

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

3:04 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 Monday, January 15th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the -- reading of the Journal of

Monday, January the 15th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I'll provide for us today a quote, as we usually do. This one comes from none other than the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. His words for us today, "Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude." Again, these words from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

Members have on their desk a main Calendar. It has 12 new bills in it. And after introductions and housekeeping we will take up a privileged resolution honoring the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. Then we will take up a Calendar resolution regarding the Korean American Day which is sponsored by Mr. Kim and it is on page 3. We will take up new bills on the Calendar beginning with page 4 with Calendar -- on page 4 with Calendar No. 211, going all the way to Calendar No. 222. Then we're going to continue consent from the main Calendar where we left off last week, beginning with Calendar No. 33 on page 12. Members should also be aware that there is gonna be a need to call a Banking Committee off the floor today.

That's the general outline of where we're going, Mr. Speaker. If you have housekeeping or introductions, now would be a great time, sir. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have both, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, and we will start, actually, with Mrs. People-Stokes.

At the request of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the following bills are recommitted back to the following Committees: Calendar No. 25, Bill A.742, back to Codes; Calendar No. 38, Bill No. A.1202-B to Ways and Means; Calendar No. 58, A.1963, back to Ways and Means; Calendar No. 91, Bill A.3287, back to Ways and Means.

At the request of the sponsor, Mr. Jones, Calendar No. 86, Bill No. 3119-A, back to the Committee on Transportation.

Pursuant to Rule II, Section 2, the following bills are recommitted back to the Committee on Ways and Means at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 046, Bill No. A.1514; Calendar No. 109, Bill A.4039; Calendar No. 175, Bill A.6203-A; Calendar No. 193, Bill A.6812-B; Calendar No. 196, A.7006-B; Calendar No. 208, A.7418-A.

Pursuant to Rule -- Rule III, Section 2, the following bills are committed back to the Committee on Codes at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 51, Bill No. 1715; Calendar No. 97, Bill No. 3749; Calendar No. 140, Bill No. 5012; Calendar No. 144, Bill No. 5334; Calendar No. 146, Bill No. 5371; Calendar No. 192, Bill No. 6738.

Pursuant to Rule III, Section 2, the following bills are committed back to the Committee on Health at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 96, Bill No. A.3729; Calendar No. 165,

A.5848-C.

Similar to Rule No. III, the following bills are committed back to the Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 59, Bill No. A.1971; Calendar No. 17, Bill No. A.5941.

Pursuant to Rule III, the following bills are recommitted back to the Committee on Transportation at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 114, Bill No. A.4089; Calendar No. 179, Bill No. A.6284-A.

Pursuant to Rule III, the following bills are committed back to the Committee on Real Property Taxation at the request of the Chair: Bill No. 118 -- Calendar No. 118, Bill No. A.4245; Calendar No. 77, Bill No. A.2725.

Pursuant to Rule III, the following bill is recommitted to the Committee on Education at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 181, Bill No. A.6310-A.

On a motion by Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, page 18, Calendar No. 63, Bill No. A.2151, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Ms. Rosenthal, page 23, Calendar No. 100, Bill No. A.3798, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Ms. Levenberg, page 36, Calendar No. 157, Bill No. A.5656, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Otis, page 43, Calendar No. 200, Bill No. A.7166, amendments are received and adopted.

For the purposes of a introduction, Ms. Shimsky.

MS. SHIMSKY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce the Women's Lacrosse Team from Pace University in Pleasantville. The Pace University Women's Lacrosse Team is the reigning NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Champions. They also have the distinction of being the first NCAA championship team from Westchester County. Appearing on behalf of the team today is the head coach, Tricia Molfetta; the assistant coach, Robert Molfetta; and members Emma Rafferty, Kayla Conway, Sidney Juvelier, Delilah Doyle, Angelina Porcello, Alexandra Quinn, Kate Laico, Payton Durkin, Nikki Mottes, Abby O'Connor, Audrey Colucci, Elizabeth Kulo, Samantha Tanguay, Alexandra Witucki, Natasha Franchina, Madison Schubert, and Gigi Genovese.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you welcome them and extend them all the courtesies of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Shimsky, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We commend you great athletes on your achievements. Championships are hard to come by and will be treasured, I'm sure, for most of your life. Continue those winning ways in your life, continue the work that you've been doing, complete your schooling, and remember you will always be welcome here in Albany. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Rajkumar.

MS. RAJKUMAR: Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce to this Body Mr. Avi Posnick. Avi Posnick is the Regional Director of StandWithUs, an organization that supports Israel and fights anti-Semitism around the world. StandWithUs believes that education is the road to peace, and Avi Posnick embodies that belief. I have personally witnessed the tireless -- tireless efforts of Mr. Posnick to combat all forms of hate. When the Hindu community suffered a hate crime in my Richmond Hill district, Avi stood with the community, adding diversity and strength to our coalition. Our coalition was so strong that even the White House took notice, and Mr. Posnick's unwavering, full-hearted support helped make this happen. Mr. Posnick has dedicated his career to building bridges with all communities. He courageously immerses himself in other cultures, building bridges of peace and understanding in Queens, New York, and across the Northeast. His organization, StandWithUs, engages hundreds of thousands of students and over a billion people online. His efforts to bring people together and foster inclusion are needed in the world now more than ever to end hate of all forms, including anti-Semitism, Islamaphobia, and anti-Asian hate crimes. His work to educate and bring people together is an inspiration. He is a proud graduate of Yeshiva University and Rambam High School.

