

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, September 29, 2004.

Met according to adjournment, at one o'clock P.M., with Representative David L. Flynn of Bridgewater, the oldest senior-member (having served in the House from 1965 to 1972, inclusive, and also from 1999 to the present) in the Chair, under authority conferred by Rule 6.

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

Eternal God, we as a people and nation, place our trust and confidence in You and in Your personal concern for our material and spiritual well-being. We believe that we have been created by You with an intellect which enables us to think clearly and an intellect to make wise choices. Your guidance enables us to recognize and select the best personal and legislative options which are available to us on a daily basis. Today's election of the 84th Speaker of this House of Representatives, Mr. DiMasi of Boston, is a historic moment in our distinguished history and a joyous occasion for celebrations and warm feelings. With Your assistance and the Speaker's leadership, our long-standing priorities will remain the constant: the best interests of our children, older adults, our families and our communities' stability and economic growth.

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

*Pledge of
allegiance.*

The National Anthem then was sung by Howard Tejeba, a 22-year-old gentleman, raised in Villa Victoria in the South End of Boston. Mr. Tejeba has worked and studied under the direction of Boston City Lights, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting inner city youths in the performing arts.

*National
Anthem.*

Distinguished Guests.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Flynn of Bridgewater) declared a brief recess and introduced former Speakers Charles F. Flaherty, Robert H. Quinn and Thomas M. Finneran; Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin; Attorney-General Thomas F. Reilly; State Auditor A. Joseph DeNucci; Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino; and several other distinguished guests and citizens of the Commonwealth.

*Distinguished
Guests of
the House.*

Order.

On motion of Mr. Finneran of Boston,—

Ordered, That the House proceed to the election of a Speaker and that the election be held in the following manner: The roll shall be called by the Clerk, and each member present, in response to his/her

*Election of
Speaker.*

Election of Speaker.

name, shall arise and announce the name of the member for whom he/she votes.

The roll was called; and the following named members voted for Salvatore F. DiMasi of Boston:

Christopher P. Asselin
Demetrius J. Atsalis
Bruce J. Ayers
Ruth B. Balsler
John J. Binienda
Deborah D. Blumer
Daniel E. Bosley
Garrett J. Bradley
Arthur J. Broadhurst
Stephen J. Buoniconti
Antonio F. D. Cabral
Jennifer M. Callahan
Christine E. Canavan
Gale D. Candaras
Mark J. Carron
Paul C. Casey
Vincent P. Ciampa
Robert Correia
Michael A. Costello
Robert K. Coughlin
Geraldine Creedon
Robert A. DeLeo
Paul C. Demakis
Brian S. Dempsey
Salvatore F. DiMasi
Paul J. Donato
Christopher J. Donelan
Joseph R. Driscoll
James B. Eldridge
James H. Fagan
Christopher G. Fallon
Mark V. Falzone
Robert F. Fennell
Michael E. Festa
Barry R. Finegold
Thomas M. Finneran
David L. Flynn
Gloria L. Fox
John P. Fresolo
William C. Galvin
Colleen M. Garry
Anne M. Gobi
Emile J. Goguen
Brian Paul Golden
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
Mary E. Grant
William G. Greene, Jr.
Patricia A. Haddad
Geoffrey D. Hall
Lida E. Harkins

Kevin G. Honan
Mark A. Howland
Frank M. Hynes
Patricia D. Jehlen
Louis L. Kafka
Michael F. Kane
Rachel Kaprielian
Jay R. Kaufman
Daniel F. Keenan
Thomas P. Kennedy
Kay Khan
Brian Knuuttilla
Peter V. Kocot
Robert M. Koczera
Peter J. Koutoujian
Paul Kujawski
Stephen Kulik
William Lantigua
Peter J. Larkin
James B. Leary
Stephen P. LeDuc
David Paul Linsky
Barbara A. L'Italiani
Elizabeth A. Malia
Ronald Mariano
J. James Marzilli, Jr.
James R. Miceli
Charles A. Murphy
James M. Murphy
Kevin J. Murphy
David M. Nangle
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
Robert J. Nyman
Thomas J. O'Brien
Eugene L. O'Flaherty
Shirley Owens-Hicks
Marie J. Parente
Matthew C. Patrick
Anne M. Paulsen
Vincent A. Pedone
Alice Hanlon Peisch
Douglas W. Petersen
Thomas M. Petrolati
Anthony Petrucci
William Smitty Pignatelli
John F. Quinn
Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Cheryl A. Rivera
Michael J. Rodrigues
John H. Rogers

