

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

2:42 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Friday, January 24th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to

dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Friday, January 24th and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I just want to bring the members up-to-date on where we are in terms of our schedule. But prior to that, I would like to offer on the first day of the fourth week of the 243rd legislative Session a quote. That one, Mr. Speaker, is coming from Maya Angelou. Maya was an American poet, a singer and a Civil Rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry and is credited with a list of plays, movies and television shows over a 50-year span. Ms. Angelou says, "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated; in fact, it may be necessary to encounter defeats so that you can know who you are, know what you can rise from and know what you can still become."

With that, Mr. Speaker, members do have on their desk in front of them a main Calendar and after there are any introductions and/or housekeeping, we will take up resolutions on page 3, including one from Assemblymember Nily Rozic, which she and other members wish to be heard. We will then consent 17 new bills on the Calendar, and then we will continue our consent off the main Calendar from last week, beginning with Calendar No. 240, it's on page 47. For disclosure, there will be a need for Majority

Conference immediately following Session and as always, Mr. Speaker, we will consult with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to determine what their needs may be.

That is a general outline. If there are any introductions or housekeeping, now would be a great time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have a number of housekeeping items which we will take up now.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 25, Calendar No. 107, Bill No. A02475, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 27, Calendar No. 115, Bill No. A02600, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 27, Calendar No. 116, Bill No. A02611-D, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 30, Calendar No. 130, Bill No. A03101, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 31, Calendar No. 145, Bill No. A03534, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Ms. Bichotte, page 37, Calendar No. 176, Bill No. A04615, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Ms. Lupardo, page 41, Calendar No. 204, Bill No. A05390-A, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 44, Calendar No. 20 -- 220, Bill No. A05776-B, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Dinowitz, page 44, Calendar No. 22 -- 221, excuse me, Bill No. A05777, amendments are received and

adopted.

And finally, on a motion by Ms. Woerner, page 59, Calendar No. 308, Bill No. A08078-A, amendments are received and adopted.

We will now go to introductions.

Mr. Brian Miller for the purposes of a [sic] introduction. Sir.

MR. B. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm honored to introduce the New York State Class D Girl's Cross-Country Champions, the Delaware Academy Bulldogs. With us today: Rachel Blocker, Sienna Dorr, Gretel Hilson-Schneider, Ellie Lees, Lucia Marsiglio, Camille Mueller, Cella Schnabel, Anna Tessier, Lonnie Weiss, Head Coach Skip Baxter, Assistant Coach Melissa Emilio and Assistant Coach Lenny Mintz.

On their way to winning the State Championship, these ladies won their third straight Section 4 Class D Title, returning for the third straight year to the State Championship Meet. The team pulled together and ran a complete team race to secure the title. This is the program's fourth State Title, but their first since 1981. Mr. Speaker, these young women compete in a sport that is not only physically challenging, but is also mentally challenging. To come out victorious at a cross-country State Championship Meet speaks volumes about what these ladies are capable of -- is a need to employ so many of their skills and talents. I ask you to please welcome them to the Assembly Chamber, recognize their consistency

over the last several years and congratulate them on their New York State Championship. Congratulations to the Delaware Academy Bulldogs athletes and their coaches.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Brian Miller, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We commend you for your athletic achievements, your coaches for standing with you, your parents for being around you. We know that the athletics mean so much to so many in this country. We hope that you will take the strength that it has provided you physically and use it for the rest of your lives. Thank you so very much. Continue to be successful and we hope to see you back again real soon. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Ashby for an introduction.

MR. ASHBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce Madeline and Isabelle Flint, daughters of Ted Flint, who work here at the Assembly. Both girls attend Cambridge Central School. They're honor students, multi-sport athletes and accomplished musicians, playing the piano and drums. Both girls were home schooled at an early age and are now contributing in so many wonderful ways to Cambridge Central Schools. Mr. Speaker, could you please welcome these talented young ladies and their father, and afford them all the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Ashby, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these

young ladies and their father here to the New York State Assembly.

We certainly commend you on your efforts both academically and athletically. Hopefully that will serve you well in your future and maybe we never quite realize how important the blending of two and family are as we might today. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Giglio.

MR. GIGLIO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt the proceedings. As you know, I always get excited when people come from home, and because NYSAC's in town, a lot of members of the Cattaraugus County Legislature are here today. And I'd like to introduce them by name if you don't mind, sir. I will start out with Chairman Howard VanRensselaer, he's our new Chairman. And then Richard Helmich and his wife, Cathy. And then we have six new legislators: Donald Benson, Michael Brisky, Kip Morrow, Laurie Hunt, Ginger Schroder and Richard Smith. If you would extend to them all the cordial -- cordialities of the House and your usual warm welcome, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Giglio, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here, my colleagues, to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. We thank you for the service that you are providing and those new members who have made that commitment to serve. It is rewarding sometimes, not so obvious the rewards. We hope that you will feel that you have fulfilled a purpose

that is good for your community. Continue to do that and bless you.

