

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

2:10 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

The Reverend Donna Elia will offer a prayer.

REVEREND DONNA ELIA: Let us pray. O, God, whom we call by many names, thank You for gathering us together, for the very breath we take, for the bonds of commitment among legislative and staff members, for all working together for the good of our communities and our State. Thank You especially for Women's History Month and for this day, International Women's Day. We remember women who worked tirelessly for equality for all persons regardless of gender. We remember men who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with women. We give thanks for women who paved the way and opened the door so that women leaders could be in this very

Chamber. Receive our gratitude. Bring about a day when all women everywhere have access to education, health care, employment, the right to vote, and to be represented in all sectors of government.

Empower us to do our -- our part to make a way for others. As this Body gathers for the business of today, infuse their work with Your spirit and bless them with a large measure of wisdom and perseverance, especially in these coming days and weeks when they deliberate on the budget. May they speak with clarity and compassion, and listen with earnest attention. Help them again to take up the mantle of public service, to lift people up and to stand for what is good and just. Heal those in need of healing, comfort any who mourn, and strengthen those who are weary. Holy one, You are the maker of peace. Give us peace, love and justice.

Amen.

MEMBERS: Amen.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Visitors are invited to join 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 Tuesday, March 7th.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of March -- Tuesday, March the 7th and ask that the same should stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so

ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, guests that are in the Chambers, I would like to begin our Session today with a quote. I really want to appreciate the comments of Reverend Elia as we celebrate both International Women's Day, as well as Women's History Month. This quote is from Lucretia Mott. She was an American Quaker, an abolitionist, a women's rights activist and a social reformer. She had formed the idea of reforming the position of women in a society when she was among the women excluded from the World Anti-Slavery Conviction -- Convention in London in 1840. Lucretia's word's for us today: *Any great change must expect opposition, because it shakes the very foundation of privilege.* Again, these words from Lucretia Mott.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues have on their desk a main Calendar. It has 27 new bills in it, and after any introductions and/or housekeeping we're going to be calling for a Ways and Means Committee meeting in the Speaker's Conference Room. Then we will begin our floor work today by taking up resolutions on page 3. We will then begin consent of new bills on page 4, beginning with Calendar No. 18. There could be a need for additional floor work. If there is, we will make that announcement at the appropriate time; however, Majority members should be aware that there is absolutely a need for a conference immediately following the conclusion of our floor work and as always, Mr. Speaker, we will check with our

colleagues on the other side to determine what their conference needs may be.

That is a general outline, sir. If you have any introductions or housekeeping, now would be an appropriate time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: And the first housekeeping of the year:

On a motion by Ms. Walker, page 9, Rules Report No. 88, Bill No. 329, amendments are received and adopted.

For the purposes of a introduction, Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the privilege of an introduction. Today we have with us the Superintendent of Chittenango Schools, Mike Eiffe and his son, Shamus. Shamus is a senior at Chittenango High School, and a grandson of former Oswego County Legislator, the late Daniel Eiffe. Shamus aspires to serve his community and nation with a life of public service. He has been selected as a scholarship candidate to one of our nation's premier ROTC programs at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He intends on studying political science, will be commissioned as an officer into the Navy upon graduation.

So on behalf of myself, the Speaker and members of the House, please extend the cordialities of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Miller, 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 achievements that you've made

so far. We look forward to more, and we hope that you know you will always be a welcomed visitor here. And just on a personal note, my mother graduated from Catholic University, so we have a bond. And, of course, that was in the 1930s. Thank you so very much for being here, you are always welcome.

(Applause)

For the purposes of an introduction, Mr. Burdick.

MR. BURDICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of making an introduction to a remarkable young lady, Kacie Rooney, a resident of my district who graduated last year from John Jay High School in Cross River, New York. She is the first student with Down Syndrome to graduate from John Jay High School in four decades. She is truly accomplished in being able to handle this disability so effectively. She has, for several years, as examples of what she's done, been a volunteer reader at the Country Children's Center; reads a book, selects a craft for the children. She has for several years worked in the John Jay Athletic Director's Office, and as a teacher's assistant in the John Jay Introduction to Theater Program. She now also works in the John Jay High School Assistant Principal's Office. She is an enthusiastic member of a special needs cheer team in Mahopac. She is also a member of the John Jay Unified Bowling and Basketball Team, associated with the Special Olympics. She participates in programs at Gigi's Playhouse, which is a Down Syndrome achievement center in Westchester.