J. Michael Ruane
Michael F. Rush
Byron Rushing
Jeffrey Sanchez
Angelo M. Scaccia
John W. Scibak
Frank I. Smizik
Theodore C. Speliotis
Robert Spellane
Joyce A. Spiliotis
Karen Spilka
Harriett L. Stanley
Thomas M. Stanley
Marie P. St. Fleur
Ellen Story
William M. Straus
David B. Sullivan

Benjamin Swan
Kathleen M. Teahan
Walter F. Tilty
A. Stephen Tobin
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
David M. Torrissi
Philip Travis
Eric Turkington
James E. Vallee
Anthony J. Verga
Joseph F. Wagner
Brian P. Wallace
Patricia A. Walrath
Martin J. Walsh
Steven Myles Walsh
Alice K. Wolf

The following named members voted for Bradley H. Jones, Jr., of North Reading:

Michael J. Coppola
Viriato Manuel deMacedo
Lewis G. Evangelidis
Paul K. Frost
Thomas N. George
Susan Williams Gifford
Shirley Gomes
Robert S. Hargraves
Bradford Hill
Reed V. Hillman
Donald F. Humason, Jr.

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Shaun P. Kelly
John A. Lepper
Paul J. P. Loscocco
Jeffrey Davis Perry
George N. Peterson, Jr.
Elizabeth Poirier
Karyn E. Polito
Susan W. Pope
Mary S. Rogeness
Daniel K. Webster

[Ms. Atkins of Concord answered "Present" in response to her name.]

The Chair (Mr. Flynn of Bridgewater) announced the result of the vote as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Count. Whole number of votes: 155. Necessary for a choice: 78. Salvatore F. DiMasi of Boston had: 133. Bradley H. Jones, Jr., of North Reading had: 22.

Therefore Mr. DiMasi of Boston was declared elected.

Subsequently a statement of Mr. Casey of Winchester concerning Mr. Connolly of Everett was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that one of our colleagues, Representative Connolly of Everett, is not present in the House Chamber for today's sitting due to a previously scheduled hospital procedure. If he could have been present for the election of a Speaker, he would have voted for Salvatore F. DiMasi of Boston.

Statement concerning Representative Connolly of Everett.

Orders.

On motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading,—

Governor
Mitt
Romney.

Ordered, That a special committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and inform him that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives have assembled, and that they are ready to receive him.

Representatives Petrolati of Ludlow, Dempsey of Haverhill, Kaprielian of Watertown, Petruccelli of Boston, Spellane of Worcester, Wagner of Chicopee, Walrath of Stow, Rivera of Springfield, Candaras of Wilbraham, Bosley of North Adams, Peterson of Grafton, Golden of Lowell, Quinn of Dartmouth, Donato of Medford and Tobin of Quincy were appointed the committee.

Subsequently His Excellency the Governor and Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, along with the committee, entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Petrolati then reported that the committee had successfully completed its task; and the committee was discharged.

On motion of Mr. Rogers of Norwood,—

Speaker
Salvatore F.
DiMasi.

Ordered, That a special committee be appointed to conduct the newly-elected Speaker to the Chair.

Representatives Finneran of Boston, Harkins of Needham, Larkin of Pittsfield, Mariano of Quincy, Nangle of Lowell, O'Flaherty of Chelsea, Rogers of Norwood, Rushing of Boston, Smizik of Brookline, St. Fleur of Boston, Straus of Mattapoisett, Jones of North Reading, Polito of Shrewsbury, Costello of Newburyport, Balsor of Newton and Coughlin of Dedham were appointed the committee.

Subsequently, under escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Speaker DiMasi was conducted to the Chair by the committee; and after remarks by Mr. Finneran, the committee was discharged.

The Chair (Mr. Flynn) then offered remarks and presented the Gavel to the newly-elected Speaker; who took the Chair.

At the request of the Speaker, a blessing was offered by Reverend Steven Ayers from the Old North Church, of Boston's North End; and, on motion of Mr. Harkins of Needham, was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Prayer.

Thank You Sal. Did you ever think when you were a kid, hopping the fence at the the Old North Church to play stickball with your friends in our courtyard, that you would be standing here in the House of Representatives asking for the Vicar of the Old North's blessing as you began your service as Speaker of the House? I doubt it, but isn't God good?

Of course, I doubt that earlier residents of Massachusetts, like Paul Revere, Robert Newman and Joseph Warren, could imagine all the repercussions from hanging two lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church. Nor could they imagine that the two beacons of light now keeping the flame of liberty alive in the North End would be named DiMasi and Travaglini. God is good, and to him let us pray.

