21 history of the world: El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz,  
22 known to many as Malcolm X. Today would have  
23 been his 100th birthday. And when we ponder the  
24 transformation he undertook in only 39 years on  
25 this earth, we can only wonder where we would be

1 with 61 more years of his leadership.

2 Malcolm X may have been born in  
3 Nebraska, but many of the most essential events  
4 of his life happened in a village that I  
5 represent -- Harlem. He spent part of his  
6 transformative youth in Harlem from 1943 to 1945.  
7 He returned to Harlem in the 1950s to lead Temple  
8 No. 7 on West 116th Street, which today is known  
9 as Masjid Malcolm Shabazz.

10 Upon his return to New York in 1965,  
11 he was assassinated.

12 The birthday of Malcolm X is a  
13 significant annual event in any district, but I  
14 would dare say throughout other parts of New York  
15 City, New York State, and even the world. That  
16 is because Malcolm's journey and evolution has  
17 not only inspired billions of people worldwide,  
18 but so many of those people lived the very same  
19 experience, took the very same steps, fought  
20 against the very same racism and injustice, and  
21 some have even paid the ultimate price, much like  
22 Brother Malcolm did.

23 The Village of Harlem has always  
24 paid tribute to Malcolm X. In 1987, Lenox Avenue  
25 was renamed Malcolm X Boulevard. We landmarked

1 the former Audubon Ballroom as Malcolm X and  
2 Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational  
3 Center. And 25 years ago, Malcolm X Plaza was  
4 dedicated as gateway to Harlem.

5 And this year, when my bill S1204  
6 passes, we will rename the underlying subway  
7 station at West 110th Street the Malcolm X Plaza  
8 Station.

9 2025 is not only the 100th birthday  
10 of Malcolm X, but also the commencement of the  
11 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance, in  
12 which he played a great part. The two milestones  
13 will combine in a series of events this year like  
14 no other, combining celebration, teaching,  
15 community service, education and advocacy.

16 As we work and move forward in this  
17 2025 legislative session, let us remember the  
18 words of Malcolm X: "When one is moderate in the  
19 pursuit of justice for human beings, I say he's a  
20 sinner." And in that vein, let us be united  
21 against sin and not be moderate in our efforts,  
22 but purposeful and deliberate.

23 May the memory of Malcolm X be with  
24 us today, and may his lessons and teachings grace  
25 us here in the chamber.

1                   Thank you, Madam President. I  
2 proudly vote aye.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
4 you, Senator.

5                   Senator Comrie on the resolution.

6                   SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you,  
7 Madam President.

8                   I rise today to support  
9 Senator Cleare's resolution. I want to thank her  
10 for bringing this to the floor. Malcolm X in the  
11 final years before his life was cut short lived  
12 in Elmhurst, Queens, in now Senator Ramos's  
13 district, with his family.

14                   It's hard not to think about how  
15 different our borough would be if he had a chance  
16 to live a full life there.

17                   One of the most important aspects of  
18 Malcolm X's story, and perhaps the most  
19 applicable today, is that he managed to escape an  
20 idolatry of hatred. Growing up in Black America  
21 in the first half of the 20th century, it is not  
22 understandable -- it is understandable not to  
23 blame him for being indoctrinated. When you  
24 experience any amount of mistreatment, oppression  
25 or suffering, it is easy to be convinced that

1 there's a distinct group at fault -- a group that  
2 you can lash out against with impunity.

3           But then after going to Africa, the  
4 pilgrimage to Mecca, Malcolm X was overcome with  
5 a great sense of connection with people of all  
6 colors, Muslims of all colors, who had come to  
7 pray just as he had at the Kaaba. And this  
8 connection changed the way that he wrote, the way  
9 that he thought about teachings he'd received,  
10 and the way that he spoke.

11           Malcolm X said just days before his  
12 death that he understood the world around him in  
13 a new way. After listening to revolutionaries  
14 and speaking with Muslims from around the world,  
15 he realized just how dangerous a tool racism was  
16 for the oppressed to wield against their  
17 oppressors. And that only through unity can the  
18 human race escape today's violence and suffering.