So let us all wish him well in his tireless efforts to end hate and bring peace to this world. Mr. Speaker, please extend to him all the courtesies and privileges of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf

of Ms. Rajkumar, 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. Our congratulations on the marvelous work that you're doing, and particularly for being here in this difficult day, difficult weather, but also because we celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday today here in the New York Assembly and, clearly, you are contributing to what he called the beloved community. Thank you so very much for being here, continue the great work that you're doing. Thank you.

(Applause)

For the purposes of a introduction, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: In recognition of Korean-American Day, I -- it is my honor to introduce two Korean-Americans, current leading organizations that do critical work to support the Korean-American community in New York. Please welcome Kwang S. Kim, the original founder and head of Korean Community Services, and now the President of the Korean-American Association of Greater New York. Under President Kim's leadership, KAAGNY is currently the largest Korean-American organization in New York, providing services, resources, and representation to over 500,000 Korean-Americans across the New York area. Please also welcome Yunsuk Jung, President of the Korean Association of Albany, or KAA, an organization that represents Koreans living in Albany and ensures the unique needs of this community are being met.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Lee, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome both of these distinguished gentlemen here to the New York State Assembly. We commend you for the work that you're doing. We hope that you will continue that work and continue to represent your communities in the way that you have. We understand how difficult sometimes the world can be, but we know that you're up to that task and will continue this great work. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Kim for the purposes of a introduction.

MR. KIM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honor and privilege for me to introduce the Korean Consulate General in New York, Consulate General Kim Euy Whan, who took office in December 2022. He is here with me to celebrate the 121st anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States. We will be passing a resolution to recognize this moment later today, which we celebrate on January 13th every single year. The previous guest had a tremendous event to celebrate Korean-Americans throughout the State of New York over the weekend. And for me, it's -- it's also an -- it's also a tremendous moment for -- to celebrate Korean-Americans, as this weekend I lost a great Korean-American, my father, to me who was perhaps the greatest Korean-American that -- that I've known. And he resembles so much of what these organizations' values represent; hard-working, resilient, just never say never kind of attitude. Not -- not the K-pop, the K-drama Korean

Netflix that we see these days. But behind all that success we see among Korean-Americans there were people like my father who came from nothing, in poverty and struggled their way to this country to live a better life, and without them we wouldn't have the Korea and the Korean-Americans today.

So in recognition of people like my dad, I'd also -- I also dedicate this resolution later today to my father, who I always thought about when I pass this resolution every year. But it's a tremendous honor to be joined by very important people in our community as we celebrate Korean-Americans and the Korean-American resolution today. Thank you so much, and please welcome the guests to the Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. Consulate General, on behalf of Mr. Kim, 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. Our real thanks for you joining us on today, and we hope that this trip is beneficial and that it expands understanding of the relationship between Korea and the United States and New York specifically. Thank you so very much for being here, make sure that you travel safe today. Thank you.

(Applause)

Assembly Resolution No. 739, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 738, Mr. Kim [sic].

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor

Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 13th, 2024 as Korean-American Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I rise very honored to speak on behalf of this resolution that has been introduced by our Speaker Heastie to honor the 39th annual birthday celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. This gentleman has left so much for us in terms of history that sometimes we forget that he was actually -- was a reverend and he actually did -- he actually did preach the gospel. But we also know, Mr. Speaker, that when he was assassinated, he was on a task that many of us take every day, and that's in support of labor. He was in supporting garbage workers. And sometimes when we think about it, a lot of people don't even necessarily want to be around people who work with garbage. But Dr. King was no respecter of persons, much like our Creator was not. And so in his quest to see people get a fair and living wage, he was at a hotel where he was assassinated at. But his legacy is so strong and so bold that you may have killed the man, but you can't kill his legacy. And maybe some people think that his dream will never be realized, but I happen to not believe that. I think that his dream will one day be realized. And in spite of what we see today in American politics, I believe that we're gonna get past where we are today and we're gonna get to that time and space when we do all honor the Constitution, we do all honor the words that we say when we pledge allegiance to the flag, and we honor the Founding Fathers

of this country who, quite honestly, said that just -- justice was for everybody, not just for some. And so Dr. King spoke vividly about that, and I believe that day will come. I know it's hard to see sometimes, but it's coming and I look forward to it.

So again, I'm honored to stand in support of honoring this great man. After 39 years we've been doing this as a country, Mr. Speaker, and we cannot do it too -- too long. I have a 14-month-old great-granddaughter, and it was a pleasure the other day to read to her a children's book about the story of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. This is a legacy that can't be stopped, it has to be allowed to continue. So what a great honor to be in this great Body and honor the legacy of this great man. Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Cunningham on the resolution.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Speaker, on the resolution.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Towards the end of last year, I celebrated two major milestones in my life. One was my 39th birthday, which isn't a milestone when you think about it in the context of what we celebrate as milestones, usually 40, 50 and other numbers. But 39 years was the exact number of years that Dr. King was with us, and as the Majority Leader indicated, today is 39 years since the celebration of Dr. King's birthday.

