

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

10:32 A.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

Captain Akeriwe, Chaplain, will offer a prayer.

CHAPLAIN CAPTAIN RAYMOND AKERIWE:

Almighty God, here we stand before You in this august Assembly. We ask Your blessing on our nation, on our leaders, and especially those guarded here today. Bless this Chamber and all who work here. Endue in them Your spirit's presence. Enlighten the hearts of our legislators, and grant them wisdom, discernment, your Holy Spirit's discernment that they may have the hearts of a good shepherd to be good stewards of this mission to which You have called and conferred on each of them. May they never forget the dignity and all with which You created man. May the laws they consider be just, fair and

productive. May they respect human dignity, and may they have the call of the common good of the citizens of this State. May they continue to be selfless in their giving of self, but most especially, may integrity be their creed. And we ask all these things in Your name. Amen.

MEMBERS: Amen.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: 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 Wednesday, March 23rd.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Yes?

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Wednesday, March 23rd and ask that the same stands approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, may I have the members' attention so that I can announce the schedule for the day? But before I proceed I want to read a quote by Mary McLeod Bethune, a great American educator. And she says, *Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is -- is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.*

So with that beautiful quote we're going to move on. So, members have on their desks a main Calendar, and we also have a debate list. Any -- after any housekeeping we will take up the resolution on page 3. We will then work off the debate list starting with the following bills: Calendar No. 246 by Mr. Rivera, Calendar No. 49 by Mrs. [sic] Rosenthal, Calendar No. 55 by Mr. Gottfried and Calendar No. 77 by Mr. Dinowitz. I will announce any further floor activity as the day proceeds, but members should be aware that we will be conducting our traditional West Point celebration today at noon. After that there will be a need for a Majority conference in Hearing Room B at 3:00 p.m. today. As always, I will consult with the Minority regarding their conferences.

With that as a general rule, if there is any housekeeping now would be the appropriate time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Solve. No housekeeping. We will go to resolutions on page 3, Assembly No. 690. The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 690, Ms. Rosenthal.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim 8:30 p.m. through 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2022 as Earth Hour in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 691, Ms. Hunter.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 25, 2022 as Medal of Honor Day in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 692, Ms. Rajkumar.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 26, 2022 as Bangladesh Independence Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rajkumar on the resolution.

MS. RAJKUMAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the State Assembly pauses in its deliberations to recognize March 26, 2022 as Bangladesh Independence Day in the State of New York. This resolution is cosponsored by my colleagues Downstate and Upstate as we all join together in this Chamber to collectively recognize the powerful and emerging Bangladeshi-American community. As the first South Asian-American woman ever elected to the Legislature in our great State, I introduce this resolution with enormous pride. The South Asian community is finally here. We have arrived at the table of government in New York State. When our

Founding Fathers fought for American independence, Patrick Henry famously said, *Give me liberty or give me death*. Two centuries later, Bangladesh fought its own war for independence. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the founder of the nation. He was imprisoned and placed in solitary confinement. He emerged victorious and became the first Prime Minister of the new Bangladesh. He gave his life for the nation, and he and his family were tragically assassinated. But his daughter survived, Sheikh Hasina. Today, she is the Prime Minister and the longest-serving female head of government in the entire world. Under her leadership, the U.S. Department of State cites Bangladesh as a global example of a democratic, tolerant, pluralistic and modern nation. Today's resolution honors Bangladesh's Freedom Fighters who bravely put their lives on the line for independence. When the Freedom Fighters fought, the entire world supported their cause. And I am proud to say that some of those Freedom Fighters and their children now live in New York State. Today is their day. Today, New York State honors their courage. During the Bangladeshi Liberation War, many Bangladeshi people were the victims of genocide. Fifty-one years later, their memory still inspires the people of Bangladesh to build a peaceful nation, and Bangladeshi-Americans to advocate for global peace. Like my own parents when they immigrated from South Asia, Bangladeshi-Americans are hard-working, working 25 [sic] hours a day to achieve the American Dream for themselves and their children. And Bangladeshi-Americans today are thriving in all fields. And most of

all they are proud Americans with high aspirations.

Bangladeshi-Americans in my district in South Queens move me every day with their sincerity. In these past two years, Bangladeshi leaders were notable for stepping up during the COVID-19 crisis, often at great risk to themselves to help their neighbors of all backgrounds.

As the first South Asian-American woman elected to State office, but certainly not the last one, I am so proud to sponsor this resolution commemorating Bangladesh Independence Day. Today the State Assembly will join more than 200,000 Bangladeshi-Americans across our country to recognize March 26, 2022 as Bangladesh Independence Day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Weprin on the resolution.

MR. WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to join my colleague and this entire Body in commemorating Bangladeshi Independence Day. I am so proud to represent one of the largest Bangladeshi-American populations in the State of New York. I represent Jamaica Hill. And the Jamaica Muslim Center, which I represent, is the largest mosque by population in the City of New York. We have 9,000 members, and most of them are Bangladeshi. So the Bangladeshi-American population in Queens is growing by leaps and bounds -- bounds. Just a couple of months ago we named a major thoroughfare in my district -- co-named a major

thoroughfare in my district, Home Lawn Street, Bang -- Little Bangladesh. And I'm just so proud to join my colleague Assemblymember Rajkumar in sponsoring this resolution to celebrate Bangladeshi Independence Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. -- Ms. Reyes.

MS. REYES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honored to also join my colleagues in commemorating the 51st anniversary of Bangladeshi Independence. I am proud to represent the largest Bangladeshi community in the Bronx, and in Parkchester the Bangladeshi-American community has many businesses that line Starling Avenue. It is aptly named Bangla Bazaar, and we have clothing stores and food markets and restaurants. The Bangladeshi people are some of the most civically-engaged restaurant -- residents who are actively looking for ways to improve their community, whether we were doing census outreach or distributing PPE during the pandemic or doing food distribution, and that was particularly halal-specific for that community. I can always feel their passion and count on their commitment to serve our community. I am -- I am known in my community by the Bangladeshi-American -- my neighbors as Karines Appa, and it's a badge of honor that I wear. Countless partnerships have been formed thanks to the generosity of many members of the Bangladeshi community that have been able to benefit my constituents district-wide. Those partnerships are what I value the most because of the spirit of a greater community that

reaches beyond someone's block or neighborhood. We are what -- we are what will continue to bring the Bronx back as we recover from this pandemic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Sayegh.

MR. SAYEGH: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I also rise to commend my colleague for this resolution and share in celebrating the Bangladeshi and American community in our -- in our State, in our City. The community comprises nearly two-thirds of Bangladeshians out of their country right here in the New York metro area. And just to give a historical perspective, the importance of American-Bangladesh collaboration and cooperation, the U.S. recognized Bangladesh in 1972. And the close economic ties is such because when I looked at the -- the collaboration that takes place, very important global security. The U.S.A. and Bangladesh have an extensive global security arrangement that now more than ever is so important. The focus Bangladesh collaborates and cooperates on issues of counter-terrorism and also climate change. These are very important concepts and issues that confront us here in the U.S.A. and on the global community. And of course the contributions of the Bangladeshi community here in the New York metro area really assists us tremendously with business development and other professional fields.

So I join my colleague Rajkumar in commemorating

Bangladeshi independence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Carroll on the resolution.

MR. CARROLL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of this resolution to honor Bangladeshi Independence Day. I am proud to be able to represent the Kensington section of Brooklyn where there's a large and vibrant Bangladeshi population. And just last year we elected to the New York City Council from Kensington, Shahana Hanif, the first Bangladeshi and first Muslim woman to serve in the New York City Council who has made the Kensington and -- community proud as well as all Bangladeshi-Americans. And so it's wonderful here to remember Bangladeshi Independence Day in the State Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Jose Rivera.