Kacie and others with Down Syndrome might have

been dismissed and marginalized in the past. I am awestruck by her tenacity and perseverance in handling the challenges that she faces on a daily basis. She truly is inspirational not only to others with Down Syndrome, but to all of us, and we can see possibilities rather than simply assuming otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you kindly extend the courtesies of the People's House to Kacie and her family. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Burdick, the Speaker and all the members, Kacie and your family, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations on your achievement. Know that you will always have a friend here and will always be welcome. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Simpson for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to request the opportunity to introduce Megan O'Sullivan, Jacob Schoff, Taber Holmes, Roxanna Falcon, Abby Carey, and their professor, Megan Conti. They are seniors at Siena College with a focus on social welfare policy, which we all know how significant the mental health challenges and social issues that we're all experiencing now. So I applaud these young people that they chose this direction, and I'm really excited about the future to see how they develop and how they work to make our communities a much healthier, better society.

So I would respectfully ask for your -- offer the

cordialities of the floor to the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Simpson, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the People's House, to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Hope that you have the opportunity to observe our deliberations and grow and appreciate the way in which government works here in the State of New York, and congratulations on your choices for a profession much needed, much desired in this State. Please know that you're welcome here. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Gray for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. GRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon for an introduction for some students and faculty from SUNY Canton up in my district. And they're all members of a great program, which everybody is probably familiar with, Educational Opportunities Program, or otherwise know as EOP. So attached to these young individuals are not only great success stories, but fantastic achievements on their part. So I would like to introduce from Massena, New York -- the students first -- Kylee Donnelly; and we have from the Bronx, we have Anikko Serrano; and then also from Brooklyn we have Teanna Simmons. And, as well, we have the Director and staff of the EOP Program: We have Anne Drake, Katie Kennedy and Keith Mitchell.

Mr. Speaker, please welcome them and offer them the cordiality of the floor. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Gray, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these fine students here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Hope your experience here, too, will be beneficial and that you may learn a bit more about your government here in Albany, New York. Thank you so very much, and know that you're always welcome. Thank you so very much for coming.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes for purposes of an announcement.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, if you could please call the Ways and Means Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ways and Means, Speaker's Conference Room immediate please -- immediately.

Page 3, Resolutions, Assembly No. 148, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 148, Ms. Jean-Pierre.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2023 as Women's History Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Jean-Pierre on the resolution.

One minute, Ms. Jean-Pierre, we have a -- let them --

let the Ways and Means people move past you so that we can give you our undivided attention.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, I appreciate that.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We're almost there. I think we can proceed now. Clear that corner, please.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this resolution. As Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus, it is truly an honor to speak in support of this resolution as we celebrate International Women's Day. Today and every day, we are reminded that we stand on the shoulders of those women who came before us and fought for true equality under the law, and in day-to-day life here in New York and throughout the United States. New York State has long been a champion for women, and with the election of our first woman Governor and the reality that our Senate Majority Leader, our Assembly Majority Leader, and our Attorney General are all women. We have so much to celebrate. We now have 73 women in the Legislature in both Houses, with record numbers of women legislators in leadership and serving as Committee Chairs.

New York was home to the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, which kick-started the essential idea of a woman's right to vote. New York was also home to the suffrage pioneers like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Lady [sic] Stanton, and Alice Paul. The 20th Century proved to be a hard-fought but rewarding battle for women in our collective desire to have the same right as our male counterparts.

And nowhere else has the progression of women's rights become a reality more than here in New York. In celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day, we honor all those who -- whose perseverance broke down barriers and shattered glass ceilings to create a more equal and just society. And here in New York, we sent a loud and clear message to all those women and girls across our great State that our collective future rests in the hands of female leaders, and at all levels of government who lead by example and fight to ensure that we all have a seat at the table. While the struggle for true equality continues every single day, I am enormously proud of the progress we have made here together.

In closing, let us pledge to continue fighting in uplifting all women and all little girls every single day. I am proud to sponsor this resolution, and thank you to my colleagues for joining.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Jean-Pierre.

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. I'd like to add to what Ms. Jean-Pierre just stated about the resolution; I'm very happy to speak on it as a member of the Legislative Women's Caucus.