The other milestone that I celebrated last year was the birth of my son. And I think for anyone who understood what Dr. King's dream was about, it just wasn't for the generation that was, it was about the generation that was to come. So as we celebrate today Dr. King's legacy today, as we stand in this Chamber and give honor to him, I think the work that we're doing is supposed to make sure that future generations have the same rights and values that Dr. King fought for. The same rights and values that we fight for every year in Session. So I look forward to this Session for an opportunity for us to not just honor Dr. King with our words ceremonially, but to make sure we honor Dr. King with our deeds.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Darling on the resolution.

MS. DARLING: As the first Spelman woman ever elected to the New York State Assembly, Dr. King is more than just a leader to me, he is my Morehouse brother. And the rich legacy of our institutions, Spelman and Morehouse, are centered around fighting to shift the world towards progress and equity. And I want to say that it's been a great honor for the past five years to fight along side all of you towards progress and equity, and I ask that we keep Dr. King's spirit in our heart as we engage with each other and as we push New York forward.

Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Bichotte

Hermelyn.

MS. BICHOTTE HERMELYN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for -- for allowing me to speak on this vital resolution that pays tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day. The holiday was originally established in 1963 as a Federal holiday, marking his birthday of Dr. King, which was actually yesterday, January 15th. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of our world's greatest heroes and advocates for Civil Rights and equality for all would have turned 95 yesterday had his life had not ended in assassination. We cannot forget the great bravery and leadership Dr. King exuded when confronting injustices and in fighting nonviolent protests throughout the 1950s and the 1960s as part of the Civil Rights Movement, such as the [sic] Memphis, Tennessee where he had traveled to lead a rally of sanitation workers, striking against poor working conditions; leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott which was in response to the famous of arrest of Rosa Parks; directing the Birmingham Campaign, which took place in one of the most racially-divided cities in America at the time and being instrumental in the March of Washington, one of the largest political rallies of human rights in history with over 250,000 participants. In 1963, Dr. King delivered the infamous "I Have A Dream" speech, which was responsible for fueling the Civil Rights Movement, giving hope to many in one of those darkest times in American history.

Enacted by Congress in 1994, MLK Day of Service called to individuals to strengthen communities, bridge divides, remove barriers, and bring people of all different minds together to move us closer to Dr. King's version of a beloved community. On this designated Federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King, namesake is not only encouraging people to remember Dr. King's legacy, but to use this day to -- to care for your community, especially neighbors in need.

Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. As I end this resolution with Dr. King's guiding words in the name of service, everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: Mr. Aubry on the resolution.

MR. AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this resolution. So very few of us here in this room have been in a place where you had to drink from a separate water fountain, or that you had to be seated at a separate place in a movie theater. That your rights as a citizen were abridged. That you were not considered in some parts to even be fully a citizen, you were some portion of a citizen. Some of us remember those days, some of us still have lived those days. I have lived those days as a youngster in the South. And the meaning of Dr. Martin Luther King, I -- you know, we have a lot of conversation about it, it's about his greatness,

his joys, the tactics that he used to change the course of this nation, to change the course of the world, quite frankly, so much that he obviously got the Nobel Peace Prize, and he did it in a relatively short period of time. But for me, what it meant was the reaffirmation of my humanity. Because in America in that dark days, my humanity and the humanity of those of my color was denied. And it is extraordinary, quite frankly, to have lived that life and now live this life. Last week, we stood and saw at the rostrum the leaders of this State, a good portion of them African-American and women; two realities that were denied my parents and my parents' friends and neighbors and relatives. It's an extraordinary journey that this country has gone on. Extraordinary that it has encompassed people of all races, that the freedom that Dr. King won for us has extended across the world, across this nation. But one of the things that shakes me now is the sense that it's not guaranteed. And I think Dr. King understood there was no guarantee for freedom, ever, and that the struggle to continue that and expand that is forever present.

And so I stand today to acknowledge his greatness, his importance, but also the vision that he gave us. He said we would get there. He might not get there, maybe I will not get there, but we will get there one day. And that is what the hope that our people walk with, that we hold onto, that we fight so desperately for. Because that freedom that is embodied in what our Constitution and our laws say is what drove people from all over the world to come here, and are driving people today to come here for personal freedom, for economic

freedom, for the ability to do better for their children than they lived themselves.

And so I hope that we don't just pass over and then think it's all about using a tactic, it's about the spirit of this country. It's about the spirit of this country as it is embodied in the documents that guide us. And I thank you very much, Dr. King, for making this day possible and you, my colleagues, for living that dream. Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: Ms. Chandler-Waterman.

MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, on the resolution. I'm honored to share my birthday with the Honorable Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King on what would have been his 95th birthday, he remains a beacon of hope and a tireless advocate for social justice, inspiring us to continue the pursuit of equality and compassion. I reflect on his wisdom, his unity, and love. He had paved the way for us, and we can honor his legacy by reflecting on his actions and his words.

We have a lot of issues we fight on. I want to highlight a public health crisis we are facing; gun violence. In his words, *nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence, but also internal balance of spirit. You should not only refuse to shoot a man, but refuse to hate him.*

Representing District 58 encompassing East Flatbush, parts of Canarsie, Brownsville and Crown Heights, I'm keenly aware of the pressing issue of gun violence that's taken our young people, our lives, our safety, our mental health. And within the 67th Precinct that represents my district, it has the highest gun violence rate. I pledge to my community's commitment to activate, address the challenges that we face. To honor this commitment, I established a task force to encompass the we spirit of all of us working together in unity, as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had impressed on us. Regrettably, we're still dealing with this issue. Our mothers, our fathers, our families are still crying.