19           This did not change the fire within  
20 him that drove him to fight, but redirected him  
21 towards the causes of human dignity and rights  
22 for all.

23           We still see today how extremist  
24 groups prey on those who are hurt, who feel  
25 trapped in poverty and are unable to escape. But

1 those fully committed to those extreme beliefs --  
2 I'm sorry. We see these groups slowly turn those  
3 people to hatred and violence. But even those  
4 who have had hatred and violence in their hearts  
5 can be fully committed and be deprogrammed. They  
6 can be redirected towards the root of the  
7 struggles that they've faced and be redirected to  
8 show that they can be positive people.

9 Malcolm X shows us the tremendous  
10 power of education and the immense importance of  
11 speaking truth to power without fear of reprisal.  
12 And it is a part of our history that we must  
13 continue to be students of if we are to prevent  
14 the same suffering and tragedy from happening  
15 again.

16 To close with a few words from his  
17 autobiography: "I'm for truth, no matter who  
18 tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it is  
19 for or against. I'm a human being first and  
20 foremost, and I'm for whoever and whatever  
21 benefits humanity as a whole."

22 As we are here in these chambers,  
23 Madam Speaker, I would remind us that we are all  
24 truth-tellers. We should all be truth-tellers.  
25 We're all fighters for our communities to try to

1 make this a better state. And we should be like  
2 Malcolm, consistently seeking the truth, fighting  
3 those pillars or those bureaucracies that keep us  
4 from trying to get to the truth, so that we can  
5 have a better state.

6 Thank you, Madam President.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
8 you, Senator.

9 Senator Bailey on the resolution.

10 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
11 Madam President.

12 Thank you, Senator Cleare, for  
13 introducing this resolution.

14 Brother Malcolm would have been a  
15 hundred years old today. Senator Cleare mention  
16 it in her remarks. The age of 39 seems to be the  
17 year when two of our greatest were taken from us:  
18 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, and  
19 Brother Malcolm, Malcolm X.

20 Malcolm X is the -- whether people  
21 believe it or not, he is the greatest American  
22 story or one of the greatest American stories of  
23 believing in second chances. Malcolm Little,  
24 born in Omaha, Nebraska, had a childhood full of  
25 problems, a young adulthood full of problems,

1 including but not limited to incarceration,  
2 drugs, et cetera, et cetera. But he found  
3 something deeper and became somebody who on the  
4 very floor of the New York State Senate whose  
5 birthday we proclaim.

6 That is one of the greatest American  
7 second-chance stories. Not just Black, American.  
8 Black history is American history. It's not  
9 February but I feel the need, Madam President, to  
10 make sure we remind people of that every day. We  
11 can.

12 One of my favorite movies,  
13 Madam President, is Do the Right Thing. It's a  
14 Spike Lee Joint. I didn't realize until today,  
15 when I was doing a little prep, that that movie  
16 came out on May 19, 1989, Brother Malcolm's  
17 birthday. I was seven years old, and I wasn't  
18 able to watch Do the Right Thing at that time,  
19 Madam President. My parents had a little bit  
20 more sense than that. I watched it when I was  
21 eight -- just kidding.

22 (Laughter.)

23 SENATOR BAILEY: But when I did get  
24 a chance to watch that movie, it's become one of  
25 my favorite movies. And it's like Brother Comrie

1 said: We should aspire to do the right thing.

2 Well, doing the right thing means  
3 different things to different people. Do the  
4 right thing may mean that you read the  
5 autobiography of Malcolm X with Alex Haley and  
6 you think that the job is over. It's not.

7 Maybe you watched the movie in '92  
8 with Denzel and you saw him deliver what should  
9 have been an Oscar-winning performance. But  
10 that's not.

11 But what I challenge us to do, all  
12 of us -- even those of us who know Brother  
13 Malcolm's story, is to dig deeper into who he  
14 was. If you've never gotten a chance, "The  
15 Ballot or the Bullet," March 29, 1964, in Audubon  
16 Ballroom, when he spoke about the famous quote  
17 that you hear in the movie: "We didn't land on  
18 Plymouth Rock. Plymouth Rock landed on us."