MR. J. RIVERA: Unfortunately, I will not be able to videotape myself. I already did tick everybody else off. Unless -- unless my Assemblyman (inaudible) he's only going to give me two minutes. Just aim it at me. Mr. Speaker, you probably will recall it was perhaps some ten years ago when I came up to the Chambers on a very important month when we were celebrating African-American History Month, Martin Luther King Day. And as I brought my guests through that door, my friend, my leader, my protector Wayne Jackson said, *There is no room for people to sit here. You can sit up there.*

And I reminded Wayne, Wayne was celebrating the month of Rosa Parks. She refused to sit anywhere but in the front of the bus. He said, *They can sit wherever they want*. I have it on video. They took over that area, and we began to introduce them. And today I'm going to invite Weprin to my district. I'm going to invite my friend Weprin to the Bronx because today it's debated whether Queens really has the largest Bangladeshi population or not. The Bangladeshi community has taken over the Bronx from 204th Street, part of my district, to Parkchester. Parkchester used to be predominantly Irish-American, African-American. Now it's controlled by Bangladeshi. And one of its top leader, Mohammed Mujumder, became a lawyer and he -- and he's an immigration lawyer. He's one of the top leaders. So what I'm saying is I am thankful to be here today. I am thankful every day that I see the sponsor of this bill with that beautiful smile and -- and I say thank you. Thank you for introducing this resolution. I'm on board. And I'm inviting you and others to come visit the Bronx, come visit the district I represent. We will have some coffee, Bangladeshi, Italian or Dominican. I have everything in the 78th Assembly District. It's very diverse.

So thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually -- you usually turn me off one second I start talking. It must be the pandemic or a new way of doing things around here. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Rivera, you are quite welcome. Don't worry about a thing.

Ms. Solages on the resolution.

MS. SOLAGES: I just want to thank my colleague for introducing this wonderful resolution. It -- it makes my heart beat with pride to join the Bangladeshi community in their independence because New York is a melting -- a melting pot. And it's a place where we all come together. And beside our differences we come and we join and we move forward together, united ever upwards.

So I want to wish them well, and with full understanding that we are here to celebrate. Happy Independence Day, Bangladesh.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 693, Mr. Tannousis.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2022 as Greek History Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Tannousis on the resolution.

MR. TANNOUSIS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This Friday, March 25th of 2022 will mark the 201st anniversary of Greek independence. The Greek people proudly trace their heritage back thousands of years in Europe, where they developed an advanced civilization unlike any of the world had seen up to that point. Upon the fall of the City of Constantinople in 1453,

the Greek people began almost four centuries under the foreign rule of the Ottoman Empire. In March, 1821 the yearning for Greek independence inspired multiple militias to engage in battles against the Ottoman Empire, including an incursion into Moldavia led by Alexandros Ypsilantis, and various skirmishes in the Peloponnese and on several islands. On March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese, marking the beginning of the War of Independence. In January, 1822 the Greeks officially declared independence from the Ottoman Empire. The Greeks valiantly waged war against their Ottoman rulers under the brave leadership of Theodoris Kolokotronis for almost nine years until a part of modern Greece was declared independent. The War of Independence was formally concluded in 1832 with the signing of the Treaty of Constantinople, further expanding the borders of a modern independent Greek state. March 25th is celebrated as Independence Day in Greece and in Greek communities around the world including here in the State of New York and New York City, commemorating the beginning of the War of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, ancient Greece has shaped modern society by originating the concepts of logic, science, lyrics, philosophy and history as well as being the birthplace of democratic ideals, inspiring the notion of participation in government which influenced the framing of the United States Constitution. The great State of New York has been blessed in many ways, including through the presence

of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, which serves as a beacon of moral and ethical guidance throughout the hemisphere from its Manhattan headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, the State of New York is further enhanced by a longstanding partnership with the Federation of Hellenic-American societies which continues its tradition of strong leadership within the Greek-American community. The Greek community in New York has joined the fabric of what it means to be a melting pot in the United States and what contributes so much in making the United States the greatest nation in the world. It is only fitting that in the State of New York we celebrate on Friday the 201st anniversary of Greek independence and I ask my colleagues to join me as well.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Lemondes on the resolution.

MR. LEMONDES: Mr. Speaker, on the resolution. I would like to thank the sponsor for putting this forward on behalf of all Greek people worldwide. Thank you. Greek Independence Day established on March 15, 1838 designating March 25th as an eternal in perpetuity national holiday celebrated in Greece, Cyprus and the Greek diaspora worldwide. It traditionally commemorates the start of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. Additionally, there are more than five million people of Greek origin living outside of Greece, scattered in 140 countries across the globe

celebrating this great event and historical commemoration. However, New York has the largest Greek-American population, totaling around 300,000 with the majority located in the metropolitan area, and specifically in the Town of Astoria. The rest of us are scattered around the State and nation in smaller communities which we all proudly represent. It is traditionally held that the war of Greek independence started at the Saint Lavra Monastery with the swearing in of the military leadership by Bishop Germanos in 1821. The fighting would last approximately eight years until an armistice was agreed upon in 1832. Greece was reestablished as an independent kingdom from the Ottoman Empire with the Treaty of Constantinople. Assisting the Greeks with their War for Independence were Britain, France and Russia. American support of the war of Greek independence helped fuel important social causes in the United States, including the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements. Additionally, the history of Greeks in North America is as old as the United States itself. With the establishment of a Greek colony in Spanish-held Florida in 1776 at St. Augustine.

Ladies and gentlemen, in recognition of Greek independence, Greek contributions to humanity, the United States and democratic governments throughout the world, please join me in honoring and acknowledging the importance of this day. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Sayegh.

MR. SAYEGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to

speaking on the resolution and commend our colleague who -- who himself is a proud Greek-American in commemorating Greek independence. And U.S.-Greek relationships have been going on for decades, and the Greek is a valuable member of NATO and a key ally when it comes to international affairs. And Greek independence from the Ottomans in 1821 was 201 years ago. And when we look at Greek history, we look at ancient history, we recognize that many items, many things that impact us here in the U.S.A. and impact us around the world, impacts civilization evolved from ancient Greece. When we look at the very concept of democracy, democracy originated in ancient Greece. And when we look and read about Socrates and Plato and the concept of a parliament and government and ministers, it was evolved in ancient Greece. So we look at Greece as being a contributor to international world global society, and we here in the U.S.A., especially the New York metro area, are proud of the accomplishments of Greek Americans. We have thankfully, as our colleague stated, 300,000 Greek Americans in the State and nearly 170,000 live in the New York metro area.

So we'd like to commemorate this resolution and thank our colleague for recognizing an ethnic group that has really become an integral part of our society here in America. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Braunstein.

MR. BRAUNSTEIN: It is coming up?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: It's -- your -- we hear

you, sir.

MR. BRAUNSTEIN: You can hear me. That's the important thing. I just wanted to join my colleagues in thanking the sponsor of this resolution celebrating Greek independence. I represent Northeast Queens, and there's a large Greek-American population that lives there, and I witness every day the tremendous positive contributions the Greek community makes to my neighborhoods, to our City, and also to our entire country.

So I'm proud to stand here today to join in the Greek-American community in celebrating Greek independence, and once again I want to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution and I'm proud to cosponsor it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

So on the resolution, all those in favor say Opa --

(Laughter)

Those opposed say nay. The resolution is adopted.

Thank you so very much.

On to the debate, Calendar No. 246, page 29, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07488-A, Calendar No. 246, J.D. Rivera, Dinowitz, Hevesi, Meeks, Mamdani, Seawright, Jackson, Galef, Gottfried, Fahy, McMahon, Clark, Simon, Peoples-Stokes, Cruz, Sayegh, Solages. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to prohibiting the exclusion of coverage for losses or damages caused by exposure to lead-based paint.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Rivera, an explanation is requested, sir.