O Lord Our Governor, hear our prayers and bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

To the Governor of Massachusetts, the mayors of her cities and towns, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

To the judges and officers of our courts, give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

To the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the members of the House of Representatives, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

To Salvatore F. DiMasi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, grant a love of justice, a compassion for those in need, a faith in the ability of government to improve the lives of her people, and the wisdom of Solomon to fairly weigh the many demands made upon government.

To his wife Debbie and his children Christian and Ashley, give compassion, endurance, and a sense of humor as the caring husband and father they know and love becomes the object of flattery and scorn in the rough and tumble world of Beacon Hill politics. May they lift him up when his heart is sinking and bring him to earth when his head is soaring.

And finally, teach the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to rely on Your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve You faithfully in our generation and honor Your holy name. Amen.

Remarks of Speaker DiMasi of Boston.

Speaker DiMasi then made extemporaneous remarks to the members, guests, employees, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and, on motion of Mr. Rogers of Norwood, the remarks were spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Remarks
of the
Speaker.

I will never forget the honor and privilege you have bestowed upon me today. Thank you to each member of this House. To Minority Leader Brad Jones: you gave me a spirited race for Speaker. I look forward to working in cooperation with you in the days to come.

I also would like to recognize Governor Romney, Lieutenant-Governor Healey, Senate President Travaglini, Attorney-General Reilly, Secretary Galvin, Auditor DeNucci, the members of the Judiciary, the Congressional delegation, Mayor Menino, members of the Boston City Council, and all of my friends and colleagues in state, federal and local government — I look forward to working closely with each of you in the weeks and months ahead.

To the voters of the Third Suffolk District, who have given me the honor and privilege of serving them, I say "thank you" for your support and confidence in me all of these years.

The selection of a new Speaker marks an appropriate time to look back, and to look ahead. Looking back, I am mindful of the achievements, skills and strengths of my predecessors. Each person chosen to serve as Speaker during my time in this House has been unique

Remarks
of the
Speaker.

and important to the history of this body. Tom Finneran, to you, my friend, I say this: your tenure will be remembered as a remarkable time of stability during years of great change and upheaval. We thank you for your service as Speaker and for everything you have done to improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth. I will miss you and I am grateful for our many years of friendship. I wish you, Donna, Kelly and Shannon continued success and happiness.

You, my friends and colleagues, know me well. For those who wonder what kind of person I am, let me offer a few words of introduction. My values are straightforward: dedication to my state and its people, respect for the diversity that forms the bright tapestry of this Commonwealth, commitment to a strong work ethic, and honesty and integrity in all matters inside and outside of this building.

I grew up in the North End of Boston — a community steeped in our country's history and the new home to many thousands of immigrant families who, like my grandparents, came to America seeking a better life. I am deeply proud of my heritage. I only wish that my mother and father could be here today to witness this.

Growing up in the North End shaped my values. I grew up during a time when the North End had tenements, not condominiums. We had four small rooms, no central heat, and we had to take our showers at a public bath house two blocks away. We were poor, but we were rich in our family and in our friends and neighbors. I learned a lot about the importance of community — the moral obligation that we share to look out for each other in good times and bad. If a neighbor was sick, you took care of him. If a neighbor was out of work, you brought food to his family. These are the values I learned in the narrow streets of the North End. That is why I entered public life — to continue that tradition and to help people.

I have a deep respect for public service. I believe that government can only be as good as the people who serve in it, and that government exists in order to be a catalyst for the improvement of the quality of the lives of all of our citizens. We as legislators must assist and nurture the entrepreneurial spirit that has long been the hallmark of Massachusetts. We must ensure that the neediest among us have the help they need when they need it, and treat all of our citizens with dignity, respect and equality. We must be firmly committed to maintaining and improving our education system, and spare no level of effort in doing so. We will continue to find ways to reform, improve, reorganize and streamline state government.

We will use all of our experience and creativity to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Massachusetts. I will explore the full range of resources that we are fortunate to have in this Commonwealth and enlist them in our effort to bring a better government — and, as a result, better lives — to the people of Massachusetts.

When it comes to finding ways to provide more cost effective services, or identifying and addressing unmet needs — everything will be on the table. If we approach our task hampered by preconceptions and biases, we will not have the freedom to implement the best solutions or embrace new ideas. That is a recipe for failure. This House will not go down that path.

As I look ahead, I see a future filled with exciting challenges and opportunities. A united House, working together to serve the needs of the citizens of Massachusetts, can accomplish many great things. I am proud to be a member of a branch of government that has brought tax relief, fiscal stability, and real reform to the people of Massachusetts over the past several years. I am committed as the new leader of this House to continue to identify ways to improve on and expand that record. I intend to be a leader where all points of view are heard with respect, and where consensus is built based not on the passions of the moment, but on a shared sense of generational responsibility. In the end, all of our work must be tested against one principle: that the decisions we make will make life better for those we represent and those who follow them in the future.