19 It's not just a throwaway line,  
20 Madam President. When they brought Black folks  
21 to this country, they didn't contemplate that we  
22 would be a part of the conversation. If you go  
23 through the story, if you go through the speech,  
24 he talks about we gave 310 years of free labor,  
25 we just want to get our back pay, so to speak.

1 I'm paraphrasing there.

2 I want us to think about the country  
3 and the troubled country that we have, and think  
4 about how we continue to rise as a society, as  
5 one.

6 You've heard me say it on the floor  
7 of the Senate, but my favorite Malcolm X quote --  
8 well, two: "By any means necessary." And the  
9 "Education is the passport to the future, for  
10 tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it  
11 today."

12 We have to continue to prepare for  
13 the future by doing the work that we do in this  
14 chamber. Dr. Betty Shabazz, after Malcolm X's  
15 assassination, moved to my district, to the City  
16 of Mount Vernon, where she raised her daughters.  
17 In Lower Westchester County, in the City of  
18 Mount Vernon, they became pillars of the  
19 community.

20 I challenge us again, on this 100 --  
21 on the centennial -- he was a big enough man that  
22 we've got to use big enough things -- centennial  
23 celebration of Brother Malcolm, that we do what  
24 we can to make sure that we continue to unify and  
25 uplift all people.

1 Thank you, Madam President, I vote  
2 aye.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Thank  
4 you, Senator.

5 The resolution was adopted on  
6 May 13th.

7 Senator Gianaris.

8 SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President,  
9 the sponsors of all of today's resolutions would  
10 like to open them for cosponsorship.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
12 resolutions are open for cosponsorship. Should  
13 you choose not to be a cosponsor, please notify  
14 the desk.

15 Senator Gianaris.

16 SENATOR GIANARIS: On behalf of  
17 Senator Myrie, on page 15 I offer the following  
18 amendments to Calendar Number 390, Senate Print  
19 3789, and ask that that bill retain its place on  
20 the Third Reading Calendar.

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

24 Senator Gianaris.

25 SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's take up

1 the calendar now, please.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The  
3 Secretary will read.

4 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
5 109, Senate Print 518, by Senator Persaud, an act  
6 to amend the Executive Law.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
8 last section.

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

11 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
12 roll.

13 (The Secretary called the roll.)

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
15 the results.

16 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
17 Calendar 109, voting in the negative are  
18 Senators Borrello, Chan, Gallivan, Griffo,  
19 Helming, Lanza, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads,  
20 Stec and Walczyk.

21 Ayes, 44. Nays, 12.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
23 is passed.

24 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
25 178, Senate Print 1055, by Senator Serrano, an

1 act to amend the Executive Law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
3 last section.

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

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
7 roll.

8 (The Secretary called the roll.)

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
10 the results.

11 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
12 Calendar 178, voting in the negative are  
13 Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick,  
14 Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Mattera,  
15 Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads,  
16 Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

17 Ayes, 35. Nays, 21.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 244, Senate Print 700, by Senator Krueger, an act  
22 to amend the Tax Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This

1 act shall take effect on the first of April.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
6 Krueger to explain her vote.

7 SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you,  
8 Madam President.

9 This is an expansion of a law we  
10 changed a few years ago that was brought to my  
11 attention by law students representing people  
12 outside the City of New York who had lost their  
13 licenses because they couldn't afford to pay  
14 their tax debts. And without their licenses,  
15 they couldn't go to work and ever pay back their  
16 tax debt.

17 So the state had gone part of the  
18 way then, and we're hoping to go the remainder of  
19 the way now. Because we don't actually collect  
20 the taxes owed to us when people can't get a job  
21 to pay their taxes. So it seems to me, while I'm  
22 never in a rush to want to let people off the  
23 hook for not paying their taxes, this bill  
24 requires you document why you couldn't pay your  
25 taxes. And in fact, again, in the City of

1 New York where I come from, not that many people  
2 need a driver's license to get to and from work,  
3 but in the rest of the state they really do.