MR. J.D. RIVERA: Can you hear me? So, the bill before us would prohibit the practice called the lead poisoning exclusion. It is currently found in most general liability insurance policies. Currently, the Department of Financial Services allows insurance companies to write general liability policies that specifically exclude lead poisoning claims from their coverage.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. Under current law, can a landlord ask for a rider that covers lead?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: I believe in some instances, yes.

MR. GOODELL: And what is the cost of such a rider?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: That would depend on the carrier, I would imagine.

MR. GOODELL: And do you have a range?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: I don't. I do know that prior to the 1990s, this wasn't -- this exclusion didn't exist and all of our homeowner -- or I should say liability coverage policies already covered this issue.

MR. GOODELL: And of course as you know, back in 1990 there was a concerted effort to address lead, and a lot of issues were addressed at that time. Am I correct at that time the reason they allowed lead to be excluded was because they actually faced insurance

companies that were going out of business, insolvent, over these claims?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: I can't say definitively, given what had happened and my short tenure here so far.

MR. GOODELL: Well, I can -- I can appreciate that, of course. So what has been done since the 1990s to address lead?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: Well, municipalities across the State have taken it upon themselves to either initiate local laws or pursue programs that would prevent lead poisoning or, if nothing else, doing a good deal of community outreach. That being said, we still see elevated levels of lead poisoning throughout this State everywhere from Buffalo to Dunkirk to Syracuse to Binghamton to the Bronx. We're still seeing communities, and especially communities of color being affected by this disproportionately. And, you know, this is just one bill to discuss this devastating issue, and I'm sure there's going to be other bills before the Body in the near future.

MR. GOODELL: Now, am I correct that the incidence of lead poisoning had dropped dramatically since the 1990s?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: I would say that that is the case. That being said, I think it's our duty as lawmakers in this Body and just as much as any lawmaker across the country that when they something as severe as this and as damaging as this and, more importantly, as preventable as this, that -- that there's still work to be done. There's still cases in every one of our municipalities of children

still being affected by this. So more needs to be done, despite the gains that we've made.

MR. GOODELL: So it's my understanding, to be more specific, that there was an 84 percent reduction in the number of children with high lead levels from '90 -- from '88 to 2004, and more recently a -- an even further reduction, a 21 percent reduction from 2018 to 2021. Is that consistent with your understanding?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: I -- that actually -- that absolutely sounds correct, that there's been huge reductions in lead poisoning. What I would say is, where we're seeing problems is that the problems are reoccurring in the same places. So across the State we have these ongoing problems in clusters where lead poisoning is -- is still severe. So we have instances where we have homes that have been around for far too long, or for a very long time, I should say. In fact, we have the highest percentage of pre-1950 housing anywhere in the country. We have the oldest housing stock in the country, and we, not coincidentally, have the most children in the United States impacted by lead. So where we have old housing we will consistently see this problem because that housing isn't going anywhere.

MR. GOODELL: Now, of course as you know, back in the '90s we created the New York Lead Poisoning Prevention Act. We passed that. And as part of that we created the New York State Advisory Council on Lead Poisoning Prevention. Has the New York State Advisory Council on Lead Poisoning Prevention ever recommended that -- in its minutes or in its reports that the lead

exclusion should be eliminated?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: I can't say definitively. I'm not sure.

MR. GOODELL: If a landlord does not have lead coverage and a tenant or a tenant's children have a lead exposure as a result, without insurance coverage the landlord is personally responsible, correct?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: So it seems.

MR. GOODELL: And wouldn't you agree that a landlord who is personally liable for a defective condition in the apartment is much more likely to make sure that condition is addressed than a landlord who has insurance coverage and has no personal liability?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: If the assumption is that landlords would then sort of take their foot off the gas simply because insurance would then cover it, I -- I guess I wouldn't agree with the premise. I would say every landlord has an obligation to make their spaces that they allow for renting to be as safe as they can be. Would I say that every landlord operates that way? Certainly not. What I would say is that laws like this need to exist in part because it ensures that in those cases where landlords are not being cautious or not being consistent with a -- sort of a moral compass to say that these are the sort of things that should be happening already, then -- then insurance is there to do it. And truthfully, I'd imagine in many cases tenants can't pursue legal action in part because there is no insurance. That

there's not the option to -- to pursue it anyway.

MR. GOODELL: I see. And if, as the insurance industry indicates, this lead coverage is very expensive certainly for certain homes, wouldn't you expect the landlord, then, to pass that increased cost on to the tenant in the form of higher rent?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: My take on that is that, truthfully, it's a bit disingenuous for the insurance industry to make that sort of statement in part because this is a coverage that we all had prior to the mid-90s that the State, for whatever reason at the time, the Governor of the day decided to create this exclusion. And at the point of them creating this exclusion, it's not as if the insurance industry suddenly came to all homeowners and said, *Well, now that we don't have to cover lead anymore we're going to give you back money on your premiums.* So truthfully, they've been charging us the same amount since the '90s. So the idea that now suddenly they have to increase their cost and then therefore will then have to pass down that burden seems a bit, you know, short-sided to say the least in part because they've already been charging us this since then.

MR. GOODELL: Well, I'm just referring to the fact that if the landlord gets a cost increase in insurance, wouldn't we reasonably anticipate the landlord will pass that cost on in terms of higher rent?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: That's assuming that there's an increase in cost to begin with. My interactions with individuals involved in the insurance industry have not been able to give me

definitive information on what that would be like or if that would even be the case.

MR. GOODELL: I see. But are you aware of any situation where insurance companies reduced the cost of premiums at the same time we, in the Legislature, mandate increased coverage?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: None comes to mind.

MR. GOODELL: Does this bill allow insurance companies to charge a different premium based on the age or condition of the house?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: No.

MR. GOODELL: So someone who has a house that's only ten years old that they're renting would have to pay the same premium as somebody who has a house that was built in the '20s or '30s?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: Presumably, yes. But truthfully, if a house was built more recently then there would be no reason -- or there'd be no cause to -- to put a claim through anyway. So if the house doesn't have lead --

MR. GOODELL: That's why, by the way -- of course. I absolutely agree. Which is why normally if we allow insurance companies to charge a differential premium based on risk, the premium charged for that coverage on a new house would be near zero because there is no lead in the paint, and the premium on an old house would be very high because that's where all the lead might be located, correct?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: Sure.

MR. GOODELL: Does this bill allow a differential in premium or does it require the premium to be the same regardless of the age of the house?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: It -- it would -- it would be the same.

MR. GOODELL: I see. So what we're doing is we're forcing landlords that have new houses to pay a much higher premium -- or a higher premium, whatever that might be -- to subsidize the insurance coverage for landlords that have old houses; is that correct?

MR. J.D. RIVERA: That's under the assumption that premiums are going to go up, which we don't know definitively.

MR. GOODELL: I see. Thank you very much.

On the bill, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. GOODELL: Several insurance groups individually, insurance companies and insurance groups have written memos in opposition pointing out what I think is fairly likely that if you force them to provide much broader coverage they will be forced to raise the premium. That's pretty straightforward. And we know based on, you know, hundreds of years of experience that when landlord gets higher costs they pass those higher costs on to the tenants. And what's ironic about this bill is that those higher costs are applied under the bill, as my colleague noted, whether or not you have a house that has absolutely no lead, it's the same premium increase as

a house that has a lot of lead.