In the wise words of Dr. King, love drives out hate. I urge us all to continue working together towards a future that's free of (inaudible) violence, gun violence. Remember, unity, love, humanity, compassion. It's -- we're all in this together. It's not an "I" team, it's a "We" team. Let's continue the fight. Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: On the resolution, Ms. Shrestha.

MS. SHRESTHA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As hospitals and SUNYs face threats of closure, corporate utilities increased their rates and evictions rise by record numbers, I want to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King today by reminding ourselves that we, too, are here to have a dream. That Albany must be a place where dreams come to live and not where dreams come to die.

I dream of a New York where no corner is without public transit, no hospital is without safe staffing, no person is without home and health care, no public school is in need, no worker is underpaid and overworked, and no profits are made off of essential needs. To say that you have a dream is to make a declaration of hope, as Dr. King did. A declaration that you will have something to do with the making of the future. In his honor, as we find ourselves walking through a world where fear, hatred and division reign, I invite you to take your every step from a place of hope, imagination and solidarity.

Thank you so much.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: On the resolution,
Ms. Rajkumar.

MS. RAJKUMAR: Sixty-one years ago, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech which galvanized the nation. And in it, of course, were the famous words, "I have a dream that one day the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day, my four little children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." A few years after he delivered this speech, my parents immigrated to this country from India to share in the dream, and it is true that now the Indian-American community and the African-American community, they share a fight, and they share in the struggle to realize that dream.

And, in fact, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King said that *India's Gandhi is the guiding light of my movement for nonviolent social change*, and Gandhi was actually his inspiration for the Montgomery bus boycotts.

I'm proud to stand before you as the first Indian woman elected in this State, and I'm so proud to see that the two communities are now joined together in this struggle for equality until we finally realize that dream. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walker on the resolution.

MS. WALKER: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. It brings me great pleasure, but it's also, you know, a little euphoric because yesterday being Dr. King's actual birthday, and the Federal holiday where we celebrate his legacy, it was also my mom's 79th Heavenly birthday. And so it gave me an opportunity to reflect on a number of things, including that time when I said to my mom, *Do you know that there were these freedom rides that used to pick people up in the South and take them to other places? Like, this was amazing. Mom, did you ever go on one of those?* She said, *Oh, that's what they were called, freedom rides? It was just a Greyhound bus stop that was downtown and when the bus came, we all got on.* And so who knew that, you know, my mom, being a young person at that time in the South, was just as instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement as many young people are today, and many other respective fights that

we face in our own communities. It reminds me that, you know, it may have taken over 400 years for us to get to this point, but the freedoms that we enjoy will take an eternity for us to protect.

One of the things that I want to reflect on is why freedom isn't free. Some of our greatest minds have pondered what it means to be free. More to the point, we've had courageous leaders for centuries offer their own remedies to the conditions that have plagued our people, including the barbarity of slavery, lynching, rape, forced segregation, redlining, voter suppression, police brutality, wage discrimination, mass incarceration, health care inequality, and all the insidious tentacles of this soul-draining cancer we call racial hatred that still till this days robs many of us of our freedom. You see, some of us think that slavery ended with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863. Some think it ended with the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865. Real talk, slavery was abolished except in the case of punishment for a crime, and that means that more than one million people across the country, more of them look like you and me, who are working behind bars, prison walls, and earning an average of 13 to 52 cents an hour. Some states don't pay incarcerated people at all, and guess what? That is slavery.

On that note, we have a number of bills that we support here, one which provides that no incarcerated individual in any state or local prison, penitentiary, jail or reformatory shall be compelled or induced to provide labor against his or her will. And until this legalized servitude is brought to a stop, not a single one of us

is free. Some of the greatest minds have deliberated the question, *How do we bring freedom for our people?* The common thread here is that freedom is not free of cause. Toussaint Louverture, a Haitian general and revolutionary didn't go hat in hand and ask the French for freedom, he led the Haitian Revolution, which we will soon hear, and shed the blood of the French until he was jailed in 1802. He died in 1803, a year before one of his lieutenants finished the job and declared independence for Haiti. Freedom is not free. And it is the same spirit that led an abolitionist a New Yorker named Harriet Tubman, to escape freedom and then risk her life more than a dozen missions to free other enslaved people, each time making that 116 trek along the Underground Railroad. If anyone along this route wanted to turn back or demonstrated fear, this powerful Black woman who survived beatings and whippings and attempts to starve her from the time she was a child, gave them a choice: Freedom or death. Freedom, also known as liberation, independence or the ability to live without constraints is not free. It costs courage, sacrifice, and sometimes it may have costed [sic] our very own lives.

Some march in pursuit of freedom like the late Fannie Lou Hamer, who was beaten and arrested so that you and I could vote and sit right here in these very Chambers. Others like the late Shirley Chisholm, who would legislate on behalf of the pursuit for freedom. Some of us queue up the old Negro spirituals and try to carry a tune for freedom. While this is not a call to arms as somebody said, you can't sing up on freedom, but you can swing up on some

freedom, and that was the Honorable minister, Malcolm X.

And so thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to speak on the freedoms that we may have encountered, but recognizing each and every day that freedom isn't free and we have to spend the rest of our lives ensuring that freedom, one day, we will all see, even though we didn't get there with Dr. King. God bless.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Lavine.