Take care. Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Fahy for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. FAHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt these proceedings. Today I'm here to introduce Commissioner Thomas Saadi, the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate Corps. He is temporarily residing in my district in Guilderland, New York, as he has volunteered for active duty mobilization to the Watervliet Arsenal as the Senior Administrative Law Attorney.

Prior to his service in the Connecticut Department of Affairs since May of 2015, he also served for 15 years as an Assistant Attorney General and Special Prosecutor in the State of Connecticut, also served as a City Council member in Danbury, Connecticut. He has also served as the Chief Legal Officer for the 4 -- 411th Civil Affairs Battalion in Connecticut, as well as the 4th Legal Operations Detachment in New York. He's a graduate of Western Connecticut State University, as well as his Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac. He permanently resides in Danbury, Connecticut, but again, is temporarily in my district and, Mr. Speaker, I would very much appreciate if you welcome him and grant him the cordialities of the House. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf

of Ms. Fahy, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor and we are amazed at a life of service that you have provided and continue to provide. Not so sure how a young man like you has accomplished all of that, but clearly it's a tribute to your energy and your effort on behalf of this country. Thank you for your service, sir.

(Applause)

Ms. Fernandez.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt the proceedings. I, along with my colleagues Assemblymember Cruz, De La Rosa, Pichardo and Davila are honored to have a group of 40 young Latinas joining us today all the way from New York City. They are members of Comunilife, Inc. and their precious program, Life is Precious. Comunilife, Inc.'s Life is Precious program provides cultural and linguistically-appropriate services for Latina teens who are living with depression and/or have seriously considered or attempted suicide, and their families. With program sites in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and Washington Heights, LIP provides educational support, creative art therapies, wellness activities and concrete family services to more than 190 teens and their families annually. Most come from low-income families and live in New York City's poorest communities. LIP's goal is to eliminate suicide by Latina adolescents by giving them tools that build their resistance and provide skills to succeed.

To meet the cultural and linguistic needs of the teens and their families, all programs are available in English and Spanish. Life is Precious was established in 2008 by Dr. Rosa Gil after getting far too many referrals from nearby emergency rooms related to attempted suicides. Dr. Gil recognized the need for a safe haven for these young women where they could be given the support and skills needed to reclaim their sense of worth and limitless potential, along with a bonding sisterhood that fosters hope and a new-found pride in their bicultural backgrounds. Latina teens have some of the highest suicide rates in the United States. Right here in New York State, suicide is the second leading cause of death for young Latinas. Life is Precious provides these free services and support to young Latinas who otherwise would have nowhere else to turn.

Mr. Speakers [sic] and my colleagues, please join me in welcoming these beautiful resilient young women.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Fernandez, Ms. Cruz, Ms. De La Rosa, Ms. Davila, Mr. Pichardo, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations on the work that you're doing to ensure that others are taken care of in their times of need. We hope that you continue that, that you will grow strong and positive in a world that sometimes is not so welcoming to us, but know that you are always welcome here. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

(Pause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, one more piece of housekeeping, if I can indulge you.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: You have housekeeping, Mr. Speaker?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: One more piece.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Okay.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Without objection, on a motion by Ms. Rozic to reconsider the substitution of Senate Bill No. S04378 for Assembly Bill No. A05661, said Senate bill is recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means, and said Assembly bill is restored to its place on the order of Third Reading.

(Pause)

As we wait, we will take care of another piece of housekeeping, Madam Majority Leader, if that's all right.

On a motion by Mr. Gottfried, page 49, Calendar No. 249, Bill No. A06983-A, amendments are received and adopted.

(Pause)

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I understand you have additional housekeeping, as well as an introduction?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Yes, and we will take the introduction first.

Ms. Rozic for the purposes of a [sic] introduction.

MS. ROZIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a quick introduction, we have, joined with us in the back of the Chamber, the Queens College Interim President, Bill Tramontano. Bill has been with the University for a little over a year now and he comes to us from a lot of different CUNY schools, including Hunter and Lehman and Brooklyn College. So, on behalf of myself and the Queens delegation, we'd love to welcome him here and to give him the cordialities of the House. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Rozic, the Speaker, the Queens delegation, myself, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Certainly pleased to have you here in Albany. Hope that your time in Albany will be beneficial, and know that we in Queens appreciate the service you're providing us. Thank you so very much, and you're always welcome.

(Applause)

And now back to resolutions -- I mean housekeeping.