Now I, like most of my colleagues, want to focus on helping every way we can for tenants to have both safe and affordable housing. And we know that if we want safe housing, the best way to do it is to focus our efforts on prevention. Prevention, prevention, prevention. And the way we focus our efforts on preventing lead exposure is we continue a program where the landlords have personal liability if they don't take reasonable steps to prevent that exposure. Ironically, what this bill says is we're going eliminate landlords' personal liability for lead exposure by requiring them to have insurance. Insurance, by the way, that's not experience-rated. And so instead of making houses safer and protecting our most vulnerable residents, this bill does the opposite by removing that personal financial incentive for landlords to make their houses safer. And in the process we drive up the cost. And so while I want to focus on having safe, affordable housing, especially for our low- or moderate-income families, especially for those families with kids, this bill unfortunately does the opposite. And for that reason and others we had 43 no votes last year and I would recommend to my colleagues that we continue to do what we can to keep landlords personally responsible if they don't address the lead in their houses, and we help tenants have the lowest rent and the most affordable housing by not imposing more costs that will be included into their rent.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 7488-A. This is a Party vote. Any member who wishes to be recorded as an exception to their Conference position is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. For the reasons I mentioned, the Republican Conference is generally opposed to this legislation. Those who wish to support it are certainly free to vote for it on the floor here of the Legislature or by calling the Minority Leader's Office and advising them.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I would like to remind my colleagues that this is a Party vote. Majority members will be recorded in the affirmative. If there are any exceptions, I ask Majority members to contact the Majority Leader -- Leader's Office at the number previously provided and I will announce their names accordingly.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would you

please record Mr. Montesano in the affirmative on this bill?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: So noted. Thank you.

MS. WALSH: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 10, Calendar No. 49, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00770-A, Calendar No. 49, Rosenthal, Perry, Otis, Simon. An act to amend the Civil Rights Law, in relation to privacy of electronic fare and toll records.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: So, this bill has to do with protecting the confidentiality of electronic records such as E-ZPass statements and things like that. And we debated this bill a couple years ago, so I -- I didn't feel a need to -- to do a full debate again today. I just wanted to kind of talk a little bit about what the bill does, and I think from my perspective what it doesn't do is a little bit more important. So E-ZPass records, we know that those can be critical to solving crimes. We know that, for example, a recent -- well, fairly recent

really horrific criminal case, the Porco case, the Porco murder was in part -- in part solved, and a suspect was arrested in part through the use of E-ZPass records. So this bill says that E-ZPass records and electronic records like that will be held confidential and considered to be private with certain carveouts and exceptions. The most notable exception, which I think is very good is the exception for criminal -- criminal cases such as the Porco murder trial and things like that where they're going to be able to petition the court for either a search warrant or a subpoena to get these E-ZPass statements in those instances. What the bill doesn't do, though, is more in the civil realm. So in cases that are involving, say, matrimonial matters where the whereabouts of a spouse is in dispute or an employment discrimination case where possibly the whereabouts of the employee is being questioned, these records would not be obtainable through FOIL or through another means under this legislation. The only civil -- the only civil matter that you could access E-ZPass records would be in a proceeding regarding the collection of toll or fare revenues. And because I don't believe that that is sufficiently broad enough to allow for a reasonable request for this kind of information in the types of cases that I mentioned -- we did have back in 2020 when we voted on this last, bipartisan opposition to this bill -- I think that it could be corrected in the way of a chapter amendment, for example, just broadening that exception, allowing for a discovery of these records and -- and give the judge discretion at least to consider the release of these records in a civil matter where it was held appropriate.

And for those reasons I was in the negative in my vote last time on this bill, as were many of my colleagues, and I would encourage you continue to vote no on this matter. I think that in today's day and age, whether we like it or not, our whereabouts are really not very private anymore. We have cell phones. Almost all of them have cameras in them. We have cameras at almost -- or many intersections where we travel, and I don't think our whereabouts really are private and personal anymore, much -- though we might prefer them to be. So I think we can't really unring that bell. I think that there is some utility in civil and criminal cases of these E-ZPass records. And for those reasons I think the bill doesn't go quite far enough in carving out a reasonable request in the civil realm.

So again, I would recommend a no vote and I will be voting in the negative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 770-A. This is a Party vote. Any member who wishes to be recorded as an exception to their Conference position is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote?

MS. WALSH: Actually, to state the -- that the Conference will generally be in the negative on this particular bill for

the reasons that I -- I had previously stated. But if there are members who wish to vote in the affirmative, they're encouraged to do so in the Chamber or by contacting the Minority Leader's Office.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms.

Walsh.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I would like to remind my colleagues that this is a Party vote. Majority members will be recorded in the affirmative. If you have objections, you can call the Majority Leader's Office.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Please record my colleagues Mr. Montesano and Mr. Walczyk in the affirmative.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 10, Calendar -- Calendar No. 55, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00839-A, Calendar No. 55, Gottfried, Abinanti, McDonough, Colton, Galef, Sayegh, DeStefano, Darling, Simon. An act to amend the Public Health Law and the Mental Hygiene Law, in relation to patient health information and medical records.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested, Mr. Gottfried.

MR. GOTTFRIED: Yes, thank you. So, Section 17 of the Public Health Law deals with the right -- with the transfer of health records from one healthcare practitioner who has been treating someone to a new healthcare practitioner who will now be treating that person. Section 18 of the Public Health Law deals with providing those records to -- to the patient, basically. It's a law that has not been updated in a long time. This bill amends those two sections plus a very similar section in the Mental Hygiene Law dealing with mental hygiene records, primarily to add more categories of healthcare practitioners to the list of providers that are subject to the law, to also broaden the definition of records to make it clearer, and it makes those changes in Section 17, Section 18 as well as the Mental Hygiene Law. And that's basically what the bill does.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Would the sponsor yield?

MR. GOTTFRIED: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Gottfried. Does this bill also require that those records be provided free of charge?

MR. GOTTFRIED: It says that it -- it -- I would say it clarifies that the only charge that may be made is the cost of actually reproducing the records. So you -- you can't charge a -- a service fee above and beyond that. I think that would be generally interpreted as being the effect of the current law. This makes it clearer.

MR. GOODELL: Now, the current law authorizes a fair and reasonable charge. Isn't that the standard?

MR. GOTTFRIED: Yes, but I -- I think that has generally been interpreted as meaning relating to the -- the actual cost. But in any event, whatever the history may have been this bill makes it clear that the charge that may be made has to be limited to the cost to the provider of -- of providing the record.

MR. GOODELL: And under current law a lot of these are a flat fee, like 75 cents per copy or some other flat designated fee?

MR. GOTTFRIED: For paper copies there's language in the current law, about 75 cents a page. As you can see, this bill, I -- I'll have to go look if you want me to tell you exactly the words that it -- that it uses to replace the 75 cents, but it's spelled out in the bill.

MR. GOODELL: And would this bill authorize a

healthcare provider to recoup the staff time it takes to pull the records, put in a -- copy them in addition to just the copying cost itself?

MR. GOTTFRIED: Well, I -- I would say the -- my understanding of the language of the bill is that it -- it's the cost of -- of providing the record. That what cannot be charged is some additional service charge.

MR. GOODELL: I see. So it would be your intent, then, that if a hospital or healthcare provider can reasonably document the time it takes a staff person to pull the record, put it into a presentable format, copy it, put it in the mail or e-mail it, those staff costs could be included as part of the actual out-of-pocket expense?

MR. GOTTFRIED: You know, I -- I want to find the actual language in the bill. If you have the page and line number I'll -- I'll look at it again. I don't want to hold up the floor discussion while I try to read through a six-page bill to find that specific language.

MR. GOODELL: Nor do I, Mr. Gottfried. Thank you very much, though, for your comments.

On the bill, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. From time to time as an attorney a client will call me up and say, *Hey. Do you have a copy of my whatever. You know, my judgment that I -- I won or a copy of a court decision from ten years ago or a copy of the title search?* And -- and we say, *Sure*. And of course we then have to get up, stop what

we're doing, go down into our archives, find the file, pull it out, bring it up, copy it, make sure it's what the client wants, put it in an envelope and send it to them. And of course the clients always think that we do everything for free because we didn't have to do any work. And so the concept of this bill that a hospital or health insurance provider only can charge their actual reasonable -- actual out-of-pocket expense I think is a concept that the vast majority of us support. It is important, though, to recognize that those actual costs include the cost of staff and postage and the time it takes to pull records. And with the hope that that is included within this definition, I know I'll be supporting it. Most of my colleagues will, but not all of them because of the concern that if you don't have the patient reimburse those costs, someone else reimburses them, namely, everyone else that uses the healthcare system.