MR. LAVINE: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. So, I am one of the few here who is old enough to have some memories of what the world was like before 1954, the year in which our Supreme Court finally did away with the legally-sanctioned scourge of segregation in our schools and segregation in our nation. That, my friends, was a vestige of the failures of Reconstruction in the years following the Civil War. And I have a -- I remember being in a department store before 1954 with my mom and my grandma in Chicago, and I didn't understand why there are bathrooms and water fountains that said Black and others that said White. And odd how it happens, but through the eyes of a little kid, what fascinated me the most was the prospect of being able to get colored water, which I thought was going to be much more interesting than regular water, but I guess even then I must have been a liberal.

So at any rate, that was the year 1954, that the Reverend Dr. Luther King, Jr. accepted the pastorship of the Dexter

Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. His predecessor in that pulpit was the Reverend Vernon Johns. Like so many other real American heroes, Johns is largely unremembered today. Critical of the entire community, Johns agitated for the fairness that flows from a respect for human dignity and human rights. He continually put his own life in danger. His courage and dedication paved the way for a young Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But even Johns stood not on his own, he stood on the shoulders and balanced himself on the shoulders of the giants who had preceded him, including, but in no way limited to, people such as Richard Allen and Absalom Jones, the founders of the Free African Society that would later grow into the early African Methodist Episcopal Church. Medgar Evers, Viola Liuzzo, Mickey Schwerner, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Herbert Lee, the Rev -- the Corporal Roman Ducksworth, Jr., Louis Allen, the Reverend Bruce Klunder, Lieutenant Colonel Lemuel Penn, Jimmy Lee Jackson, and the Reverend James Reeb are just a few of the hundreds of names of noble Americans who gave their lives in the pursuit of justice. And their memories must be remembered today as well. They must be kept in our thoughts. Should we fail to recognize and honor everyone who contributed to this historic and uniquely American movement for human rights, we will likely miss, we may very well miss the true significance of this hallowed day. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would not have wanted it any other way.

On a personal note, I was privileged to hear Dr. King speak at the University of Wisconsin when I was there in the mid-'60s.

His remarks were brilliant and inspiring. And I have to wonder, were he with us today, what would he do? He would be challenging us as Americans to do better.

So, as we gather today to honor Dr. King, we recognize that his legacy demands that each and every one of us dedicate ourselves to the continuation of the struggle for human rights and civil rights and women's rights and immigrant rights here in the United States and throughout the world, and let us each resolve deep in our hearts to do our very best to help bend the long arc of human developments towards justice and fairness. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Otis on the resolution.

MR. OTIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Embedded in many of the remarks that we've heard today is an acknowledgement that we're not just here to observe Dr. King's life and his birthday, but we are to take his lessons for what they need to be delivering for us today. We have to ask the question, what would Dr. King think of 2024 where we have lost ground in many areas, where hate crimes are up, where we have in the national stage people thinking that the Civil War was not about slavery or that the Civil War should have been compromised and ended. More importantly, license is given in this society today to hate in a way that is very damaging for which there are victims.

At the same time, we should remember that Dr. King

changed the world through moral leadership. He held a mirror up to this country and said, *You are not living up to the promises of the Founding Fathers*. Dr. King sits in our history with any of the people that had our founding revolution, because he demanded that this country live up to those promises and we're still trying to live up to those promises today. So the challenge for us in all that we do is to say no to hate that is rampant in parts of our country and parts of our dialogue today, to not think this is all about history in the past, this is about today and we have to do what Dr. King would expect us to do; to fight, love and try and change the hearts of people and so that we all can live a better life in this country and around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

Ms. Forrest on the resolution.

MS. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on the 91st -- 95th birthday of my fellow Democratic Socialist Dr. Reverend Luther -- Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King. We gather to speak and to celebrate Dr. King and his legacy of nonviolence, resistance, economic justice and Democratic Socialism. This year, we will have local and national elections that will determine the fate of our futures. Our Democracy today faces threats that are not only political in nature, but also come from the autatamization [sic] and fracturing of our society. We walk down the streets past each other, we ride the subways together, but we don't

always recognize or even see each other's humanity. And so many of our social problems come from -- from crime to disparities in health care, to homelessness, stem from that denial of humanity. Our project must be to create a space for us to celebrate and nourish that very humanity.

This year and this weekend, I was inspired by a quote from one of Dr. King's comrades in the Civil Rights Movement, Bayard Rustin. Rustin knew that celebrating our humanity meant more than just words, it meant working to address the inequalities in our society. He said, *We are indeed a house divided, but the division between race and race, class and class, will not be dissolved by massive infusions of brotherly sentiment; rather, the division and the bad sentiments are both reflection of vast and growing inequalities of our society -- in our society and our socioeconomic system. Inequalities of wealth, of status, of education, of access to political power. Talk of brotherhood and tolerance evokes contempt not because of the values of brotherhood are wrong, but because it does not correspond to the reality we see around us, and such talk does nothing to eliminate the inequalities that breed resentment and keep -- and deep discontent.*

So let us commit this year to honoring Dr. King and his comrade Bayard Rustin by addressing those inequalities in our -- in our community. Whether it's by welcoming migrants fleeing from -- from violence and poverty, by eliminating unnecessary costs in basic health care, by giving everyone a safe and stable home, let us

continue to ask ourselves the difficult questions about why our society is so divided, and let's continue to recognize and celebrate each other's humanity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Fahy on the resolution.