On a motion by Ms. Paulin, page 16, Calendar No. 49, Bill No. A01051, amendments are received and adopted.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, if I can ask our colleagues and guests that are in the Chambers to please have a seat. We are going to start with our resolutions on page 3. We will need to have quiet and attention.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Members, would you

please take your seats. Cease the conversations. Clear the aisles.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker, Mr. Jackson, for gathering the attention of members and friends in the Chambers for this very important resolution by Nily Rozic.

Mr. Speaker, this is a day that we're going to honor the Holocaust. We're going to remember what our brothers and sisters went through, and I think it's important that people have a seat. I still do see a few people standing and I would appreciate if they would have a seat so that we can give the due diligence that's due at this time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 700, Ms. Rozic. Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 27, 2020, as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, Ms. Rozic.

MS. ROZIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Majority Leader. Today, January 27th, marks the 75th anniversary of the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp where 1.1 million people were killed, was liberated in 1945. In 2005, this date was established as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a day to recognize and remember the six million Jews and millions of other minority groups, including the disabled and members of the

LGBTQ community, who were murdered in the Holocaust. It is a day to remind ourselves that those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it; a day to show our moral responsibility to bear witness and learn from the past.

About a week ago, I, along with some of our colleagues here, joined a New York delegation to Poland. There, we walked through ghetto streets, old rail lines and concentration camps to learn about the horrors of the *Shoah*, the Holocaust. We see that as the Holocaust fades from memory, anti-Semitism and hate crimes rise. With anti-Semitism rising at alarming rates, we need to look to the past so we do not repeat it. Just a few years ago, chants of "Jews will not replace us" reverberated through Charlottesville. From Pittsburgh to Poway, we hold our breath each time we look down at our phones and hear of another synagogue shooting or anti-Semitic assaults in our neighborhoods. Just last month, Jews were killed lighting Hanukkah candles right here in New York.

There's been a meteoric rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the United States in recent years. The -- the Anti-Defamation League reported a 58 percent increase in such incidents between 2016 and 2017, many of them in our schools and on our college campuses. And in November, 2019, the FBI released data showing that Jews and Jewish institutions were the overwhelming majority of targets of religion-based hate crimes. Our neighbors fall victim every day to ignorance, misinformation and conspiracy theories.

We must connect the dots. As Holocaust survivors

pass on, we must share their burden and their stories. I invite every single one of my colleagues to join me in bearing witness, in teaching future generations about this stain in history and in standing side-by-side so that we can all truly live up to our pledge of *Never Again*. Thank you.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Eichenstein on the resolution.

MR. EICHENSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to voice my support on this most solemn resolution, and I would like to take a moment to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution to the floor.

During the Holocaust, which ended 75 short years ago, six million lives were brutally taken at the hands of the Nazis. Six million is not just a number. They were six million brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters lost to the most terrible epidemic of hate that this world has ever seen. Seventy-five years ago to date, as Auschwitz was liberated, no one could have thought that we would have the freedom we do here in the United States of America.

As a grandchild of four Holocaust survivors and as the Assemblymember representing the largest concentration of Holocaust survivors in this country, I learned early on what it means to be hated. I also learned early on not to take our freedom for granted. Who would have thought that in this great country, in 2020, hate would rear its ugly head on our streets, at our shops, at our

schools, and even at our -- at our houses of worships.

We are here today voting on a resolution commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day in the State of New York. Let the lesson of the Holocaust teach us. We must be vigilant against hate, all hate, and we must come together to fight this cancer of hate that has been spreading in our country, and appreciate our wonderful diverse communities throughout this State and learn to respect each others' way of lives, religions and cultures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Cymbrowitz on the resolution.

MR. CYMBROWITZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the sponsor for this yearly resolution. This year, it's even more important. Seventy-five years ago, my parents were liberated from a slave labor camp in Czestochowa, Poland. One week ago, I was in Czestochowa as part of a trip I took with several of my colleagues and Jewish leaders to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In Czestochowa, I spent an emotional day visiting the Jewish Museum, walking in the area of the ghetto where my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles spent the last two years of the war. This area housed the Rakow slave labor camp and the HASAG-Rakow ammunition factory, where my mother spent day after day for two long years dipping her hands in acid without gloves to make bullets for the Nazi war effort, while my father built roads in freezing temperatures with barely a coat to wear. I lit a candle at the

monument located at the site of the Czestochowa train station, where 40,000 Jews were transported to the Treblinka death camp to face slaughter by the Nazis. On the 75th anniversary of the liberation, I think about the fact that the surviving members of my family could have been one of the 40,000 Jews transported to their deaths in Treblinka. With luck and the grace of God, they survived and made a life for themselves, not just in spite of, but in defiance of the heartbreaking losses they suffered.