4 So I respect my colleagues' decision  
5 to vote against the bill. But if they think  
6 about it, this is really for the people of their  
7 district.

8 I vote yes, Madam President. Thank  
9 you.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
11 Krueger to be recorded in the affirmative.

12 Announce the results.

13 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
14 Calendar 244, voting in the negative are  
15 Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick,  
16 Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Mattera,  
17 Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads,  
18 Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

19 Ayes, 37. Nays, 19.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
21 is passed.

22 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
23 260, Senate Print 1892B, by Senator Jackson, an  
24 act to amend the Correction Law.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the

1 last section.

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

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
5 roll.

6 (The Secretary called the roll.)

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
8 the results.

9 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
10 Calendar 260, voting in the negative are  
11 Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming,  
12 O'Mara, Rhoads, Rolison, Walczyk and Weik.

13 Ayes, 47. Nays, 9.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
15 is passed.

16 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
17 439, Senate Print 4926, by Senator Ramos, an act  
18 to amend the Workers' Compensation Law.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
20 last section.

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

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
3 the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
5 Calendar 439, voting in the negative are  
6 Senators Lanza and Walczyk.

7 Ayes, 54. Nays, 2.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
9 is passed.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 504, Senate Print 4757, by Senator Bailey, an act  
12 to amend the Executive Law.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
14 last section.

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

17 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
18 roll.

19 (The Secretary called the roll.)

20 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
21 the results.

22 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
23 Calendar 504, voting in the negative are  
24 Senators O'Mara, Ortt and Walczyk.

25 Ayes, 53. Nays, 3.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
2    is passed.

3                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
4    507, Senate Print 5138, by Senator Gianaris, an  
5    act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law.

6                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Lay it aside for  
7    the day, please.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   The bill  
9    will be laid aside for the day.

10                  THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
11    560, Senate Print 5149, by Senator Comrie, an act  
12    to amend the State Finance Law.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Read the  
14    last section.

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

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Call the  
19    roll.

20                                 (The Secretary called the roll.)

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Announce  
22    the results.

23                  THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 56.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   The bill  
25    is passed.

1 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
2 663, Senate Print 1467, by Senator Serrano, an  
3 act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic  
4 Preservation Law.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
6 last section.

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

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
11 roll.

12 (The Secretary called the roll.)

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
14 the results.

15 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
17 is passed.

18 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
19 740, Senate Print 1788, by Senator Hinchey, an  
20 act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
22 last section.

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

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the

1 roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
4 the results.

5 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
7 is passed.

8 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9 745, Senate Print 405, by Senator Myrie, an act  
10 to amend the Tax Law.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
12 last section.

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

15 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
16 roll.

17 (The Secretary called the roll.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
19 the results.

20 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
21 Calendar 745, voting in the negative:  
22 Senator Walczyk.

23 Ayes, 55. Nays, 1.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
25 is passed.

1                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
2     748, Senate Print 1211, by Senator May, an act in  
3     relation to enacting the New York Open Water Data  
4     Act.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Read the  
6     last section.

7                   THE SECRETARY:     Section 5. This  
8     act shall take effect on the 180th day after it  
9     shall have become a law.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Call the  
11     roll.

12                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Announce  
14     the results.

15                  THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 56.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     The bill  
17     is passed.

18                  THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
19     763, Senate Print Number 6281, by  
20     Senator Scarcella-Spanton, an act to amend the  
21     State Finance Law.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Read the  
23     last section.

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

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Call the  
2    roll.

3                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Announce  
5    the results.

6                   THE SECRETARY:     Ayes, 56.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
8    is passed.

9                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
10   772, Senate Print 7551, by Senator Bynoe, an act  
11   to establish the Bottle Redemption Fraud  
12   Task Force.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Read the  
14   last section.

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

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Call the  
18   roll.

19                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

20                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Announce  
21   the results.