So those are the concerns. In general, I support the concept and recommend it to my colleagues. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Gottfried.

MR. GOTTFRIED: Just to clarify for -- for Mr. Goodell and -- and for the members. On the question of whether of what expenses would be covered, the current law refers to reimbursement for such expenses. It doesn't really specify. The only change in that part of the law that the bill makes is to say "shall not exceed the healthcare provider's actual expenses," which I -- I think is clearly what the current law would mean. This just makes it clearer.

So any expenses that would be covered by those words today would continue to be covered as long as they were actual expenses.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 83 -- 839-A. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 12, Calendar No. 77, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01464-A, Calendar No. 77, Dinowitz, Seawright, Stirpe. An act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules, in relation to arbitration agreements.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Dinowitz, will you yield?

MR. DINOWITZ: Yes, I will yield.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The sponsor yields.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Dinowitz. I know this bill has a couple of parts, and I'm just going to look at the changes that are on -- starting on page 4, which if I understand it contains a broad prohibition on any arbitration agreement that is signed before a dispute arises involving consumer goods or employment; is that correct?

MR. DINOWITZ: Yes.

MR. GOODELL: I see it has an exception, however, for mandatory arbitration that are -- agreements that are contained in a union contract, collective bargaining contract, correct?

MR. DINOWITZ: Yes.

MR. GOODELL: I was involved for many, many years in negotiations on collective bargaining agreements. I represent both employers and unions from time to time.

MR. DINOWITZ: You represented union members?

MR. GOODELL: Yeah, I represented the local steel workers.

MR. DINOWITZ: Oh. Good, good, good.

MR. GOODELL: And I found that most of the time -- in fact, in my experience almost exclusively it was the union that was seeking mandatory arbitration. So my question is, why won't we allow non-union members to seek the same type of an agreement?

MR. DINOWITZ: Well, I assume that when the unions are asking for mandatory arbitration they're talking about -- and issues of collective bargaining, that's really not what we're talking

about here.

MR. GOODELL: But my question again is why -- why do we allow union members to negotiate binding arbitration, which my experience has been they were very supportive of, and not allow private employees to enjoy the same benefits if they wanted to? I mean, if they wanted to sign such an agreement or ask for such an agreement in advance, why wouldn't we let them enjoy the same benefits?

MR. DINOWITZ: I -- I don't know that we're talking about the same things here. The -- the unions in their collective bargaining may be discussing certain issues that relates to everybody, whereas we're talking here about individuals. And when it comes to individuals they're in a very weak position relative to the employers.

MR. GOODELL: But this bars an individual from even negotiating that, right?

MR. DINOWITZ: Well, it's -- it's I don't have data to back this up, but I'm sure in 99.99 percent of the cases it's not the individual that wants the mandatory arbitration, it's the employer that wants it.

MR. GOODELL: Well, to be honest with you I've never seen an employer request mandatory or binding arbitration in a union contract. It was always the employees that were demanding.

MR. DINOWITZ: Your -- the red herring that you raise has nothing to do with this. We're not talking about that. We're talking about individual situations that have nothing whatsoever to do

with collective bargaining agreements.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you very much, Mr. Dinowitz. I appreciate your comments.

On the bill, sir.

MR. DINOWITZ: You're welcome.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Normally, we support (inaudible) negotiated agreements between knowledgeable, informed, consenting adults, if you will. And in this situation this bill would say an employee cannot -- regardless of how much they want to -- they cannot enter into an employment agreement that contains a valid binding arbitration clause in advance. Now, the only ones that could negotiate for that under this are unions. And it just doesn't make any sense to me that we should say unions can negotiate for binding arbitration in an employment contract but nobody else in the State of New York, no matter how sophisticated or thoughtful they are, can enter into such an agreement.

And for that reason I recommend that my colleagues vote against this bill and allow thoughtful, intelligent, competent people to negotiate on their own for the terms and conditions they most desire without us, as the Legislature, prohibiting them from achieving what they want. For that reason I will be voting against it and encourage my colleagues to do the same. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 1464-A. This is a Party vote. Any member who wishes to be recorded as an exception to their Conference position is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. The Republican Conference is generally opposed to this legislation for the reasons I mentioned. But those who support it can certainly vote in favor of it here on the floor or by calling the Minority Leader's Office.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I would like to remind my colleagues that this is a -- a -- Majority members will be voting in the affirmative, and if there's any exceptions I ask them to call the Majority Leader's Office and we will announce their names accordingly.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this bill would you please note Mr. Montesano in the affirmative?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: So noted. Thank you.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, we now ask that the House stand at ease.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will stand at ease.

(Whereupon, the House stood at ease.)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come back to order.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we begin our traditional welcome of our West Point guests, and I know I speak for all of my colleagues here in the Assembly as well as all New Yorkers, I truly would like to say how honored we are to be home to such a prestigious and historic institution as West Point. West Point graduates can be counted throughout history as some of the nation's greatest leaders, and I suspect and I'm confident a number of those future leaders are here in the Chamber today. From military commanders to elected officials to pioneers of industry, West Point graduates have made and continue to make extraordinary

contributions to both our society and our nation. The cadets joined today here have chosen a path of service. In my opinion, there's nothing more honorable, nothing more noble and nothing more worthy of our respect and admiration than the opportunity to serve. I applaud these fine young men and women for placing service before self. May we pause in our deliberations to honor their courage, thank them for their selfless sacrifice and wish them good health and safety as they continue their journey.

And, Mr. Speaker, I now look forward to hearing your remarks.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you so much, Ms. Solages. Today we return to an annual tradition that was paused, as so much of our lives were, by the COVID-19 pandemic. Seventy years ago the Assembly, through the efforts of Assemblyman and West Point graduate James T. McNamara, adopted its first West Point resolution to honor the United States Military Academy. I am honored on behalf of Speaker Carl Heastie and all my Assembly colleagues to begin our annual recognition of West Point and the cadets who visit us today.

With us today we have Colonel Kwenton Kuhlman, Director of the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethics. Lieutenant Colonel Beth Smith, United States Military Academy Public Affairs Officer. Chaplain Captain Raymond Akeriwe. Captain Nicholas Tritone, United States Corps of Cadets Tactical Officer, Company C-4. Sergeant First Class Luisito Brooks, United States

Military Academy Public Affairs Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. Jim Fox, United States Military Academy Community Engagement Chief. And the fine cadets who will soon be introduced by the members of the State Assembly.

The highly respected West Point Academy has stood tall and proud in New York's beautiful Hudson Valley since 1802. The young men and women who attend West Point represent the best and brightest of their communities. The Academy graduates have a legacy of leadership and excellence for more than 200 years. The United States Academy at West Point has served as a testament to the principles of honor, duty and country. The legacy is truly unmatched. It is the oldest of the five service academies. In just a moment we will take up a resolution honoring the legacy of the Academy and the role that it has played in shaping the history of our State and the nation. We thank you for your visit today and for your unwavering commitment to our nation.

(Applause)

The Clerk will read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 689, Mr. Schmitt.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 24, 2022 as West Point Day in New York State.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, Mrs. Barrett.

MRS. BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the resolution. It is with great honor and pleasure that I stand here today as the first woman Chair of the Assembly's Veterans' Affairs Committee participating in this annual event dedicated to the United States Academy at West Point. It's a privilege to welcome Colonel Kwenton Kuhlman, the outstanding cadets including First Captain Holland Pratt, the senior personnel and others who came along today for joining us on this special occasion to honor this esteemed institution of higher learning located right here in New York State. Today marks the 70th time that the Assembly has honored the men and women who are members of the Corps of Cadets and the senior personnel from West Point. For 220 years, the United States Military Academy at West Point has guided the best and the brightest through intensive training and vigorous academic curriculum to personal and professional success. It is these hallowed halls our future leaders come to learn and commit themselves, as you heard, to the values of duty, honor and country. These three words are instilled in the thousands of hours spent training, educating and inspiring each cadet so that they may graduate as a commissioned leader prepared for a career in excellence and service to our nation as an officer of the United States Army.