I was thinking about those who -- who shattered the glass ceiling and I was reminded of a couple of women who are in my district that I wanted to just shine a light on for a moment. The first is Captain Stacy Wuthier, who is the Commanding Officer of the Navy Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York. She's a

native of Denver, Colorado, but she enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1995 as a nuclear machinist mate, and completed prototype training at the -- at NPTU in Ballston Spa. And then went on -- I could read for probably ten minutes the number of things that she's did since then in her career, but she was brought all the way back to head the NPTU now in Ballston Spa. She -- she's a remarkable woman and I'm very proud of her. And you talk about shattering a glass ceiling, within the military she's done it.

Another woman with an impressive military career is Major General Denise M. Donnell, and some of colleagues may remember that when we had opening day of the -- of Session, she led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance that day. She was promoted in the Spring of 2022 to the Star Rank of Major General at the New York Air National Guard. She was the first woman to command one of the New York Air National Guard's five flying wings, and is one of only five women to attain the rank of Major General in the New York National Guard. She serves as the Assistant Adjutant General, and is the Commander of the New York Air National Guard in Latham, New York. She's the primary advisor on all Air Guard matters to the Adjutant General. And -- and I happen to know her personally, and her family. And I think that these are the heroes, these women, who have taken some of the very non-traditional paths and have really, really excelled.

So I thought in celebration of Women's Equality Day that I would just talk about them for a couple of minutes. So thank

you very much, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Walsh.

Ms. Levenberg.

MS. LEVENBERG: Thank you so much, Speaker and Majority Leader. It's so exciting to be celebrating International Women's Day, and I am so proud to stand here in this increasingly diverse Chamber as the female successor to the first woman to represent my district in the Assembly. That woman, Sandy Galef, sponsored legislation to amend this State's Constitution to make it gender neutral, a pivotal step to where we are now with respect to gender equality.

Here in New York because of so many female trailblazers before us, today, as mentioned by my Assembly colleagues, we have a record number of female Assemblymembers and Committee Chairs. We are conducting our budget negotiations with a female Governor and Senate Majority Leader. We have a female Attorney General, and in Westchester County, a female District Attorney probably for the second time. We've passed the Equality Amendment twice, further expanding equal protection under our Constitution, and we are, indeed, finally seeing the glass ceiling begin to crack. Usually when women seek public office, we are motivated to do so out of the desire to make a necessary change. That's how I got started. Our advocacy for our children or our schools or our communities makes it clear that our leadership is needed. And

when we lead, we lift up so many others around us because it is rare for a woman to do so alone. When women lead, we bring crucial perspectives for improving society because we bring insight into problems that only women typically see. It is so important that we continue moving in this direction, and that we continue electing leaders who will open up opportunity for all.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Levenberg.

Ms. Woerner.

MS. WOERNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to join my colleagues in speaking on the International Women's Day Resolution. You know, so much of the time we talk about, as Ms. Jean-Pierre said, we stand on the shoulders of giants. And we can all recite the names of women in New York who were instrumental, pivotal in women's suffrage; Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and truly, they were great. But I believe that the history -- that women's history is about ordinary women doing extraordinary things.

So, a couple of weeks ago I had an opportunity to go over to the New York State Archives and I found an interesting bit of women's history. So in 1912 in December, three women took off on foot from New York City: Rosalie Gardiner Jones, age 29; Ida Craft, age 52; and Lavinia Lloyd Dock, age 54. And they brought with them a petition signed by 1,500 women calling on the men of New York to

grant women the right for suffrage. They walked 140 miles in December from New York to Albany to present then Governor-elect Sulzer with their petition. And they were so successful in getting attention to this issue that the then Majority Leader of the Senate said, *I don't personally support women's suffrage, but I'm going to bring this to the floor*, and that was the first passage of the Constitutional Amendment that two years later went to the voters. It was, unfortunately, voted down, but it is what started the process and ordinary women doing extraordinary things. And that is the history of the Women's Movement in New York, it's the history of the Women's Movement around the world.

So this month as we do our Women of Distinction programs in our district, it is delightful that we are going to be recognizing ordinary women doing extraordinary things on this day and every day. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Woerner.

Ms. Lucas.

MS. LUCAS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the sponsor of this resolution, Member Kimberly Jean-Pierre. We have gathered in this moment today to recognize the achievements and contributions of women who have played a vital role in shaping both history and society, but have often been overlooked, underestimated, and undervalued. It is incredibly important that we educate everyone about the struggles and challenges women have

faced; discrimination, oppression, violence.