22                  THE SECRETARY:     In relation to  
23   Calendar 772, voting in the negative are  
24   Senators Helming, Lanza, Mattera, Murray, O'Mara,  
25   Ortt and Weik.

1                   Ayes, 49. Nays, 7.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
3 is passed.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
5 932, Senate Print 4200, by Senator Gounardes, an  
6 act to amend the Banking Law.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Calendar  
8 Number 893 is high and will be laid aside for the  
9 day.

10                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
11 932, Senate Print 4200, by Senator Gounardes, an  
12 act to amend the Banking Law.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Read the  
14 last section.

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

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Call the  
19 roll.

20                               (The Secretary called the roll.)

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Announce  
22 the results.

23                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 56.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
25 is passed.

1                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
2     986, Assembly Bill 2398, by Assemblymember  
3     Gallagher, an act to amend the Judiciary Law.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Read the  
5     last section.

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

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Call the  
9     roll.

10                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

11                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:     Senator  
12     Fernandez to explain her vote.

13                   SENATOR FERNANDEZ:     Thank you,  
14     Madam President.

15                   This bill changes one word. It  
16     changes the word "addict" with a few more --  
17     whoops, sorry. This bill changes one word. In  
18     our General Law and our Judiciary Law, County  
19     Law, the word "addict" is everywhere. We are  
20     changing that word to "person with substance use  
21     disorder" across multiple areas of New York State  
22     law.

23                   Because behind that one word is  
24     decades of stigma, criminalization, and policy  
25     failure. The term "addict" entered New York

1 statute in 1972, just as heroin was tearing  
2 through poor and Black and brown communities. A  
3 year later, the Rockefeller drug laws -- and  
4 overnight, stigma entered statute.

5 Our jails became de facto mental  
6 health institutions as people in crisis were  
7 locked away instead of treated. Being an addict  
8 was seen as a choice, as a moral failing  
9 deserving of punishment. Those who were  
10 struggling were hidden behind bars and away from  
11 the eyes of the public.

12 But now we know better. Substance  
13 use disorder is a chronic relapsing health  
14 condition, and the science and lived experience  
15 tells us clearly shame does not save lives.  
16 Treatment does.

17 Our words matter, and this bill  
18 addresses that point directly. It follows the  
19 same logic behind renaming our committee, from  
20 alcoholism and drug abuse to alcoholism and  
21 substance use disorders.

22 It is a simple truth: Words shape  
23 culture, and culture shapes policy. We've spent  
24 decades cleaning up the damage of the War on  
25 Drugs, and this bill is one more step in that

1 process towards accuracy, compassion and justice.

2 I proudly vote aye.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
4 Fernandez to be recorded in the affirmative.

5 Senator Bailey to explain his vote.

6 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
7 Madam President.

8 I really want to thank  
9 Senator Fernandez on her leadership on this bill  
10 and in the committee. As she mentioned, she's  
11 changed the name of the committee because words  
12 do matter. Right? The way that we think about  
13 people and the way that we think about words,  
14 they really do matter. And we have to be  
15 intentional in the way that we utilize our words.

16 Born in 1982, lived in the Bronx,  
17 New York. When I was growing up, people used to  
18 use the words "addict," "junkie," "crackhead,"  
19 "fiend," all of these things interchangeably when  
20 they were talking about people who had  
21 significant issues. And they just weren't being  
22 helped. They were thought as people that were  
23 essentially subhuman.

24 But when it became evident that it  
25 was in more communities than just the Black and

1 brown communities, the conversation shifted. I'm  
2 happy that we shifted the conversation. But this  
3 conversation should have happened long ago. It's  
4 very important that it's happening now. And the  
5 way that we look at people who have addictions,  
6 that have afflictions, that have concerns that  
7 they need to be ameliorated, is really important,  
8 and that they can be treated with humanity and  
9 respect like everybody else, regardless of what  
10 they may or may not be facing.

11 So Senator Fernandez, hats off to  
12 you once again.

13 Thank you to my colleagues for  
14 voting for this bill. I proudly vote aye on this  
15 bill, and we must continue to make sure we change  
16 the way -- because words do matter,  
17 Madam President.