The Academy, located in the beautiful Hudson Valley which I have the honor of representing -- my district is across the river and a little farther north. It's a national landmark and home to historic sites, (inaudible) buildings, monuments. Since 1802 West Point has

served as an academy and holds the title as America's oldest continuously operating occupied military post. We owe the cadets our respect and gratitude. I salute you all. I salute them for their service and wish them the best of luck as they continue to fulfill their commitment to our nation.

On behalf of the entire Veterans' Affairs Committee it's my pleasure to welcome and congratulate all of you, all of the cadets and the distinguished staff accompanying them here today. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Ashby.

MR. ASHBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a -- it's a great -- it's a great privilege to be able to celebrate West Point again today in our Chamber. It's been -- its been a while. And in my time I've had the honor and privilege of serving with several West Point grads and they let me know that they were West Point grads.

(Laughter)

But you know what? There's a lot to be said for that. There's a lot to be said for that. The young men and women here today and the officers that accompany them, the senior NCOs, their level of commitment, dedication and sacrifice should inspire every single person in this Chamber. And I know that we do a great deal to honor them when they come here today, but I want us to remember them each and every day, whether we're in Session or not. Regardless of what is occurring in our own districts, but throughout the world,

knowing that these brave men and women are standing guard for us every minute of every day.

I'm proud to support this resolution and be here today with my colleagues on this great, great day for West Point. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Hunter.

MS. HUNTER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Women's Veterans and a proud U.S. Army veteran I am honored today to welcome the entire West Point command, especially the members of the Corps of Cadets. It has been 47 years since President Gerald Ford signed into law a bill directing that women be admitted to America's service academies, October 8, 1975. On July 7, 1976 119 women made history, becoming the first females to join the Corps of Cadets of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

To each cadet, I wish you the very best as you continue to learn the important role you will play in the world today. I hope the words and our Army soldier's creed will always guide you, to always place the mission first, to never accept defeat, to never quit, to never leave a fallen comrade. Cadets I end with, Go Army, beat Navy.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Schmitt on the resolution.

MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a

distinct honor and privilege to represent the United States Military Academy at West Point in the 99th Assembly District for the last four years. So honored that we were able to come back together in person and have our cadets and their military leaders travel up and join us here today. West Point is really the crown jewel of our 99th Assembly District. Wherever I go in the country or wherever I've traveled in the world as an Assemblyperson, everyone says, *Well, what area of New York do you represent?* And I always say, *I represent the West Point Assembly District.* It's known and renowned throughout the world no matter who you talk to, no matter who you meet. Everybody knows, honors and salutes what West Point stands for for our State, for the community that I represent and for our entire country. West Point obviously develops military leaders and academic leaders that go on to every industry that you can imagine. They run -- they help run the government, the military, private sector, you name it. You will always cross paths with a West Point graduate. So not only is it the premiere military academy of the world, but West Point truly is the premiere academic institution in the entire world. There is no other institution that even gets as close to trying to tie West Point as the standard that West Point holds. The entire 137,000 people of the 99th Assembly District are proud to -- to be home to such an institution and to such amazing leaders, men and women who continue to not only lead, but to set the new standard day after day for which we all strive for.

So thank you to the cadets, to the -- to their -- to their leaders for being here, for everything you do every day, and we look

forward to this nearly 70-year tradition continuing in perpetuity in the Assembly and in the State of New York as you continue to keep our country safe. God bless.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

On the resolution -- oh, Mr. Giglio -- I'm sorry, Ms. Giglio.

MS. GIGLIO: West Point. The very name is synonymous with excellence. The United States Military Academy, intertwined with the history of our great nation and is part of the foundation upon which the United States is built. West Point graduates have and can be found in every part of our society, our government and our military, where their service to our country sets the standard of professionalism, diligence and respect. I am proud to have the Academy in our State and am honored to join my colleagues in declaring March 24, 2022 as West Point Day in New York State, and we welcome all of you to the New York State Assembly Chamber and look forward to years of you visiting us again.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

On the resolution -- Mr. Burdick, I'm sorry. We have some additional thoughts.

MR. BURDICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is certainly my honor to join my colleagues in this important resolution and celebration. And of course being new to this Chamber last year I did not have the honor and pleasure of joining in this activity earlier.

And I, too, have the great honor to represent a breathtakingly beautiful portion of the Hudson Valley in northern Westchester County across from West Point. And I want to underline that I think that it is really New York's privilege that we have here in our State the preeminent military academy in the country, and we all can be very proud of that. And we all are extremely proud of the cadets and officers that come before us today.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the resolution. I'm so happy to be able to speak on this resolution. I -- I grew up just a few miles away. I represent the district just north. And I want people to realize how important the -- the Academy is to the Hudson Valley. That it's -- that it's a really -- it's also an economic engine that people don't think about. And it's always been an inspiration. It's inspiration in all different areas. Believe it or not, it's an inspiration -- their football team is an inspiration because we would go down there and they would say, *You go down there and you watch what they do. And whatever -- whatever you did, they made us do -- do it in practice, only three times more.* And it was always a way of learning and so forth, and it was always good to go around the grounds and see the rich history. And it's always great to see that -- the cadets that are here. And you always think that all of us in this Chamber and in the Senate and everybody in State government should

always remember the motto of honor, duty and country.

So with that, thank you.

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

(Applause)

It is now my privilege to call upon Colonel Kwenton Kuhlman, the Director of the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethnics, to join me here at the rostrum to accept the resolution and to address this Body. Sergeant-of-Arms Wayne Jackson will escort the Colonel to the rostrum.

(Applause)

COLONEL KWENTON KUHLMAN: Speaker of the House Heastie, Assemblyman Schmitt, Assemblyman [sic] Barrett and other members of this distinguished Assembly, good afternoon and thank you for having us here today. My name is Colonel Kwenton Kuhlman, and on behalf of our Superintendent Lieutenant General Darryl Williams, I'm honored to address you on behalf of the entire team at the United States Military Academy. We thank you for this recognition.

I'm joined today by Cadet Diego Soto, Second Regimental Commander in the Corps of Cadets, and eight cadets from across New York State representing more than 4,000 members of the Corps of Cadets, 275 of whom call the Empire State home. It is wonderful to be able to join you in person for the first time in several

years. COVID impacted us all profoundly the past two years. The leaders at West Point wish to express our appreciation for the support that we have received throughout the pandemic from State, local and county leaders in New York. The spirit of collaboration and cooperation has made successfully navigating COVID possible. Throughout our history, New Yorkers have stepped forward to do their duty to serve their country and stand in the gap in defense of this great nation.

The day I in-processed into the 82nd Airborne Division as a captain in 2004, my paperwork was completed by an enlisted soldier, a specialist, normally someone fairly junior. But this individual was visibly older than most; white haired and a person who had a bit of life under his belt. I recall asking him, *Specialist, what is your story? You're a bit older than most of our troopers.* He proceeded to tell me he was an investment banker on Wall Street when 9/11 happened, and he knew that he had to do his part. He walked away from a very lucrative job to serve his nation during wartime. His story and the story of countless other selfless New Yorkers is the strength of our nation. From the regiments of the New York line during the American Revolution to units like the Fighting Irish of the 69th Infantry Regiment in Iraq and Afghanistan, New Yorkers have fought and served with valor and distinction, with some making the ultimate sacrifice. The United States Army has always had a strong presence in New York, to include West Point, from its early days as a strategic garrison in the fight against the British and the

defense of the American colonies to our role today as the world's preeminent leader development institution. And just as West Point has been an important thread in the fabric of the Empire State, so, too, have New Yorkers been an important thread in the fabric of West Point and the Academy. In addition to the 275 cadets currently attending, more than 7,700 graduates -- nearly ten percent of The Long Gray Line -- claim New York as their birthplace. And many of whom have earned their place in the history books as leaders not only in the Army, but in government, business, academia and more.