Women's History Month provides us with the opportunity to shine a light on women who have paved the way for so many of us here today. Women like Bessie Buchanan, the first African-American to serve in the New York State Assembly, elected in 1955 and serving until 1962. And Shirley Chisholm, who began her historic and storied career in elected office right here in the New York Assembly, serving from 1965 to 1968. We must tell and retell their stories to inspire and encourage the next generation of women leaders. We must highlight the contributions that women have made throughout our State so that young women like my daughter, Toni, can achieve their fullest potential. We must celebrate, we must tell our stories, and we must continue to fight for equity and equal pay for work -- for equal work and gender equality.

I stand before you today as a member of the New York State Assembly, as a testament of the importance of continually recognizing the women who came before me, on whose shoulders I stand, so that my daughter and your daughters understand that if we can do it, they can do it.

Thank you to all those who sit in the People's House and all who are watching, for allowing me a moment to represent the voices of many young girls and women internationally. Happy International Women's Day.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Lucas.

Ms. Rajkumar.

MS. RAJKUMAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was 13, I raised my hand in 8th grade American History class, and I asked my teacher an innocent question: *Why are there no women in the American history textbook? Where are the women?* In the years since, I have found women's voices in our history. It's the voice of Alice Paul, who launched a hunger strike and went to prison so that American women could vote, a story documented by her fellow suffragist Doris Stevens in the book, *Jailed for Freedom*. I found the voice of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to U.S. Congress, who once served in this very Body, the New York State Assembly, where she was New York State Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm. Brave women have always been shaping our history, and the women are here today serving in this very Chamber.

As the first South Asian woman ever elected to New York State office, I am proud to have a small part in writing our herstory. And I join many other woman members of the State Assembly here today who are also a first. Together, we are writing history. Today, on International Woman's Day, I couldn't be more proud to call you my colleagues. For many of us who were a first, there was no guidebook for how to get here, but now we will write the guidebook for our daughters. Every day I am so impressed with the potential of young women, how good they are, how dynamic and versatile. They are truly the world's hidden power. Let us show girls through our example that they can lead, that they can run the world,

and that they belong at the table of power and in every page of that history textbook. The United Nations CEDAW Treaty on Women's Human Rights says that the full development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields. Let's make it happen. Currently, over 30 percent of this State Legislature is women. We have never had a woman President. Women still earn 82 cents for every dollar a man earns. And we still haven't passed an equal rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ensuring equality for women.

The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, champion for women, said it best. When she was asked when will there be enough women on the Supreme Court, she replied, *When there are nine*. Let's create a world where women are in the American history textbook so that our daughters see women leading the way. Happy Women's.

History Month to everyone across the world, happy International Woman's Day, and I proudly vote in the affirmative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Rajkumar.

Mr. De Los Santos.

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this important resolution. I want to thank my colleague for the introduction of today's resolution on

women's history. I stand here today because many years ago, a brave woman decided to give birth to me. Today, continue to be an opportunity to elevate, empower women. We have a lot of heroes in this room, such as Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes, Shirley Chisholm, Rosa Parks, and I'm aware of that reality. But we have so much work to do, and it is in our hands to ensure that every opportunity we get, we elevate all of them.

I am proud to speak on this resolution, and let's not forget that March will continue to be a very special month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. De Los Santos.

Mr. Sayegh.

MR. SAYEGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to speak in support of the resolution, thank the sponsor, and also just want to start by saying there is no humanity without women. So we recognize not only the importance that women play in civilization, but in human beings. And today, it's a recognition of the role women play across history, not only U.S. but world history. And for me, having been elected in 2018 when there was many small parties, political parties, one of the best endorsements I've had was the Women's Equality. When I went before them and told them I was a father of five young ladies and had a -- was raised by a widow mother who really educated all of her eight children with advanced degrees, and she herself didn't even have a high school diploma, it really indicated

the important role women play in our lives.

So today I rise to celebrate Women's History Month and world recognition of women's role in society, and congratulate this very special moment and hope we continue to further advance. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Sayegh.

Ms. Chandler-Waterman.

MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I must say thank you, Majority Leader, for your leadership and making us proud every day we see you. Happy International Women's Day. Because of my ancestors, I stand before you as the first woman, first Black woman and first Black Caribbean woman to represent District 58. I'm happy my three daughters were able to see this reality today. Not long ago, women like me and those in these Chambers were not granted the right to vote or even allowed in these Chambers. But as a woman, do what we do, what we need to do to get what we need. Our predecessors planned, organized and strategized, and by fighting for our rights, the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, allowing White women the right to vote. In 1924, the right was extended to Native American women, and in 1943, Chinese women were granted the right to vote. Black and Latino women were granted the right to vote in 1965. Please let that settle in. Black and Latino women were granted a right to vote just 58 years ago. We've come a long way.