In my family, as in any family, stories become our stories. We take on the role of witness after they're gone, serving as the keeper of our family's legacy and ensuring that our family stories are never forgotten -- forgotten. When you're a child of Holocaust survivors, the role is magnified. We bear witness not just for our parents, but for the generations that were lost. We take on the responsibility of ensuring that people now and in the future continue to listen to the horrific stories that are a stain on our collective world history.

My parents' childhood in Deblin, Poland came to an end when the Nazis invaded the town on September 1, 1939. They were 14 and 16 years old when the town was quickly sealed off and the Nazis took control and uprooted families. Four years later, everyone in Deblin was rounded up and put in cattle cars and sent to either concentration or slave labor camps. My great-grandfather's son, Meyer, my mother's father, my grandfather, was taken to Buchenwald death camp and killed the night before they were liberated from the

slave labor camp on January 15th, 1945 by the Russian Army.

It was these stories that shaped my being. I promised my parents that I would keep talking about the Holocaust and the importance of educating our children about the Holocaust. As an Assemblyman, I have tried to fulfill that promise by sponsoring a Holocaust creative art contest for students in my district for the past 20 years. The dramatic rise in anti-Semitic crimes we're seeing locally and across the world, make it imperative that Holocaust education be expanded, enriched and brought to life for all our children, not just as a history lesson, but as part of their civic and moral education.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Elie Wiesel noted that, quote, "If anything can, it is memory that will save humanity," end of quote. On the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, these are important words to *zakar*, remember, the six million need us to ensure their family stories live on for eternity. Never Again.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Rosenthal on the resolution.

MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the sponsor for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Today we stand here and recognize the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. We remember the six million Jews who were systematically murdered during the Holocaust. We are living at the edges of the history books. The last generation of

Holocaust survivors won't be around much longer. It is more important than ever that we recall the horrors of the past. We are approaching the point where simply promising to never forget is not enough. We must educate, we must inform and we must teach it over and over.

The Holocaust did not happen overnight. It did not happen in a vacuum. It happened over years of normalizing hatred and anti-Semitism. It happened over years of people not standing up. In the last year in New York City alone, there was a 20 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidences. Over 50 percent of all hate crimes are anti-Semitic in New York. We have witnessed swastikas drawn in public places, synagogues vandalized, as escalated to where Jews were assaulted in the streets of Brooklyn. And recently, anti-Semitism in this immediate area has a body count. This is an unimaginable reality the Jewish community is facing in New York State. We all must remain vigilant to make sure "*Never Again*" means *Never Again*.

It seems easy to denounce something, but you are not combatting anti-Semitism, racism or hatred in any form if you only denounce it when it is politically convenient for you. It would be a disservice if all that had happened after a tragic event were words. Actions are needed then and actions are needed now. The best thing we can do is take the lessons of the past and then turn them into a force for good. We must stand up to all injustice. We must come together with hope and unity and aspirations for a better life for all. That is how we should honor their memory.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Ryan on the resolution.

MR. RYAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for sponsoring this resolution. Last week, I visited Poland and I listened and I learned. I learned about 1,000-year-old rich Jewish culture that existed in Poland for nearly a millennium, and I learned that that culture that had more than 3.5 million people at the start of the war was reduced to about 300,000 at the end of the war. I listened to Holocaust survivors and heard their stories. I listened and talked to Righteous amongst Nation who assisted Jews in escaping the Holocaust. I walked through the peaceful neighborhoods of Warsaw that were built upon the wreckage of the Warsaw ghetto that imprisoned nearly a half a million people. And I visited Auschwitz and I walked through the barracks and walked through the camps where over a million people walked through who never -- never came out. It was a moving experience.

I had read a lot about the Holocaust. I thought I had an understanding of it, but you have no understanding of it until you walk through those camps, you walk through the neighborhoods and you talk to people who -- who survived. On the way home, I read Elie Wiesel's book, *Night*, and in it he said that whoever listens to a witness becomes a witness. I'm proud to say today that I am a witness.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Epstein on the resolution.

MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I lost my voice so I'll be quick. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for letting me

stand up for this resolution, and thank you to the sponsor.

It's the 37th anniversary of the freeing of Auschwitz and I think about my family and other people's families, my grandfather and his father and his brother were able to leave in the 20s Poland. Unfortunately, the rest of his family were not as lucky. This history of anti-Semitism and the anti-Semitism we're seeing today is not new, it's not unique. It's about hate. It's about not understanding and not relating to people who are different than you are.

Today we have to stand up against all forms of anti-Semitism, all forms of hatred, all forms of injustice and violence that are happening here in New York and around the world. I want to encourage my colleagues to do what they can, to work with us to not forget about these histories and these struggles. The stories we hear time and time again to be that person who will never forget, who will understand what humanity is. Reach across aisles of difference to understand so we don't face a situation like we saw in Germany and the Holocaust, where you see in China sometimes today, where we see around the world where difference allows hatred and violence to exacerbate the problems, and move for a more just world. Thank you.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Mosley on the resolution.