Our mission at West Point is to enhance the readiness of the United States Army by developing leaders of character who are ready to fight and win our nation's conflicts. This very day, over 100 West Point graduates are currently serving in Eastern Europe, to include four battalion and brigade commanders. Developing leaders of character requires strong relationships and partnerships with many outside stakeholders, particularly those throughout New York State. That's really what today is about. And we would not be successful without the tremendous support of State, local and county leaders. A *Staten Island Advance* op-ed this very morning by Lieutenant Colonel Adam Scher highlights the importance of those strong relationships. Adam Scher is a (inaudible) graduate who was introduced on the floor of the State Assembly as a cadet on West Point Day in 2004, this very event. Two years later he found himself leading troops in Iraq, and on 12 February of 2006 an enemy sniper killed Corporal Andrew Kemple. Kemple's funeral was in Minnesota shortly afterwards and it

was protested. Adam Scher wrote Assemblyman Cusick about Corporal Kemple's funeral experience. Assemblyman Cusick then sponsored and Governor Paterson later signed a bill protecting military funerals in New York. I understand that today is Assemblyman Michael Cusick's last West Point Day as a member of the New York State Assembly. Sir, thank you and thank the members of this esteemed Body for preserving the dignity of our service members and their families.

(Applause)

Our commitment to strong partnerships mean that we are also committed to being good neighbors with towns and communities across the State. We are always looking for ways to connect and build relationships and partner together on opportunities that will not only enhance the leader-development experience at West Point, but also benefit communities as well.

Military members are often thanked for their service, but I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your service. A strong and civil military relationship and the mutual trust between the military and society it serves as a cornerstone for our democracy. So on behalf of the West Point community, we greatly appreciate your support. So we'd like -- like to thank you very much for honoring us today. Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Colonel Kuhlman.

And now, Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, several of our colleagues are represent districts where these outstanding men and women are from. It is now the appropriate time to allow these members to introduce the cadets who are from their district.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly.

Mr. Burdick.

MR. BURDICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as a member of the Assembly and the district in which one of our courageous cadets resides. I'm going to be introducing in just one moment. I also rise as a member of the Veterans' Committee, and I certainly applaud the work of our Chair and the Committee. And this truly is a very proud day, as our Chair had mentioned, it being the 220th anniversary of the establishment of West Point Academy. And I remember very fondly going to West Point many years ago with my son who then was a Cub Scout and I was the Cub Scout Master and he went with our pack. And we had a tour of West Point followed by the legendary Army-Navy game, and of course we were rooting for Army and Army won that day. And I -- I could see facilities, I could see why West Point is the preeminent military institution in this nation. And -- and so it really is no small undertaking for any of our cadets to be going through West Point.

And I wish to introduce Giovanni Christian Stone Biondo. And -- and thank you for rising. And can we all applaud him for his service?

(Applause)

And let me just say a few quick points about this outstanding young gentleman. Giovanni has drawn on self-discipline and character that he first developed at Wilbraham & Monson Academy in Massachusetts. He now has courageously determined to serve his country, and he's thrown himself wholeheartedly into the process of honing his leadership skills and delving into the complexities of 21st Century security challenges. Again, no small feat. The training that he is acquiring in both the tactical and ethical nuances of military conflict will upon his graduation help shape the nature our country's role in the world will take.

And so I'm very proud to introduce Giovanni, and I congratulate you for the feat that you are undertaking now and your tremendous service to this country.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Lawler for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. LAWLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great honor to stand before this Body and welcome a fellow Suffern High School graduate from my hometown of Suffern, New York, part of the 97th Assembly District, Cadet 4th Class Steven Trombetta. Please join me in welcoming Steven to the Chamber.

(Applause)

Steven had a very successful career as a Suffern

Mountie on the wrestling team. Over his four years he won dozens of matches, earning the honor of being named the Rockland County All-Wrestling Team for the 2019-2020 season. Steven is a Plebe. He will be a graduate of the class of 2025 where he is majoring in systems engineering, and he is hopeful to be in the Infantry upon graduation.

We are very proud of Steven, as well as all of the men and women who choose to serve our country and keep our communities, our State and our nation safe. And we keep them in our prayers, especially at this moment in a time of war and uncertainty in Eastern Europe. My cousin Dominick is serving in the United States Army in Poland at this moment. And we are a thankful to every single person who steps up to serve this country in defense of it. And I especially want to say thank you to Steven on behalf of the residents of the 97th Assembly District for serving our nation, and we look forward to great things from you in the years to come. God bless.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Fernandez.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And welcome to our amazing cadets here to the State Chambers of the New York State Assembly. I'm going to highlight and recognize one of the 80th's greatest -- as I like to call the Assembly District "The Greatest 80th", we exude greatness. And to Cadet Yusen Zheng, I want to recognize you and thank you for being here. And thank you for dedicating yourself to this country and to our safety. It takes a big person, a noble person, one that is selfless and with a big heart to take

this position and put yourself forward for this country and our safety. So I recognize you and I thank you, but I also thank you for your position as a Platoon Leader within the Field Artillery Branch. It's not easy doing those jobs, and you do so with ease.

So, Chamber, please recognize and --

(Applause)

-- welcome to our Chamber Cadet Yusen Zheng.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the people of the 5th Assembly District on Long Island in recognizing a great West Point Cadet, Jessica Desena. I want to just take a moment to join my colleagues in thanking you for your service, your selfless sacrifice for joining this esteemed institution. Jessica is a -- a law major with a Spanish minor. She's hoping to be involved with military intelligence, which is incredibly important especially during these tough times, to protect both civilians and fellow service members to keep them out of harm's way.

And on behalf of -- everybody has a name for their district; I guess ours would be The Fighting 5th Assembly District, with people who are just very humble, a very middle-class community. We're just so proud of people like yourself, Jessica. And if my colleagues would join me in just thanking and congratulating Jessica for her service. Thank you for coming today.

(Applause)

We're so proud to have you and your fellow cadets here. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Griffin.

MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you. I am so proud to be here today to honor and celebrate a constituent and cadet from Lynbrook, Anthony Carl Marco, III, on West Point Day. On behalf of the residents of Assembly District 21, please join me in welcoming Cadet Anthony Carl Marco, III.

(Applause)

Anthony is a 2019 graduate of Malverne High School, where he was the co-salutatorian of the graduating class. He was also a member of the esteemed Malverne High School Marching Band, which placed first in their division at the 2018 New York State Field Band Conference Championship. Anthony received a citation from Malverne Mayor Alan Beach for his acceptance into this prestigious Academy. In the fall of 2019, Anthony began attending the United States Military Academy at West Point to pursue a history major. He intends to serve in the Infantry with the brave American Armed Forces stationed in Vicenza, Italy. Anthony serves as the senior editor of the West Point Undergraduate Historical Review, and volunteered with the Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk County. Inspired by the Band of Brothers, Anthony has been driven to pursue a career in the Armed Forces from an early age, and even wore his brown combat boots to his pre-prom photo shoot. Anthony is a

dedicated student who has selflessly pursued a military career to protect American interests at home and abroad.

I, Assemblywoman Judy Griffin, do hereby honor, congratulate and celebrate Anthony Carl Marco, III on West Point Day. I honor and salute all of the cadets here today and welcome you here. Congratulations, all of you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Tannousis for an introduction.

MR. TANNOUSIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the proud Assemblymember representing the 64th Assembly District which encompasses the East Shore of Staten Island and a portion of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, I'd like to welcome Cadet Amya Ariel White, who resides in the Fort Wadsworth section of Staten Island. She is in the Class of 2024. She majors in engineering and management. And additionally, her post is Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Amya, thank you so much for your service to our nation, to our community. You make Staten Island proud.

