

Thursday, January 15, 2009.

Met at twenty-eight minutes before seven o'clock P.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

God, Our Creator, each day our intention is to try to serve You, constituents and our families to the best of our ability. As elected leaders, we face busy schedules as well as many complex legislative issues and decisions. We believe that Your assistance enables us to select the right, just and fair legislative options which are available to us. During these days of transition in the administration of our national government, help us to keep clear in our minds our own statewide priorities, the needs of people in our diverse communities and our plans to meet current and future societal and economic changes. On Monday, we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a national holiday. On Monday, we remember the ideals, accomplishments, the courage and the personal sufferings of this clergyman and champion of civil and human rights. May we continue his example and hold as our top priority the importance of civil, human and religious rights in our Commonwealth. Prayer.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of this House and their families. Amen.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Pledge of allegiance.

Appointment to a Special Commission.

The Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Wallace of Boston to the special commission established (under Section 56 of Chapter 302 of the Acts of 2008) to investigate and study the impact of the OxyContin and heroin epidemic on state and municipal government, the substance abuse treatment system and to identify potential strategies to more effectively cope with said epidemic. OxyContin and heroin epidemic commission.

Communication from the Speaker.

The following communication, received this day from the Speaker, was placed on file:

January 15, 2009.

His Excellency Deval Patrick
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Representative Costello of Newburyport,— N.E. Board of Higher Education nomination.

It is with great honor that I submit for your consideration the appointment of Representative Michael A. Costello, House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, as the Massachusetts House appointee to the New England Board of Higher Education.

I am confident in his ability and my knowledge of his relentless commitment assure me that he will give the Board the direction it requires as well as be a tremendous asset to it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

SALVATORE F. DiMASI,
Speaker of the House.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the temporary committee on Rules:

Benjamin J. MacDonald.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Barrows of Mansfield) congratulating Benjamin J. MacDonald on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America; and

Jack Hamilton.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Toomey of Cambridge, Provost of Somerville and Sciortino of Medford) congratulating Jack Hamilton on the occasion of his retirement January 23, 2009 following 25 years as executive director of the Community Action Agency of Somerville;

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the temporary committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Smith of Everett, the resolutions were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

There being no objection, at ten minutes before seven o'clock P.M., the two branches met in

JOINT SESSION

Joint Session.

in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of receiving such communication as His Excellency Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth, may be pleased to make relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth; and were called to order by the Honorable Therese Murray, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Panagiotakos,—

Notification of Lieutenant-Governor.

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests and inform them that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of their presence.

Senators Brewer, Spilka, Donnelly and Tarr were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Jones of North Reading, Sánchez of Boston, Mariano of Quincy, Cabral of New Bedford, Bosley of North Adams and Sullivan of Fall River were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Brewer, for the committee, reported that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Timothy P. Murray, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests would immediately attend upon the Convention.

Shortly thereafter, His Honor Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant-Governor, William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Martha Coakley, Attorney General of the Commonwealth, Timothy P. Cahill, Treasurer and Receiver-General of the Commonwealth, A. Joseph DeNucci, Auditor of the Commonwealth, the members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court and Major General Joseph Carter, the Adjutant General entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Invocation.

The President then introduced Reverend Dr. John M. Borders III who gave the following invocation:

Let us look to the Lord.

"Almighty God,

Fill this noble chamber with Your Presence.

We come from different faiths and different walks of life. We come in the power of our collective faith, to thank You for forgiveness, preservation and the privilege of living in Massachusetts at this magnificent hour of challenge and opportunity.

Thank you for choosing, as Governor, Deval Patirck, someone with the wisdom and understanding, to navigate this ship of state through the turbulent waters of financial, political and social crisis. Bless every legislator with a servant's heart and a righteous spirit.

You gave us an awesome promise to make all things new. This is a new day. This is a new hour full of hope, new dedication and renewed faith.

Help us make Massachusetts a state where the people do no harm to each other, a state with better education and healthcare, more jobs and housing enough for everyone in need. Give us the hearts and minds to work together to overcome every challenge and build a new commonwealth based on love and prosperity.

Through Christ I pray, Amen.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Menard,—

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and inform him that the two branches are now in Convention for the purpose of receiving such communication as he may be pleased to make to them, relating to the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Committee to inform the Governor.

Senators Rosenberg, Downing, Flanagan and Tarr were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Peterson of Grafton, Basile of Boston, Kujawski of Webster, Walsh of Lynn, Scaccia of Boston and Dwyer of Woburn were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Rosenberg, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, would immediately attend upon the Convention.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of
allegiance.

The President then called upon His Honor Timothy P. Murray, the Lieutenant-Governor, who introduced Alexis Almeida of North Dighton, daughter of Sergeant First Class Michael Almeida, currently deployed in Iraq in the 772nd Military Police Company, Dillon and Chandler Kuehne of Acushnet, children of Staff Sergeant David Kuehne, currently deployed in Iraq in the 772nd Military Police Company, Brittany, Ashley and James Bouchard of Swansea, children of Sergeant James Bouchard, currently deployed in Iraq in the 126th Combat Support Battalion Forward logistics element to lead the Joint Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Anthem.

National
Anthem.

The National Anthem then was performed by John Castillo from the Perkins School for the Blind.

Shortly thereafter, His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

State of State
address.

The President then introduced His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 1).

Benediction.

The President, having taken the Chair, then introduced Rabbi William G. Hamilton who gave the following Benediction:

Ever-living, ever-loving God, we ask that You bless our Governor Deval Patrick, Lt. Governor Tim Murray, the Senate, the Legislature, and all who exercise just and rightful authority in this Chamber and throughout our Commonwealth.

All merciful God, we address You, the Shaper of history, who has summoned us to shape history at this hour of collecting complexity and amassing anxiety — we ask You for the courage to take risks for the good, for the fortitude to stand strong in defiance against words like “impossible” and “hopeless” — yes we can — the character that insists: together we can . . .

Almighty God, in a few days our nation will honor the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and witness the historic swearing-in of President-elect Barak Obama in the year we have just begun 2009 — a year in which we observe the two hundredth birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Indeed, the long arc of history does bend toward justice — as it bends toward dreams of prosperity, peace and goodness.

Tonight, God, as we withdraw from this hallowed chamber, we ask that you continue to bless the noble leaders of our Commonwealth who humbly appreciate the higher purpose they bring to answering their calling in a life to public service, by enlarging their vision to continue to guide us in wisdom, with resolute hearts and willing hands, thus making our Commonwealth a mighty force for righteousness. Fashion our hearts anew and bend our will to Your purpose, so that the festering vices of malice and greed, fear and ignorance, avarice and violence are weakened, and dominion is granted to doing what is just, to loving what is merciful, and walking humbly with You. All of this we pray in Your Holy Name, and we say Amen.

The President in the Chair, His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, His Honor Timothy P. Murray, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, the members of the Executive Council and the several distinguished guests then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

At five minutes after eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Kennedy, the Convention was dissolved.

Order.

On motion of Mrs. Haddad of Somerset,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At seven minutes after eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford (the Speaker being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Tuesday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.