

Thursday, March 29, 2007.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Rushing of Boston 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, we try to begin this and every day with the right intention of serving You and the people, who depend upon our sound and objective judgements and decisions, in a faithful and honorable manner. Your guidance helps us to make personal and legislative choices which are just, fair and ethical. Your assistance also enables us to evaluate correctly and objectively the data, reports and suggestions of friends and constituents. In these times of change at home and around the world, grant us the vision and clarity of thought to address the needs of people and our communities in a constructive and positive way.

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. Rushing), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Resolutions.

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

Shirley Owens-Hicks.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Fox of Boston, Forry of Boston, Rushing of Boston, Sánchez of Boston, St. Fleur of Boston and Swan of Springfield) honoring Shirley Owens-Hicks for over twenty years of service in the House of Representatives;

Robert Devine.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kafka of Stoughton and Galvin of Canton) commending Lieutenant Robert Devine of the Stoughton Police Department;

Erica Ball.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Linsky of Natick and Peisch of Wellesley) congratulating Erica Ball on her sixtieth year in America; and

Doris Donovan.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Stanley of Waltham and Koutoujian of Waltham) recognizing Doris Donovan on being named the 2007 Waltham Women's Alliance "Woman of the Year";

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, 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. Peterson of Grafton, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Special Report.

A report of the special committee appointed (under House order No. 2009 of 2007) to make an investigation and study of the manner in which the Commonwealth protects children from abuse and neglect (House, No. 3961), was placed on file.

Child abuse committee,—report.

Petition.

Mr. Bosley of North Adams presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Daniel E. Bosley for legislation to authorize Graham Michael Frank to take a civil service examination for the position of police officer in the town of Williamstown; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Graham Frank,—civil exam.

Recess.

At twenty-eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Rushing of Boston) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and at two minutes before twelve o'clock noon the House was called to order with Mr. Rushing in the Chair.

Recess.

Petition.

Mr. Rushing of Boston presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Byron Rushing and others for legislation to establish the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination within the office of Administration and Finance; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Reorganization plan 1,—amendment.

Ms. Fox of Boston, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Lepper of Attleboro, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

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

Next sitting.

At twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Lepper of Attleboro (Mr. Rushing of Boston being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.