MR. MOSLEY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to thank my colleague from Queens for introducing this resolution. I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Majority Leader for allowing us to speak on it.

As some of my colleagues have so noted, I was a part

of that group of colleagues who went to Poland last week. It was an enlightening experience, an educational experience, but it was a somber experience nonetheless, to understand that 1.5 million victims who were tragically taken away at this death camp we call Auschwitz, but to also understand the brighter side in terms of the liberation of that camp and the hundreds of thousands of people who were saved during that time period. But I also want to highlight the fact that when hate goes unfettered, when hate goes unchallenged, this is the worst example we can see of mankind in this most contemporary time period. To me, I think that it was one of those trips where although I went to Pearl Harbor and I've been to Normandy and Northern France, we ultimately understood that the ultimate goal was to end the war, but to liberate a people. And to me, I think that the education that we took in during our trip was more so about what can we do to transform those messages and lessons learned into what is happening in our own backyard, what is happening in Upstate New York, what is happening in New York City and in Brooklyn in particular and in my district. And not just to learn from it, but to act upon it.

I want to thank JCC of Kraków and Blue Card for hosting us, who continue to serve and -- and -- and who continue to meet the needs of the demand of those survivors who still live in our midst. But I also wanted to thank people like Marsha Pearl, a survivor who still lives in Poland who continues to educate people like myself, and to transform those ideas and stories to us not just for our own pleasures and edification, but to share them with others.

So, again, I want to thank all those who attended that trip with me. I want to thank all those who sponsored it, I want to thank the Speaker for allowing this to take place, but I also want us to challenge ourselves as not just merely members of this Body, but as New Yorkers and as Americans, that we have to do better because when we don't do better, we only have examples of this and others that we could repeat if we don't move forward and a sense of decency and humanity for all. Thank you.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Ms. Bichotte on the resolution.

MS. BICHOTTE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this resolution. I want to thank my colleague for introducing this resolution on the -- on Holocaust Remembrance Day. I rise to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day which coincides with the liberation of the infamous and notorious Auschwitz concentration camp, a name that conjures up images and pure evil. To this day and in my own district, there remain survivors with tattoos left in their arms and there remain hate crimes of anti-Semitism. We must preserve their stories, legacies and lessons for posterity and stand even stronger against anti-Semitism and all forms of hate.

My district is a very diverse and eclectic district in Brooklyn with a large population of Caribbeans, African-Americans, Whites, South Asian, Muslim, Christians and a very large population of both Orthodox and non-Orthodox members of the Jewish

community. Too often, people living side-by-side did not interact with one another as they see no commonality, nothing to bind them to each other seeing the otherness, if you will, in the other. Some of us made an effort to change that since -- that since when we see commonality, we see our own common humanity.

As a Haitian-American and to that end, we tried in succeeding in bringing the Haitian and Jewish populations together and I, along with my Jewish brother, Boris Noble, were privileged together in our world Haiti Holocaust Legacy Project by an organization formed by Holocaust survivors to help Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. This was an award created by Bill Mohr who was a child when the Nazis attested his father in Germany on the infamous night of *Kristallnacht*, or The Night of Broken Glass. His father was one of the lucky ones as he subsequently released and realized they must leave their country of birth, Germany, immediately. But there was no where to run. Gates were closing, doors shut. They ended up in the Caribbean Island of Haiti after a month-long perilous journey. It took getting used to that change, they were safe from the German War Machine and the dreaded SS, which specialized in mass killing of Jews like the Mohrs. Eventually the Mohrs left Haiti and settled in the U.S. after the war. But Bill Mohr always hate *Hakarat HaTov*, the Jewish concept of appreciation and showing thanks for all. He established this award so that he wanted Haiti to get its due for opening the borders of people who were being murdered simply for who they were, and so that the lessons of the Holocaust are not

forgotten.

I also learned of this when I visited Yad Vashem in Israel in 2011. And as I was going through the museum, I cried and cried and cried. This is the lesson we must take on this day, January 27th, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Working together, we break down barriers and no one can hate someone they see as someone like us. It's harder to hate them. *Never Again*. Thank you.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Gottfried on the resolution.

MR. GOTTFRIED: Mr. Speaker, last week we honored Martin Luther King, Jr. Today as we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day and are mindful of the events all around us, I believe some of the words of Martin Luther King are particularly appropriate today when he said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Buchwald on the resolution.

