

Thursday, February 19, 2009.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.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:

Prayer. Eternal God, each day we face a crowd personal and legislative schedule as well as numerous requests from constituents for assistance and direction. Now we pause for a moment of reflection and prayer as we organize our thoughts, plans and priorities for this day. As elected officials we pray for the spirit of cooperation, independence of judgment and goodwill in dealing with people and public policy. On Sunday we will observe the birthday of George Washington, our first president. We recall his dedication to high political principles and moral values, the importance of freedom and his fortitude in the midst of great hardships and discouragement. In these difficult times for many people and communities may we continue to be inspired by his example, generosity, unselfish service to the country and the necessity of dedicated citizenship.

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

Pledge of allegiance. 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.

Guest of the House.

Yona Yahav. During the session, Ms. Balsler of Newton took the Chair and introduced Yona Yahav, the mayor of Haifa, Israel, who addressed the House briefly.

Resolutions.

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

Katherine J. Bradley. Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fernandes of Milford) congratulating Katherine J. Bradley on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday; and

NAACP. Resolutions (filed by Ms. Malia of Boston and other members of the House) commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the historic founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

Mr. Binienda of Worcester, for the 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. Vallee of Franklin, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Papers from the Senate.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to strengthening the Commonwealth's partnership with municipalities (Senate, No. 9) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Municipalities.— Commonwealth's partnership.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relating to sick leave banks (Senate, No. 8) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

Sick leave banks.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to providing for disposition of surplus state real property based on smart growth land use policies (Senate, No. 6); and

Surplus state property.— disposition.

A message from His Excellency the Governor submitting (under Article LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution) Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 2009, reorganizing certain agencies of the Executive Department (Senate, No. 11).

Reorganization Plan No. 1.— HUD and Professional Licensure.

Severally referred, in concurrence, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,— Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next sitting.

Mr. Kulik of Worthington then moved that as a mark of respect to the memory of Thomas G. Simons, a member of the House from Montague from 1971 to 1978, inclusive, and also District Attorney of Franklin and Hampshire Counties from 1979 to 1983, inclusive, the House adjourn; and the motion prevailed. At seventeen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Peterson of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.

