

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2003

SESSION OF 2003 187TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 29

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, April 30, 2003

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend ERNESTINE BOLES, of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Middletown, offered the following prayer:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless Your holy name this day. For, Father God, as You stand as the divine lawgiver and the lawmaker, God, we come to humble ourselves, O God, in this place, knowing You are an omniscient and an all-present God, O Lord, and as we come this day, we ask You, O God, to allow Yourself to enter into this place. We ask You, O God, to stand in this place, O God, and stand, O God, as a waymaker. We know, Father God, as they come, O God, they come, O God, to present themselves before You and humble themselves in the wisdom, O God, that only You can give.

Father God, we ask You, God, to reach out, O God, and touch each one, Father God, individually and collectively, Lord, as they do the work, O God, that they have been sent to do. Lord, we ask You, God, to stand, O God, in this place, and, O God, You take, O God, whatever is needed, O Father, to, Lord God, move in the hearts and the minds of the lawmaker, O God, the God that they will give the laws, O God, in this State, that, Lord God, will protect children, O God, will move, O God, that it has respect for a person and it will bring, O God, the good that You have called for in such a time as this.

Father, we stretch our hands to Thee, for there is no other help that we know. And if we withdraw ourselves from Thee, wherever shall we go? We ask You, O God, to move and anoint this place, and, Father, as they walk this place, Lord God, let their feet, O God, know that it is sacred, O God, unto You to be praised in a place such as this, for such a time as this to do good.

Father, we ask it all, and we know, Father God, that it is done, and, Lord, we ask You, O God, that, Lord, You take it collectively and individually, and let it be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is our prayer. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Boles, who is the guest today of Senator O'Pake and Senator Piccola.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of the preceding Session of April 29, 2003.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the preceding Session, when, on motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, further reading was dispensed with and the Journal was approved.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

May 1, 2003

Russell W. [sic] Faber, Chief Clerk
Senate of Pennsylvania
Room 89, East Wing Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Faber:

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is pleased to submit to the General Assembly an annual report for the period April 30, 2002 through April 30, 2003, in accordance with Section 14.4 of Act 149 of 1988 (the Agricultural Area Security Law).

In the fifteen years since the authorizing legislation became effective, Pennsylvania's Farmland Protection Program has permanently preserved 252,296 acres of farmland in 51 counties. Act 149 provides for permanent preservation of agricultural land through the purchase of conservation easements from qualifying farmers. Easements can be purchased entirely with Commonwealth funds, with a combination of state and county funds, or solely with county matching funds. The Pennsylvania program is first in the nation in the number of acres preserved and is continuing to preserve farmland at a rate greater than any other state.

If you have any questions about the data supplied in this report or require additional information, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

DENNIS C. WOLFF
Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator D. WHITE, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following resolutions:

SR 60 (Pr. No. 784) (Amended)

A Concurrent Resolution establishing a special bipartisan legislative commission to develop legislation to provide direct and indirect assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency services in this Commonwealth.

SR 77 (Pr. No. 752)

A Resolution memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation to require the United States Army to retroactively award the Combat Medical Badge to all Vietnam personnel serving in the 91 military occupational specialty (MOS) who were assigned to helicopter ambulances.

The PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be placed on the Calendar.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I ask for legislative leaves for Senator Helfrick and Senator Scarnati.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill requests legislative leaves for Senator Helfrick and Senator Scarnati. Without objection, those leaves will be granted.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams, and a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Wagner.

The PRESIDENT. Senator O'Pake has requested a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams, and a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Wagner. Without objection, those leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator BRIGHTBILL asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator WENGER, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

Senator O'PAKE asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator TARTAGLIONE, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

(On April 28, 2003, a leave of absence for the week, for personal reasons, was granted for Senator PIPPY.)

CALENDAR

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 78 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 8 of the Calendar, as a Special Order of Business, **Senate Resolution No. 78**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of May 2003 as "Beef Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator BRIGHTBILL and were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Armstrong	Helfrick	Musto	Thompson
Boscola	Hughes	O'Pake	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Orie	Wagner
Conti	Kasunic	Piccola	Wagh
Corman	Kitchen	Pileggi	White, Donald
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	White, Mary Jo
Dent	LaValle	Rafferty	Williams, Anthony H.
Earl	Lemmond	Rhoades	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Logan	Robbins	Wonderling
Ferlo	Madigan	Schwartz	Wozniak
Fumo	Mellow	Stack	
Greenleaf	Mowery	Stout	

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

LEAVE CHANGE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I request a leave change for Senator Scarnati from a legislative leave to a personal leave.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, it will be granted.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUESTS OF SENATOR JEFFREY E. PICCOLA AND SENATOR MICHAEL A. O'PAKE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes Senator Piccola and Senator O'Pake, who have brought Pastor Ernestine Boles here. I would like to introduce her daughter, Stephanie Piper. Would you please stand so we can all give you a round of applause.
(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, we are very proud of Reverend Boles. She is the executive director of the Reading Head Start program, and we are grateful that her daughter, also my constituent, was able to join us here today.