MS. FAHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I normally don't rise today, but I think in light of some current events, in light of what we are seeing, and in light of a number of beautiful events that I attended yesterday, it always -- this is a time for us to reflect and -- and honor many, many of the words. So today, I'm just speaking really as the Higher Education Chair, given some of the challenges that our higher education campuses have -- have grappled with over the last few months as we -- as we grapple with free speech and grapple with trying to have voices heard, at the same time trying to have safe campuses.

So I -- I think the words -- a couple of quotes -- every year I read new quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, and this year different ones resonated with me, and I'm gonna read two very brief quotes. One, again, from Dr. Martin Luther King said, *Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.* Again, his words I think are particularly poignant these days. One last quote along that same vein that I think is an important reminder, and that is,

Hatred paralyzes life, love releases it. Hatred confuses life, love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life, love illuminates it. So many of Dr. Martin Luther King's words were extraordinarily profound, I just wanted to share that as our students are returning to campus across this nation. As we continue to face challenges across this country, let alone the world, I think these words are more powerful than ever, and thank you for this opportunity to share them. And with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms.

Fahy.

(Applause)

Mr. Ramos on the resolution.

MR. RAMOS: Mr. Speaker, just like my colleague Mr. Lavine, I, too, am an old guy and I remember that time of the segregated schools and I remember -- I remember when I was a kid, my family, we went to Florida driving in a station wagon that my father had, and I remember seeing just what many of my colleagues saw, Black bathrooms, Black -- Black water fountains. We were confused about this. We didn't even know that this existed and, actually, we had to spend one night sleeping in the car as a kid because we couldn't get -- we couldn't get a hotel to give us a room.

I think, you know, every year we -- on Martin Luther King Day, we stand here and we speak and we speak about his dream, we speak about his words, but I think it's a -- it's a good opportunity for us to measure the progress of that dream, and have we actually

reached that dream or anywhere near it. And I get the feeling that we have been losing ground, that that -- the goalpost for that dream has been extended over the years, especially in recent years. And we've gotten to a point where -- where the racism in this country has become -- it's -- it's become psychotic levels, actually. When somebody can see a video of a Black man being choked by police officers and he says, *I can't breathe*, and he eventually dies of asphyxiation, when somebody could look at that and say, *No, that wasn't murder*, it's -- it's at psychotic levels. And not only that, racism has morphed. When I was a kid, they would burn a cross on people's lawn. Racism was in your face. The -- the -- the law actually said that Black people could only go to certain schools. That was written into law. And since the Civil Rights Movement of Martin Luther King, racism has in some instances gone underground. Recently, it's come out and reared its head again to be more in -- in our face. But the modern day racism, cross burning is no longer a cross burned on somebody's lawn, the modern day cross burning is someone with calculator; a calculator that says that the funds that your school gets are based on the values of your home, which logic would tell you that if you have a community where there is low wealth, the homes are worth less and, as a result, people of color and children of color get less resources for their schools. But in the Hamptons or somewhere, some -- some wealthy area, those rich kids get a windfall of money from those millionaire mansions and those taxes and we have a two-tier system educational system. That is a modern day cross burning. These formulas that

always have the same result, and that result is a disparity. And it's that reason that education is so important to people of color, that's one thing that Martin Luther King believed in was education and he identified the obstacles. Because you realize that education is what gets people of color, children of color at the table to change that calculator, to change that formula. And education has always been used to marginalize people. And it's sad when across the board people will say great things about Martin Luther King, regardless of one's political persuasion. But yet, Martin Luther King wrote five books, and those same people who praise, in many instances, praise Martin Luther King, want to ban those books from our schools. They want to erase that history that we stand here and praise. They don't want other people to hear about that. Those same people can see the Proud Boys marching down the street and saying, *Jews will not replace us*, and accept -- as elected officials accept support from groups like that. That's what's happening in this country and that is why I say that the goalposts to that dream keeps moving. But it's education, the modern day Civil Rights fight is in the area of education, because education will put people of color at the table, as elected officials, in the boardrooms, changing those policies and the intrinsic problems that we find in our system that have that disparate effect.

So I -- I call on my colleagues to reflect. We celebrate this day, we celebrate Martin Luther King's life, and I think the biggest way that -- the best way that we can commemorate his life is to create the changes and not allow that dream to slip away any

further.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The resolution is adopted.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

I'm sorry. Second resolution. Assembly print 738, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 738, Mr. Kim.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 13, 2024 as Korean American Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The resolution is adopted.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Peoples -- Mr. Speaker, would you please call the Banking Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Absolutely.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Banking Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room, please, immediately. Thank you.

On consent, page 4, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08480, Calendar No. 211, Bronson. An act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to permitting the sale or promotional gifting of certain complementary products for wine and liquor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08493, Calendar No. 212, Bronson, Lupardo, Kelles. An act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to authorizing the manufacture of beer, spirits, cider, wine and mead at the community college in Broome County and Cornell University, acting on behalf of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08500, Calendar No. 213, Weprin. An act to amend the Insurance Law and a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Insurance Law relating to using driving history as a rating or underwriting factor for private passenger motor vehicle insurance, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.5764-B and A.4668-B, in relation to using driving history as a rating or underwriting factor for private passenger motor vehicle insurance.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08501, Calendar No. 214, McDonald. An act to amend the Insurance Law and the Public Health Law, in relation to adverse determinations related to a step therapy protocol override determination; and to repeal certain provisions of the Insurance Law and the Public Health Law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08503, Calendar No. 215, Jacobson. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to supplementary uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage for police agencies; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Insurance Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law relating to supplementary uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage for police agencies, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.439 and A.1178, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08504, Calendar No. 216, Meeks. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to wellness programs; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Insurance Law relating to authorizing life insurers to establish wellness programs, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.5890-A and A.2853-B, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Kelles, the Senate bill is before the House -- oh, I'm sorry, we're on Meeks.