Today, I stand before you as one of the 52 women in the New York State Assembly. We shape policy, pass meaningful legislation, and fight for the right of our community members. This year, International Women's Day theme is "Embrace Equity." We have to -- we have a lot to be proud of, and we have a long way to go. Equity mean fairness, point blank, period. We -- we have -- we have not achieved fairness. We have still a lot of fighting against patriarchal systems that rob us of our reproductive rights, pay us less than we are worth, minimize our pain and, at best, dismiss us and worse, violate our bodies and minds.

I want to be clear, it's not all bad. There are men in this room and across the country who march side-by-side in the fight for women's equity and equality. But we all work within a system that is not built for women, and certainly not for Black women. To the men who stand with us, thank you for recognizing everything we do, from finding the cure for COVID and creating million-dollar companies, to rock -- rocketing it into space and kicking off Civil Rights Movement, to just getting the job done no matter the obstacles. To those stuck in the old days, I say let it go and it's time to -- to embrace equity, because we're not asking for permission, we're kicking down the doors.

To our sisters worldwide who are deprived of education and even feminine hygiene products, we want you to know we stand with you. Let us embrace equity this International Women's Day and every day. Happy International Women's Day, and thank

you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Ms. Chandler-Waterman.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on what I think is probably one of the more important resolutions that we'll talk about this year and later. As you know, we are descendants of women, so I do honor the gentleman who spoke, as well. And as a person who is four generations away from a woman who looked like me under the bottom of a ship, I actually wanted to speak words today to the life and the value of the women who are already here. And I specifically want to speak about a young lady who lived in Upstate New York. Her name is Mary Jemison. Mary was actually a Seneca woman, and even though she was a Seneca woman, she looked European. So she could have transitioned and went to that community and been perfectly fine, because she did look as if she was European. But she was a Seneca, she was a very proud Seneca. She stayed within that community, she married more than once, she had multiple children. And in 1883, she was like 80 years old, she walked to a tavern and she told her story to a man by the name of James Seaver. And she said, *I've come to tell you my story of 80 years. My life has been checked, almost every hour, with troubles of deeper dye than are commonly experienced.* She spoke to him for hours and he wrote it down. I would encourage

those of us under the sound of my voice to look at the history of Mary Jemison, because there was no Women's History Month in 1823. There was no International Women's History celebration day in 1823. But she honored her life, she honored her culture, and she lived the kind of life that brings value to all of us.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you for the opportunity and I hope everyone enjoys International Women's History Day.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, from the grandson of two women who marched for the right to vote, thank you.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the comments of my colleagues. I want to share an interesting perspective. I recently began representing part of the Seneca Nation, and as my colleague Mrs. Peoples-Stokes mentioned, there are some remarkable, remarkable women from the Seneca Nation. But what most of us may not realize that in the Seneca Nation Constitution - and they have their own Constitution - in 1848 they recognized a group of people called "Mothers of the Nation." And the Mothers of the Nation have the power to approve or reject any treaty between the Nation and anyone else. And they exercise that power when they wish to override the decision of the President and the Seneca Nation Council if they disagree with them. And they did so a few years ago. And so there's a whole new model

where the Seneca Nation recognizes that the mothers of a nation have the final say if they want it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Goodell.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 149, Ms. Jackson.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2023 as Social Work Month in the State of New York.

MS. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this resolution. Happy Social Work Month. We proudly share this month with Women's History Month, and that's all right. We are not complaining. As a social worker, my main objective is to serve, is to serve, is to serve, and to do no harm. The mission of social work profession is rooted in a set of core values, okay, and we all should have them, regardless if you're a social worker or not: Service, social justice, dignity in the worth of a person, importance of human relationship, integrity and competence. Maya Angelou said, *I come as one, but I stand as 10,000. I come with my ancestors on my back.* To all the social workers who have paved the way for me to stand here as a Black woman, as a teenage mom, as a mom of two, born into poverty, child of an immigrant, but still an

LMSW, I say thank you, gracias.