MR. BUCHWALD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the gentlelady from Queens who introduced this resolution to recognize Holocaust Remembrance Day on this 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. I certainly want to agree with her neighbor, the members from Queens, who points out that simply saying "*Never Forget*" is not enough, and certainly doing so once a year is not enough, but it is important that we take this moment to remind all New Yorkers that we can never forget any day of the year

how hatred in its incipient nature burrows into a society and tears it out from the inside. We absolutely have to make sure that each and every New Yorker and each and every American affirmatively stands up against hatred. We know that our country and particularly our State, and the City of New York is -- is especially known for being a welcoming place, and we are at our best when we uphold that beacon of light to the world.

But there have been times in our country where we have closed our doors. We have been indifferent to the suffering of others. That includes during the Holocaust. You don't just have to have been familiar with the story the Voyage of the Damned, the St. Louis, which traveled around the Atlantic searching for a place to drop off refugees and finding no home and certainly no home here in the United States. We absolutely need to make sure that when we talk about, for example, refugees, we recognize that there is a constant need to never forget that our country is best when it is a shining light to the rest of the world on what it means to be a part of humanity. And I hope that in all that we do, we work to stamp out hate in all its forms.

And I think the gentleman who spoke before me quoting Martin Luther King is absolutely right. I was reading remarks from Elie Wiesel who said something very similar to that letter from the Birmingham jail. Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor himself, said, "The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference." And may we never, ever be indifferent to the suffering of others. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Rivera on the resolution.

MR. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague, in his statement, he said the Holocaust did not happen overnight. He's right. It did not happen overnight. Early on during the second war, Jewish people would get on a ship, try to escape oppression in Europe. Guess who rejected them coming into their country? They were stopped as they approached Miami. There it was said, *elsewhere*. Guess what to country welcomed them with open arms? First the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. The rest is history. It did not happen overnight.

Somehow I admire the Jewish people because they have a -- a clear understanding *Never Again* should this happen. And the unity, if you don't -- if you want to hear if you don't know what the Holocaust is, there's two museums, go visit Israel. Better yet, go to one -- go to the one in the lower part of Manhattan. And you will see what they went through. Recently, I got up here and we spoke on the day of Martin Luther King and I said something like I recall two youngsters back in 1964, Schwerner and Goodman, who joined the African-American student Chaney, and the three of them went down South so people like me could register to vote.

The Jewish community has been at the forefront in every struggle for justice in this society, 'cause they understand what oppression was. They played a key role in the March of 1963. All the labor movement played a key role in the March of 1963 on

Washington. You know, we stand here today, and I believe that I have an obligation to get up and share my experience. My family, we were given an opportunity where they came here by (inaudible) Jewish, to get a good job. When I got elected, Assemblyman Alan Hevesi came to me and said we just found out that Ronald Reagan is going to Bitburg to lay the wreath in a cemetery. Of all places, Bitburg. So, I agreed to go with Alan Hevesi and I agreed -- we agreed not to land in Germany. We went to Bitburg. And my experience about storm troopers, they don't have the swastika, but they still dress and walk the same way. Then we went to Auschwitz to pay our respect. I got goose pimples. I saw like mounds of -- little hills, what is that? They said that's where the Holocaust victim from Poland and Germany and Europe are buried at. I have a little bit of video of that. It's heartbreaking.

So on a day like today, I will get up and I show my appreciation and my support, because my colleague is right. If we don't speak up, if we don't rise together, then they're going to feel that they're all by themselves. And what's happening not only in Brooklyn, but what's happening all over the City and the rest of the nation. So, I agree with them. I rise as I join them to say *Never Again*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Lentol on the resolution.

MR. LENTOL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've never been to Auschwitz. I haven't been to Bitburg, but I've represented more Jewish people maybe than any other member of the Assembly.

And each year, I go to a Holocaust remembrance ceremony in my district. And the numbers of people that attend that ceremony are dwindling and dwindling. So, pretty soon they're not going to be able to hold it anymore because I think most of them will be dead in a couple of years, they're pretty up there in age.

And I have to say that every year that I go, I believe that -- I believed that things are getting better in the world and things are getting better in this country. And now all of a sudden in 2019 and before, we've seen a whole turn of events, as many have talked about today, and anti-Semitism rearing its ugly head not only in the United States of America, but all around the world. And it seems to have reared its ugly head in Brooklyn. And if it wasn't enough to do it in Brooklyn and in Mr. Eichenstein's district, it happened in my district several times. And the young people who were killed in Jersey City came from Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Why did they die? They died obviously because people have forgotten the message of the Holocaust. People have begun to continue to hate again. And I'm sorry for that. I think that we're better than that, we're better than that in this country, we're better than that in the world.

But ladies and gentlemen, if we don't do this every year -- and thank you, I want to thank the sponsor for introducing this resolution and making us remember again and again and again. Because I say with you, *Never Again*.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. D'Urso on the resolution.