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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08505, Calendar No. 217, Kelles. An act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in relation to owner's policies of liability insurance issued by a risk retention group not chartered within this State; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Insurance Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law relating to owner's policies of liability insurance issued by a risk retention group not chartered within this State, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.5959-B and A.5718-B, in relation to a

study and reporting on the impact of such bill, required reporting by certain risk retention groups of examinations, audits or other investigations performed by another state's insurance commissioner and the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Kelles, 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08507, Calendar No. 218, Solages. An act to amend the Civil Service Law, in relation to health care claims data from the Empire Plan; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023, amending the Civil Service Law relating to certain reports relating to health benefits for State and retired State employees, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.4097-B and A.5817-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08508, Calendar No. 219, Stirpe. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to enrollees in the New York State Secure Choice Savings Program; and to repeal Section 1310-a of such law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Stirpe, 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08513, Calendar No. 220, Pheffer Amato. An act to amend the Civil Service Law, in relation to requirements for issuing Civil Service examination and announcements.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08514, Calendar No. 221, Pheffer Amato. An act to amend the Civil Service Law, in

relation to crediting of probationary service upon permanent appointment.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08518, Calendar No. 222, Stern. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to standards for prompt investigation and settlement of claims; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Insurance Law relating to standards for prompt investigation and settlement of claims arising from states of emergency, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.5201 and A.2078, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Stern, 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.)

Mr. Goodell to explain his vote.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. Last year, we passed legislation that would require insurance companies to respond to an insurance claim within 15 days in the event of a natural disaster; 15 days after the claim was completed. And the insurance company had one 15-day extension. We all recognize the challenge when there's a huge natural disaster, both on the part of the insureds filing a claim, because insureds have a horrific time getting a contractor to come out and give them a quote when the contractors are busy just trying to keep up with the most serious repairs. And, at the same time, the insurance companies have a horrific time even though they may bring in thousands of agents from around the country, often they can't even access the property. This is a chapter amendment that provides that if the insurance company cannot access the property because the roads are not clear or the property is under water or for whatever reason, they can get more than one 15-day extension. And each time they do so, they must notify the property owner in writing why they're asking for an additional 15-day extension. So this chapter amendment provides a little bit more flexibility in those cases where the insurance company is physically unable to access the property in order to make an assessment.

There were a number of my colleagues that voted in favor of the original bill and might prefer the tighter -- tighter time frames, in which case they should vote against this, perhaps. I voted against the original because I thought it was too inflexible, and I support this amendment, so I will be supporting it.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 4 -- page 12, Calendar No. 33, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01057-C, Calendar No. 33, Vanel. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to online dating services.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 60th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01080-A, Calendar No. 34, Woerner, Stirpe, Lupardo, Cruz, Zinerman, Jones, Brabenec, Angelino, Byrnes, Miller, Sayegh, Tague, Manktelow, J.M. Giglio, Lemondes, Cook, Goodell, Raga, Buttenschon, Santabarbara. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to the appointment for

agricultural representation on the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01118, Calendar No. 35, Vanel, Santabarbara. An act to amend the Racing, Pari-mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law, in relation to requiring all advertisements for gambling and sports betting to include warnings about potential harmful and addictive effects of gambling and to requiring the State Gaming Commission to cooperate with the Commissioner of Addiction Services and Supports to ensure that all advertisements for gaming activity state a problem gambling hotline number.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 60th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01148-A, Calendar No. 36, Zebrowski, Buttenschon, Zinerman, Colton, Eachus. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law and the Penal Law, in relation to detecting, disrupting and dismantling violent enterprise animal cruelty and appropriately punishing individuals associated with such enterprise cruelty; and to repeal certain provisions of the Agriculture and Markets Law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01200, Calendar No. 37, Epstein, Burdick, Gallagher, Seawright, Cruz, Hevesi, Gibbs, Cook, Otis, Santabarbara DeStefano, Colton, McMahon, Reyes, Taylor, Shimsky, Simon, Raga, Kelles, Weprin, Buttenschon. An act to establish the People With Disabilities Access to Programs Commission.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01202-B, Calendar No. 38 was recommitted to Committee.

Assembly No. A01234, Calendar No. 39, Lupardo, Stripe, Dickens, Simon, Woerner, Fahy, Gibbs, Jacobson, Buttenschon, Jean-Pierre, Jackson, McDonald, González-Rojas, Hyndman, Hunter, Glick, Tague, Kelles, Novakhov, Maher. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to expanding the

definition of crops, livestock and livestock products to include cannabis.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01273, Calendar No. 40, Kelles, González-Rojas, Seawright, Davila, Thiele, Simon, Dinowitz, Epstein, Raga. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to the establishing the LGBTQ Advisory Board.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

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: We have both, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

On a motion by Ms. Wallace, page 33, Calendar No. 143, Bill No. A.5212, amendments are received and adopted.