18 Thank you.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
20 Bailey to be recorded in the affirmative.

21 Senator May to explain her vote.

22 SENATOR MAY: Thank you,  
23 Madam President.

24 I also want to thank the sponsor for  
25 this bill. This is really important. When I was

1 first elected and made the chair of the  
2 Commission on Rural Resources, one of the first  
3 things we did was hold a roundtable about  
4 substance abuse and overdose prevention in rural  
5 communities. And what came out loud and clear at  
6 that roundtable was that stigma was the  
7 number-one problem that rural people dealt with  
8 when they were trying to either recover or help a  
9 loved one.

10 We even heard about first responders  
11 who would be called multiple times to the same  
12 address, and they would drag their feet a little  
13 bit more each time when they had to go to that  
14 same address because they carried the stigma as  
15 well.

16 So I hope that this change can be  
17 part of really addressing what was part of an  
18 epidemic, honestly not just of substance abuse  
19 and overdoses, but of stigma. Literally stigma  
20 was the epidemic in a lot of rural communities,  
21 and I really hope that this can make a  
22 difference.

23 So thank you, and I vote aye.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
25 May to be recorded in the affirmative.

1                   Announce the results.

2                   THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
3   Calendar 986, voting in the negative are  
4   Senators Lanza and Senator Walczyk.

5                   Ayes, 54.   Nays, 2.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   The bill  
7   is passed.

8                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
9   1013, Senate Print 627, by Senator Stavisky, an  
10  act to amend the Education Law.

11                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Read the  
12  last section.

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

15                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Call the  
16  roll.

17                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

18                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   Announce  
19  the results.

20                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 56.

21                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:   The bill  
22  is passed.

23                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
24  1025, Senate Print 1336, by Senator Parker, an  
25  act to amend the New York State Urban Development

1 Corporation Act.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
3 last section.

4 THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This  
5 act shall take effect immediately.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
7 roll.

8 (The Secretary called the roll.)

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
10 the results.

11 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
13 is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 1026, Senate Print 4945, by Senator Comrie,  
16 an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
18 last section.

19 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
20 act shall take effect on the 180th day after it  
21 shall have become a law.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
23 roll.

24 (The Secretary called the roll.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce

1 the results.

2 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
4 is passed.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 1028, Senate Print 6018, by Senator Baskin, an  
7 act in relation to authorizing and directing the  
8 New York State Power Authority to rename the  
9 Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant to the  
10 Shirley J. Hamilton Niagara Power Plant.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
12 last section.

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

15 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
16 roll.

17 (The Secretary called the roll.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
19 the results.

20 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
21 Calendar 1028, voting in the negative are  
22 Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick,  
23 Chan, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming, Lanza, Mattera,  
24 Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads,  
25 Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk, Weber and Weik.

1                   Ayes, 35. Nays, 21.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
3 is passed.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
5 1037, Senate Print 550, by Senator Brisport, an  
6 act to amend the Social Services Law.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Read the  
8 last section.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    Section 4. This  
10 act shall take effect immediately.

11                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Call the  
12 roll.

13                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

14                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Announce  
15 the results.

16                   THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
17 Calendar 1037, voting in the negative are  
18 Senators Bynoe and Martinez.

19                   Ayes, 54. Nays, 2.

20                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    The bill  
21 is passed.

22                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
23 1084, Senate Print 3294, by Senator Cooney, an  
24 act to amend the Cannabis Law.

25                   ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    Read the

1 last section.

2 THE SECRETARY: Section 13. This  
3 act shall take effect immediately.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
5 roll.

6 (The Secretary called the roll.)

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
8 Krueger to explain her vote.

9 SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you very  
10 much.

11 I want to thank Senator Cooney for  
12 bringing this bill to the floor, and hoping we  
13 get it passed by both houses this year.