I would like to say a word about my views on leadership. I am open-minded and open-hearted in my approach to decision making. I will bring a generosity of spirit to this job, and I will work in collaboration with each of you as we confront the demands of governing. Each one of you has unique talents and abilities. Together we have a wealth of shared experience. I promise this: all members of this House will be empowered in our legislative process. But with empowerment comes responsibility. I call upon each of you to be prepared to work hard along side of me and share in the important task of governing.

We will face many challenges, but I pledge to you that we will meet them together with strength, determination and integrity. I look forward to working with both Governor Romney and Senate President Travaglini to find common ground upon which we can build a better Commonwealth. This is a time to come together in the service of the people of Massachusetts.

As I look out on this historic chamber, and reflect on my hopes for the future, I am filled with optimism and energized by a deep rooted faith in our ability to achieve great things. I am grateful for your support, moved by your confidence and humbled by the mantle of leadership you have entrusted me with. Every day I am Speaker I will work hard to earn that support, justify that confidence and exercise that leadership fairly and thoughtfully. I am ready, eager and prepared to hit the ground running. I ask you to join me in the journey that lies ahead. Together we will make the citizens of this Commonwealth proud of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Thank You.

Remarks of Representative Jones of North Reading.

Mr. Jones of North Reading then made extemporaneous remarks to the members, guest, employees, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and, on motion of Mr. Peterson of Grafton, the remarks were spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the members.

Let me start off by saying what a unique and special distinction it is to have lost an election for Speaker twice in the same legislative session. And it is not lost on me that the Gentleman from Mattapan has taken a seat in the Second Division.

Remarks of
Minority
Leader.

Remarks of
Minority
Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your victory and ascent to a new position of leadership. As you assume the awesome responsibilities incumbent upon the Speaker's Office, the members of my caucus wish you well.

We pledge to work with you to transact the people's business. If history is to be our guide, our members are likely to have disagreements in the future. And it's possible some of those differences will relate to matters of great importance to the people we represent.

Whatever the issue, and whatever our views, I hope we can forge a compromise which reflects — and respects — the diversity of opinion which makes this institution so great.

I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that our democratic system treasures the ability of the minority to serve as a check and balance against the interests of those in power.

Without a meaningful opportunity for minority input, the citizens of Massachusetts are ill served.

The majority is the engine which drives our government forward. However, the minority is the catalyst which keeps the system moving.

Over the past few years, within this very Chamber, we have seen the process work as it should, and we have seen it work poorly.

We have seen times when members have worked together to reach compromise, against all odds, to further the interests of the public. And we have also seen times when petty disagreements and ideological inertia have derailed the process and frozen the wheels of change.

As we all embark on this new era within the People's Chamber, Mr. Speaker, let's do our best to work together in a bipartisan manner to protect the interests of those we represent. Let's use our experience, and our knowledge, and our talents the best way we know how.

And I encourage you, Mr. Speaker, to use these next few months to begin that process. Few Speakers have the luxury of time when they start the job. You do. Reach out to the members. Talk to them. Find out what they think. Ask them how to improve things. Open up a dialogue. And learn how you can include all of us and our ideas in the process.

Let us all remember ... the process here is only as open as the members wish it to be.

May your time as Speaker be one of inclusiveness and openness. Our constituents, inside and outside the Chamber, deserve nothing less.

I know we can do it if we try. Mr. Speaker, I know I will try. And I know the members of my party will try. I hope you and the members of your party will join us and try your best too.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, congratulations and God Bless.

The Governor and Lieutenant-Governor then left the Chamber, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Benediction.

Benediction.

The benediction was offered by Rabbi Lieberman of the Congregation Lubavitch Synagogue of Chestnut Hill; and, on motion of Mr. Smizik of Brookline, was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

God of Heaven and of the Earth, King of the Universe:

Help us to remember that the future before us is dynamic. Everything we do will affect it. The dawn of each day brings with it a new frontier, if only we shall recognize it.

We beseech You, O Mighty God, to grant us clear vision, that we may know where to stand, and what to stand for.

Help us to realize that it is better to fail for a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail.

Strengthen, sustain and grant thy blessing to our new Speaker, Salvatore F. DiMasi, his family, and members of this House, so that we may all enjoy peace, tranquility, and brotherly love for all mankind. Amen.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Rogers of Norwood,—

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

Next
sitting.

At sixteen minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Flynn of Bridgewater (Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.