Pursuant to Rule III, Section 2, the following bill is committed back to the Committee on Environmental Conservation at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 88, Bill A.3226.

Pursuant to Rule II, Section -- Rule III, Section 2, the following bill is committed back to the Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Chair: Calendar No. 164, Bill No. A.5841.

Resolutions.

Number 741, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 741, Mr. Beephan.

Legislative Resolution mourning the death of Sergeant Daniel Paul DiDato of the East Fish -- Fishkill Police Department.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Beephan on the resolution.

MR. BEEPHAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues for allowing me to speak on this resolution. Just a mere week before Christmas this past year, we lost officer Dan DiDato, someone that we got to know very deeply through his 19 years of service to the Town of East Fishkill. Dan was involved in a

tragic car accident right after a torrential downpour on the Taconic State Parkway. Prior to his service with East Fishkill, he was actually an officer for State of New York with the DEP. You know, he was just shy of six months away from retiring, spend more time with his family. Dan is survived by both his mother, his father and his brother, who's also a retired law enforcement officer with our town. You know, this unfortunately marks the first, and I hope to be last, line of duty death of a law enforcement officer in our community.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise and support Dan, Officer Dan DiDato who was promoted to sergeant posthumously by our town. And with that, I thank you for the time and allowing me to speak on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

On the resolution, all those who signify -- all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

Resolution No. 744, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 744, Ms. Solages.

Legislative Resolution commemorating the 220th anniversary of the Independence of Haiti from France.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Bichotte Hermelyn on the resolution.

MS. BICHOTTE HERMELYN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this very important resolution that recognizes Haitian Independence Day. Haiti declared

independence on January 1st, 1804, and this year we are commemorating the momentous milestone of the nation gaining independence 220 years.

(Applause)

New York is a symbol of freedom to people worldwide, and Haiti was the first free Black nation in the Western Hemisphere. Today, we pay homage to the many Black revolutionaries that led Haiti to its independence, such as Toussaint Louverture; Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who is my great-grandfather of whom my son is named after; Dutty Boukman, Jamaican born; Henry Henri Christophe, Grenadian born; and many, many others who led the abolish -- Abolitionist Movement. Also echoing the importance of women of color in nation-building through revolutionaries like Marie-Jeanne Lamartinière, who fought as a soldier in the Indigenous Army, and Catherine Flon, who like Betsy Ross, is credited with crafting the Independent Black Republic of Haiti flag in 1803 and served as a nurse, as well.

Further, as we celebrate Haiti -- Haiti independence, we reflect on the continuous contributions of our people immigrating to New York, shaping the fabric of our City and State, and in the nation like the 750 Haitian soldiers for America when we fought alongside the Union in the Battle of Savannah in the American Revolution in 1779. We seized the beacon of liberty that America promised, and we helped create it. Without the revolt in Haiti, President Jefferson and Monroe wouldn't have been able to get the

bargain that they did in purchasing the Louisiana territory. Not to mention the first settler of Chicago, Jean Baptiste du Sable [sic] is Haitian. Haiti had also influenced many other nations in the Caribbean and South America to -- leading into their independence. We continue to celebrate Haiti as we mourn the 14th year of the devastating earthquake that injured and had many people die, over 300,000 people, leaving 1.5 million people homeless in Haiti. By recognizing Haitian Independence Day in New York State, we celebrate Haitian history through projects and initiatives like Little Haiti Brooklyn and the Haitian Studies Institute, Haitian Day Parade in New York City and so many of our -- and so many other aspects of our culture.

Twenty -- 220 years, a beacon of a historical freedom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Forrest on the resolution.

MS. FORREST: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In recognition -- recognition of Haiti's 220th day of independence, I stand proud to be the daughter of the proud and powerful Republic. Haiti is the first Black republic, the first in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery. It is also the pearl of the Antilles, the premier destination in the Carib, land of beauty and prestige. I say all of this is Haiti. The other side of what is Haiti is a reality to be reckoned with, as well. The looting, the poverty, the shutdown of a capital, the City of Port-au-Prince, our Bastian of democracy. This is also reality of

Imperialism and the continued exploitation at the hand of Capitalist forces.

But do not pity Haiti. Please see this small speech as a call to action. We need international partnership, the partnership of a united diaspora so Haiti can be the beautiful island filled with people democratically (inaudible). So don't ask me when, don't ask me how, please tell me instead what will you to to help, because (speaking foreign language). I await your response to this call to action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, ma'am.

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

Resolution No. 749, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 749, Mr. Reilly.

Legislative Resolution mourning the death of David LaMorte, dedicated educator and pillar of his community.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Reilly on the resolution.

MR. REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to recognize David LaMorte. He was an Assistant Principal at Tottenville High School. He served for more than three decades. He was a pillar in the community. He was the director of the Tottenville Marching Band, which was an award-winning band. He was the director of the symphonic band for all of Staten Island.

So on behalf of myself, my colleagues Assemblymember Tannousis, Pirozzolo and Fall, we want you to know that Staten Island will forever remember the impact that Mr. David LaMorte had on the thousands of students and members of the community he touched. His legacy will live on forever. Thank you for taking the opportunity to remember him.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

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

We have numerous other fine resolutions which we will take up with one vote.

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 740, 742-748 and 750 were unanimously adopted.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned and that we reconvene at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January the 17th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On Mrs. Peoples-Stokes' motion, the Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 5:06 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Wednesday, January 17th at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday

being a Session day.)