Please, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Amya.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Sillitti.

MS. SILLITTI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for allowing me to welcome my cadet here from my hometown of Port Washington, Cadet Christopher Dante Ricciardi. I am honored to

join my colleagues in recognizing your work, your dedication and your commitment to serve. Cadet Ricciardi is a Squad Leader, double majoring in defense and strategic studies and military history. He intends to enter the specialized field of engineering, and his post would be at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. Cadet Ricciardi, you not only volunteered to serve our nation, but you're joining the ranks of a distinct and elite group of individuals to be the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for your service to our nation. You bring hope and light to the Port Washington community, our country and our great State.

Everyone please join me in welcoming Christopher Dante Ricciardi to the Chamber.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an absolute honor to be here in person on West Point Day. And for the first time in the six years that I've served on behalf of the 112th Assembly District, we have a cadet from my district. And it's just -- I've been so looking forward to being able to introduce her to you today, Cadet Micaela Choi, who is a graduate of Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, where two of my boys graduated from. She comes from my hometown. Micaela has had such a dedication to excellence for years, throughout high school. She was a member of the, I believe famous, certainly locally famous, State champion girl's volleyball

team that has visited the Capitol before and we've honored previously. She's also a black belt in Taekwondo and is nationally ranked and recognized. She -- she's a student athlete. She is a major right now in systems engineering and is very interested in military intelligence. I think one of the remarkable things about Micaela is her family served as -- both of her parents are West Point graduates and served post-9/11 and were deployed in the Middle East. And -- her mom in intelligence and her father as a finance officer. They both retired as captains. Her father was recalled later to the Army Reserves. But service obviously runs in her family. And she represents her family and her community and my district exceptionally well.

So would you please all join me in welcoming and thanking Micaela Choi for her service.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Barrett.

MRS. BARRETT: I didn't recognize my own name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all my colleagues who are so proud of the young people from their communities who are here today, and for all of you for being here. For the escorts, for just bringing to our Chamber this very special group of young leaders. We -- we know that the future is in good hands when we see a commitment and a commitment to service, commitment to lead that we've seen here today. I have the great pleasure of introducing the one cadet who's actually not from New York State, and that is Cadet First Class Diego Soto. Diego, would you stand, please? Thank you.

We hope that we will entice you to move into New York State.

(Laughter)

Cadet First Class Diego Soto is a Second Regimental Commander. He hails from Missouri City, Texas. Soto is an applied statistics and data science major in the Class of 2022. So, he'll be greatly shortly. And he is a thoughtful young leader. He has stated that, quote, as Second Regimental Commander he hopes that he will create a culture of putting people first. He believes that focusing on people through actions, not through words, he will lead to creating an environment of inclusion, comparison and getting results. And results is what we all try to achieve.

So we welcome you here today, Diego, and thank you for being part of this very special day in New York State in the New York State Assembly. And I ask my colleagues to please join me in welcoming Cadet Diego Soto.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Barrett.

MRS. BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, will you please welcome Diego here today?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of the Speaker, Carl Heastie, all of the members of the New York State Assembly, we extend to you the privileges of the floor. We welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We hope that you have enjoyed your time with us in the State Capitol. But more than that, I hope you understand how much we, as a Body, appreciate

the world that you live in and the places that you will go. And we hope that you go there safely and are always assured that you have a home here in the New York State Assembly. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: So many inspiring young men and women here. Mr. Speaker, let me take an opportunity to introduce to the Body Colonel Kwenton Kuhlman. Colonel Kuhlman is a 1999 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point where he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. In addition, he earned a master's degree from Kings College London, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and as well as the United States Army War College. Colonel Kuhlman currently serves as the Director of the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethics. Last year he served as the Third Regiment Tactical Officer. His last operational assignment was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as an Infantry Battalion Commander in the 82nd Airborne Division and was deployed to Helmand, Afghanistan. He will also -- he will take command of the 1-2 Stryker Brigade Command [sic] Team at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the summer of 2022. Colonel Kuhlman has been deployed to Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. He has commanded a company and is a battalion in the command [sic]. He has also received numerous awards and decorations throughout his distinguished career, including his Bronze

Star medals. Colonel Kuhlman grew up near Kansas City, Missouri. He is married and he has two children.

Mr. Speaker, please give him a warm welcome to this officer who decided to serve our nation in ways that many do not. Please thank him so much for being here and welcome him to the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Solages, the Speaker and all the members, we again welcome you here, sir. Thank you so much for leading this delegation. Thank you for your words of -- of wisdom as you have addressed this Body. Know that, again, you have -- always have the privileges of this floor and are welcome here any time you decide to drop by. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Schmitt.

MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Assemblyman for West Point, it is my privilege to introduce some of the other guests that have joined us here today from West Point, starting with Lieutenant Colonel Smith. Lieutenant Colonel Smith. Lieutenant Colonel Smith is --

(Applause)

Yes.

(Applause)

Lieutenant Colonel Smith serves the United States Military Academy at West Point as the Public Affairs Officer. A very

difficult job, as we all know, dealing with members of the -- the press. You never know what inquiries are going to come in, but we appreciate you always being forward-leading and ensuring that the community and the world-at-large has the latest and most accurate information. So thank you for your service, ma'am.

(Applause)

We also have Sergeant First Class Brooks.

(Applause)

Sergeant First Class Brooks is a non-commissioned officer in charge of West Point's (inaudible) works very closely with the Lieutenant Colonel. So thank you for all that you do as well.

(Applause)

As an NCO myself in the Army, I know some of the stuff you have to deal with, so thank you for that.

We have our Chaplain -- Chaplain. Chaplain Akeriwe, thank you. He is the garrison Catholic chaplain. He opened up our Session today with a -- with a beautiful invocation and prayer. And on top of that not only serves as a spiritual leader for the Catholic community at West Point, but many from the larger area in the Hudson Valley do attend his services. And chaplains have a lot of responsibility and they care not just for the spiritual, but the emotional, mental and other health needs of the entire West Point community. So thank you, Chaplain, and God bless you.

(Applause)

We also have with us Captain Nicholas Tritone, the

United States Corps of Cadets Tactical Officer, Company C-4.

Captain?

(Applause)

Thank you for all of your service and the role that you do to mold our future leaders.

And last but not least, we have Jim Fox who is West Point's Community Engagement Chief. Jim?

(Applause)

Jim is frequently seen across the community and the region representing West Point at Rotary, Chamber meetings. You name it, he's there and he's always looking to engage the Military Academy in with the broader community. So thank you, Jim. And again, on behalf of all the constituents of the 99th Assembly District, your neighbors and the surrounding area of West Point, thank you to all of the leaders who continue to ensure that this day exists year after year.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Again, on behalf of Assemblymember Schmitt, the Speaker and all the members, we extend the privileges of the floor to all of you who have joined us here today and commend you on the service that you provide the State of New York and the United States of America. We hope that you continue to provide that service. And feel comfortable in knowing that we in the Assembly are at your beck and call. Thank you so very much for all that you do. We appreciate it.

(Applause)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes our opportunity to honor these fine men and women and officers. We thank them for their presence and honor their courage, and also in our gratitude for their selfless service and sacrifice. Thank you once again on behalf of the New York State Assembly.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have resolutions. We will take them 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. 694-696 were unanimously adopted.)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Could you please recognize Ms. Hunter for an announcement?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Hunter for the purposes of an announcement.

MS. HUNTER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Our work is not complete today. The Majority conference will need to be convening at 3:00 p.m. in the Hearing Room today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Hunter.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Friday, March 25th, tomorrow being a Legislative day, and that we reconvene at 2:00 p.m., March 28th, Monday being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 1:15 p.m., the House stood adjourned until Friday, March 25th, that being a Legislative day, and to reconvene on Monday, March 28th at 2:00 p.m., that being a Session day.)