I want to remind my social work friends, Brittney, Rebecca, Ava, Daniella, Atia, Stella, Donna Sue, La Kenya, Quinelle, Lauren, James, Desiree, this is our month so do not forget your self-care, because we are constantly exposed to trauma. We do our best to be empathetic, to remember the person and their environment, and to meet people where they're at. So to the social workers in the Chambers who are up here in the gallery, from Touro College, from Adelphi, my alma mater, Buffalo University, Binghamton, Daemen, Albany University, Cayuga, Yeshiva, we are the healers of the world. You all, this is our month. We come here and do this work tirelessly, thanklessly, and I say thank you today for being here. And we've talked about mental health so much during the pandemic and we said everyone needs to take care of their mental health. But the truth is, if you want to take care of social workers, pay them. I say thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. De Los Santos.

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on today's resolution honoring social worker. I also want to commend my colleague, Chantel Jackson, for her contributions to social services. As we continue to celebrate Women's History Month, let's also remember that we have a tremendous obligation within the social work community. Social workers play a vital role in keeping individuals and families and the entire community healthy and productive. They are in the front lines,

in the front lines of pushing for equal rights, human rights, advocating and always searching for resources. Let's continue you to reaffirm our commitment to ourself to supporting and elevating and empowering our community of social workers.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

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 Resolution No. 150, Mr. K. Brown.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 4, 2023 at Marching Music 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. 151, Mr. McDonald.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 6, 2023 as Missing Persons 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.

Mr. Beephan for an introduction, sir.

MR. BEEPHAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honorable colleagues, I apologize for the late introduction this morning, but as we celebrate Women's History Month, I am proud to say I have two wonderful women from my district here with me today. Both of them are town clerks. One is Laureen Abbatan -- I'm sorry, Abbatantuono, and another one is Andrea Casey from the Town of Union Vale. Both of these women are steadfast leaders within our community. All of us here have a passion for public service, but I can tell you coming from local government that town clerks are at the forefront of public service. They are constantly interacting with our residents, and they're the ones that make our towns, municipalities and counties look great.

So on behalf of myself, the Speaker and -- I ask that you -- you extend the cordialities of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Beephan, 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. Thank you for the service that you provide your communities. Please continue to do that. Know you are always welcome here. Congratulations.

(Applause)

Mr. Pirozzolo for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce today two outstanding people from Staten Island. Not only are they outstanding themselves, but the

organizations of which they represent. I have Jacqueline Filis from the Greater YMCA Counseling Service, and Luke Nasta from Camelot. Both of these individuals provide substance abuse, substance prevention, treatment and ongoing services, unfortunately, to people who suffer drug addictions and opioid addictions. They are here today to help me work on the funding that is being given out through the Opioid Settlement Board, so I asked them to stop in.

So, Mr. Speaker if you would, please recognize these outstanding individuals and the work they do, and give them the courtesy of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Pirozzolo, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. And, Luke, it's always good to see you. Know our history goes back a long way. Know that you always have a friend here in Albany on both sides of the aisle. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Page 4, Calendar No. 18, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00106-A, Calendar No. 18, L. Rosenthal. An act to amend the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of 1974 and the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to penalties for owners of property who fail to file a proper to timely rent registration statement.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00116, Calendar No.

19, Cruz, Kelles, Epstein. An act to amend the Correction Law, in relation to failure to complete a program for time allowances due to circumstances beyond an individual's control.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00604, Calendar No. 20, Paulin. An act to amend Chapter 566 of the Laws of 2019, authorizing the Commissioner of General Services to transfer and convey certain State land to the City of New Rochelle, in relation to the use of the property for the construction of municipal fire services and affordable housing; and extending the authority of the Commissioner of General Services to transfer and convey certain lands to the City of New Rochelle.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Paulin, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Home Rule message is at the desk.

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. A01057-B, Calendar No. 21, 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. A01142, Calendar No. 22, Kelles, Raga. An act to amend the General Construction Law, in relation to requiring the use of gender-neutral terms in law.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01153-A, Calendar No. 23, Vanel. An act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to unregistered and unlicensed mortgage brokers.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, would you please call on Mr. Jacobson for the purposes of an announcement?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Jacobson for the purposes of an announcement.

MR. JACOBSON: Sir, there's great news for the Majority Conference. We -- we have conference immediately

following Session in Hearing Room B.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Majority conference immediately following Session.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We do have numerous fine resolutions which we will take with one vote.

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 152-161 were unanimously adopted.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until 12:00 noon, Thursday, March the 9th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 3:13 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Thursday, March 9th at 12:00 p.m., Thursday being a Session day.)