MR. D'URSO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank

you to my -- my colleague for sponsoring the resolution -- excuse my voice, it's not clear.

I wanted to talk a little bit about my personal experience as a five-year-old boy of the mountains of Central Italy when the American GIs and the airplanes came around and tried to liberate us from the German invasion. The Nazis were all over the place and it took nine months for the Americans bombing the areas to push the Nazis soldiers over Northern Italy from Central Italy, and it took them nine months. What happened during those nine months? I remember from the night of September the 8th in 1943, through the -- when we had to run over the mountains because 150 airplanes from the United States came after they liberated Africa to liberate Italy, and they launched some leaflets that said leave the town, go over the mountains because we're going to bomb. Everybody thought that the bombing would last a day or two; it lasted nine months.

Now what happens? Everybody packed anything they could carry over the mountains. There were no roads, there were no -- they were just mule paths. And you see mothers with children moving over and some of the animals, domestic animals that we had going over the mountains, it took about over three-and-a-half hours to go from sea level where we lived all the way up.

Now, when that happened, September the 8th, 1943, when everybody started to leave the town, what happened with the two Jewish families that we knew, the only two Jewish families in the town of about 16,000 people. We did not want to leave them alone,

obviously. They're human beings, they're in distress, they need help. We didn't hesitate. My father, we were six kids, my mother, my uncle, my cousin, they thought that that was the right thing to do to take the risk and take the families with us over the mountains. That lasted nine months. It was very difficult. Not only the Jews [sic] -- committed those -- those bad things, the extermination of six million innocent people, but they also were bad people when they would take civilians, because they had -- that if one German soldier would get killed by a civilian, they would take 18 people, you know, randomly, put them against the wall and executed them. There was a story from my brother that married in a family that the mother and a son was executed among 18. And the mother told the executioner, please don't shoot my child first, shoot me first. They did exactly the opposite. They shot the kid first, the child first, and then my -- eventually my brother's mother-in-law second.

So, I could go on and on and on. It was very difficult to find anything to eat. Not only we had to protect ourselves and the two Jewish family friends, but -- from the Nazis, but also from the civilians because the well-off, they would turn them into the Nazis for money. Not only that, what do you do over the mountains? There was -- as I said it before, there were no roads, there was nothing. And the only thing that my brother and my uncle found Easter Sunday, 1944, Easter Sunday is the holiest, you know, holiday in the Catholic faith. The only thing he found for us to chew on, two donkeys' ears. That's how bad it was. But thank to God there were a lot of efforts,

lots of sacrifices, everybody survived. My family, my aunt and uncle's family and our two Jewish families that I have contacts now with the children of the survivors. They live in Naples. I talked to one of them right this morning and I told them about there was going to be a resolution here and he said, wished luck and thank everybody that never forgets and pray that it never happens again. So thank you.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Mr. Goodell on the resolution.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues, for your thoughtful comments. Of course, the Holocaust was shocking in its size, in its systematic approach and its unmitigated evil. But I want to remind all my colleagues that genocide didn't end 75 years ago. And genocide is occurring today in other parts of the world. Whether it's Muslims or Christians or Jews or Kurds or those in Kashmir or those of a different tribe or race, genocide is happening today. And so, while we reflect on the horrific, systematic murder of innocent civilians based solely on their religious beliefs, let us also redouble our commitment to fighting and opposing genocide wherever it occurs, whatever the group is, because no one should be facing death based on who they are and what they believe in anywhere in a civilized world. Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Thank you. And as many of our colleagues have mentioned, I just wanted to touch on some points, some that have been said. It was commented that -- or mentioned that

the Holocaust did not happen overnight. The Nazi regime preyed on longstanding fears, insecurity and hatred and used the government to isolate groups that they thought were inferior to them. These policies eventually led to the Holocaust in which roughly 17 million people were killed. We don't even know actually how many people were exactly killed since there were no official lists kept.

Those targeted included Jews, Romas, people with disabilities, homosexuals and Communists, among other groups, based on race, religion, ethnicity and political views. Those killed included six million Jews, approximately two-thirds or 70 percent of the Jewish population in Europe. Over one million people were killed at Auschwitz alone.

An International Holocaust Remembrance Day was designated on January 7th -- 27th, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Holocaust Remembrance Day serves as a date for the official commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust, and to promote Holocaust education throughout the world and as a time to remember that this should never happen again, where people think it is right to exterminate a race of people. And let's look back on this and say this should never, ever happen again.