14 You know, when I wrote the marijuana  
15 regulation bill in 2016 we made some significant  
16 changes to medical marijuana, but in fact there  
17 are a number of things that we failed to do, and  
18 modernization has allowed us to do more.

19 I particularly want to highlight the  
20 importance of lowering, even though it does not  
21 completely end taxation of medical marijuana -- I  
22 don't know of any other medicine in the State of  
23 New York that we actually tax.

24 It will also streamline the process  
25 for collecting research on medical marijuana and

1 its values, and hopefully make it easier for  
2 patients to learn the information they need to  
3 make the right decisions with their healthcare  
4 provider about what kind of cannabis products  
5 might be in their best interest, depending on  
6 what their illness is.

7 So again, thank you very much to  
8 Senator Cooney for this very good work.

9 I vote yes.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
11 Krueger to be recorded in the affirmative.

12 Announce the results.

13 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
14 Calendar 1084, voting in the negative are  
15 Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick,  
16 Chan, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez,  
17 Mattera -- Senator Griffo, pardon me, in the  
18 affirmative -- Lanza, Martinez, Mattera, Murray,  
19 Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Stec,  
20 Tedisco, Walczyk and Weik.

21 Ayes, 37. Nays, 19.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
23 is passed.

24 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
25 1089, Senate Print 4969, by Senator Bailey, an

1 act to amend the Public Health Law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
3 last section.

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

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
8 roll.

9 (The Secretary called the roll.)

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
11 Bailey to explain his vote.

12 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
13 Madam President.

14 I was reminded earlier that this is  
15 the penultimate bill on the agenda. Thank you,  
16 Senator Ashby, for reminding me. It means next  
17 to last.

18 But if you are the victim of gun  
19 violence or you're involved in gun violence, you  
20 should have more hope. You should have the  
21 ability to consult with a psychiatric specialist  
22 to have a mental health consultation after that  
23 incident. Because if anybody has ever been  
24 involved or around when gun violence happens,  
25 it's not just a physical injury that affects the

1 families. It is the trauma of the individual  
2 that has been shot. It is the trauma of those  
3 around them in the surrounding neighborhoods.

4 So making sure this is available to  
5 individuals who have been involved in this sort  
6 of gun violence I think is critically important.  
7 And it speaks to what we've done in this chamber,  
8 making sure that we recognize gun violence as  
9 part of a public health crisis. It is a public  
10 health problem. It is not just people picking up  
11 weapons. We have to get to the root causes, and  
12 some of these consultations will maybe help us  
13 get to the root causes.

14 Thank you, Madam President. Thank  
15 you to everybody for voting yes. I vote aye.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
17 Bailey to be recorded in the affirmative.

18 Announce the results.

19 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
20 Calendar 1089, voting in the negative are  
21 Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffio, Helming,  
22 Lanza, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads,  
23 Stec, Tedisco, Walczyk and Weik.

24 Ayes, 42. Nays, 14.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill

1 is passed.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 1096, Senate Print 2355, by Senator Parker, an  
4 act to amend the Public Service Law.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Read the  
6 last section.

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

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Call the  
10 roll.

11 (The Secretary called the roll.)

12 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Announce  
13 the results.

14 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
15 Calendar 1096, voting in the negative:  
16 Senator C. Ryan.

17 Ayes, 55. Nays, 1.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: The bill  
19 is passed.

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

22 SENATOR GIANARIS: Please recognize  
23 Senator Lanza for a motion.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD: Senator  
25 Lanza.

1                   SENATOR LANZA:    Thank you,  
2    Senator Gianaris.

3                   Madam President, on behalf of  
4    Senator Rolison, on page 43 I offer the following  
5    amendments to Calendar Number 866, Senate Print  
6    6927, and ask that said bill retain its place on  
7    Third Reading Calendar.

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

11                  Senator Gianaris.

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

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    There is  
15   no further business at the desk.

16                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    I move to  
17   adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20th, at  
18   3:00 p.m.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT PERSAUD:    On  
20   motion, the Senate stands adjourned until  
21   Tuesday, May 20th, at 3:00 p.m.

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

24  
25