So on the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. If we can now continue on our Calendar, I'm going to go to

page 7. We'll give our Speaker Pro Tem an opportunity to -- page 7, Calendar No. 350, by Member Darling.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09079-A, Calendar No. 350, Darling. An act to amend the Real -- to repeal a Chapter of the Laws of 2019, authorizing the Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, with the approval of the Board of Regents, to appoint monitors to oversee the Hempstead Union Free School District as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.6559 and A.8403; authorizing the Commissioner of Education to appoint a monitor to oversee the Hempstead Union Free School District and establishing the powers and duties of such monitor; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Darling, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

First vote of the day, members, first vote of the day. Mrs. Peoples-Stokes wants me to remind you, if you are in your seats, before you leave the Chamber for any purpose, please vote. If you are out of the Chamber, come in the Chamber and cast your vote. Thank you.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think you made that very clear. Members that are in and around the Chambers, please cast your vote.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Darling to explain her vote.

Shh.

MS. DARLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on the bill. Since the first version of this bill passed unanimously in June, I've had to give all I can to ensure it became law. This current version of the law is the product of intense negotiations, and I firmly feel we have something that will work to finally restore the Hempstead School District. This legislation has already been a support and guide for other distressed school districts across the State.

I have another ask of all of you and the State Education Department. This is the greatest State in this country, so let us leverage every resource we have to restructure our education system. It is our job to provide and protect the education of every child in New York State and it is no coincidence that school districts -- excuse me, our distressed school districts are in minority communities. Separate but equal does not work. Separate but equal does not work. I would also greatly appreciate receiving the \$215 million in educational foundation aid owed to my school districts alone.

I want to thank every person in this room for your

support in passing this bill. I especially would like to thank our Leader for refusing to allow me to return to my district without a sound plan to improve it. Thank you. Oh, I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Darling in the affirmative.

Mr. Smith to explain his vote.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join again this year in support of Ms. Darling's bill. For anyone who, as a former educator on Long Island, it's no secret what has gone on at the Hempstead School District. It's really a travesty what has happened. This school district in the State of New York has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country. And, unfortunately, it has gotten to such a point because of a lot of conflicting fighting and corruption, and I just want to commend my colleague, again, for her courage.

You know, all of us represent districts with roughly 135,000 people, and my colleague is really putting her neck on the line to support this bill because she knows that the children in this community deserve better, they can get better. And I would also encourage my colleagues to please write a letter to the Governor in support of this bill. As someone who is a strong supporter of local control of education, I do not make this statement -- you know, I don't make this statement without real caution and need for this bill. This is something that needs to be done and the children of Hempstead I know will be better off because of this is and I want to thank my colleague again for her strong fight on this. I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Smith in the affirmative.

Mr. Montesano.

MR. MONTESANO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to echo the comments of my colleague here from Long Island, and to thank the sponsor for following through with this. I was a big supporter of this when it came through. We know the reason for it. I was quite disappointed with the fact that the bill as passed couldn't go through as we passed it the last time, because I think it was what was needed, because I think the monetary control is really needed at that school district to control their expenses, to control the level of patronage that they have. Some of the things that go on in that district are just about criminal. But we'll settle for the amendment that we have to have; it's better than nothing. And I just hope that the monitor appointed is able to bring some -- some semblance of order to this district, and I know we stand ready to do whatever we have to do as a follow-up with this -- with State Education so these children get what their parents are paying for and for what all the taxpayers are paying for. So, I'll be voting in the affirmative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Montesano in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09080, Calendar No.

351, Jean-Pierre. An act to repeal a Chapter of the Laws of 2019, authorizing the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Comptroller to appoint a monitor to oversee the Wyandanch Union Free School District and establishing the powers and duties of the monitor, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.6588-A and A.8422-A; authorizing the Commissioner of Education to appoint a monitor to oversee the Wyandanch Union Free School District and establishing the powers and duties of such monitor; authorizing deficit financing and an advance of aid payments for the Wyandanch Union Free School District; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: I'm sorry. On a motion by Ms. Jean-Pierre, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Jean-Pierre to explain her vote.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of last Session, we passed legislation to administer a fiscal monitor for the Wyandanch School District. I want to thank the Speaker for always putting children first, and I want to thank the staff

and SED and everyone involved, the Executive Office, for ensuring that we crafted amendments to this legislation to ensure that we best serve our children. And I want to thank all my colleagues here for voting on this legislation and for those who haven't voted, to vote in this legislation, because it's all about putting our children first. No matter where you live, no matter what zip code you come from, you should have the opportunity to have a fair and quality education. And when there are things that happen in school districts that prohibit that, we should take -- act with policy to ensure that we're protecting all children. Again, thank you and I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Jean-Pierre in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do we have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping, but we do have numerous fine resolutions which we will take up with one vote.

On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 719-723 were unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Mr. Otis, there is an immediate Democratic Conference in the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Democratic Conference, Speaker's Conference Room.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until 2:30, Tuesday, January the 28th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 4:18 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Tuesday, January 28th at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday being a Session day.)