In addition, we have in the gallery an outstanding young student from Reading. She is only 16 years old and she has already decided she wants to be the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a 10th grader at the Milton Hershey School, and she is shadowing some Members of the Senate today. She is very interested in government, and I would like the Senate to recognize Cassandra Wentzel from Reading, who is in the gallery.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator O'Pake please rise so we can give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT M. TOMLINSON PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Madam President, I would like to introduce some guests who came to Harrisburg to be with me today and enjoy this beautiful Capitol and see how the legislature works. I would like to introduce Carolee Eberwein, William and Philomena Walbert, and Betty LaVecchia. Also with them is our Bucks County Prothonotary, Pat Bechtle, from Newtown. I would like the Senate to give them a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Tomlinson please rise so we can give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR SEAN F. LOGAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Logan.

Senator LOGAN. Madam President, I have 75 students from the McKeesport Area School District with us today. They are from grades 7 through 12, and they traveled to Harrisburg today to participate in the Stand for Children campaign rally that was held in the Rotunda. They came up with the Mon Valley education consortium, and I would like my colleagues in the Senate to give them a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Logan please rise.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAMES J. RHOADES PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Rhoades.

Senator RHOADES. Madam President, with us today in the gallery from the Schuylkill Career and Technology Center, more specifically Schuylkill Technology South, are 28 students. They are in the plumbing/hydronic heating area, carpentry, and honors economics. Their instructor in plumbing and heating is Mr. Albert J. Wank, who is assisted by Marcia Jacavage in carpentry, and Mr. Bob Stablum is the honors economics instructor. I would introduce them but there are 28 students here. One of the things I have to say is they all know they are in a very exceptional area. The other thing that impresses me, too, is that they are wearing shirts and ties and dressed properly and professionally and ready to do the job, so I think that is a good sign and indicative of how fine these young men and women are.

With your indulgence and with the cooperation of the Senate, I would appreciate it if the Senate would extend to them its usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Rhoades please rise so we can give you a warm Senate welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. Today I have some guests. One group is the eighth grade class from the Cathedral School in Harrisburg with their teacher, Maureen Mackin. Would you please rise so we can give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. I am also so honored to have a person here from Channel 8 who is sort of following me today, and you might all know Kim Lemon. I do not think you know this about her, though. She has participated in a bike ride, a 3-day bike ride in memory of 9/11, from New York to Washington, and there were literally, I think, about 1,200 people on that ride. We are all very grateful to her, and if Kim would stand, the Senate will give her a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. She is really impressed with this magnificent Senate, so I hope that all of you will think about giving her an interview one of these days.

Thank you, Kim.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 636, SB 637, SB 638, SB 639, SB 640, SB 641, SB 642, SB 643, SB 644, SB 645, SB 646, SB 647, SB 648, SB 649, SB 650, SB 651, SB 652, SB 653, SB 654, SB 655, SB 656, SB 657, SB 658, SB 659, SB 660, SB 661, SB 662, SB 663, SB 664, SB 665 and SB 666 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 45 (Pr. No. 29) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for an offense relating to fake airbags and junk-filled airbag compartments.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Armstrong	Helfrick	Musto	Thompson
Boscola	Hughes	O'Pake	Tomlinson

Brightbill	Jubelirer	Orie	Wagner
Conti	Kasunic	Piccola	Waugh
Corman	Kitchen	Pileggi	White, Donald
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	White, Mary Jo
Dent	LaValle	Rafferty	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Lemmond	Rhoades	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Logan	Robbins	Wonderling
Ferlo	Madigan	Schwartz	Wozniak
Fumo	Mellow	Stack	
Greenleaf	Mowery	Stout	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 157 and **SB 257** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL AMENDED

SB 340 (Pr. No. 572) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating the new Livestock Meat Animal Evaluation Center at Pennsylvania State University as the Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Livestock Meat Animal Evaluation Center.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator CORMAN offered the following amendment No. A0446:

Amend Title, page 1, line 1, by striking out "Meat Animal"

Amend Title, page 1, line 3, by striking out "Meat Animal"

Amend Sec. 1, page 1, line 7, by striking out "Meat Animal"

Amend Sec. 1, page 1, lines 10 and 11, by striking out "Meat Animal"

Amend Sec. 1, page 1, line 15, by striking out "Meat Animal"

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE
AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 508 (Pr. No. 772) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 16, 1923 (P.L.207, No.153), referred to as the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law, further providing for redemption of vacant property.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 68, SB 79, HB 266 and **HB 267** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 279 (Pr. No. 289) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for a special motorcycle registration plate for veterans.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 356 and **SB 371** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 680 (Pr. No. 778) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for annual budget of school districts.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 66, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 8 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 66**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 4 through 10, 2003, as "Pennsylvania Home Education Week."

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 79, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 8 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 79**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 4 through 10, 2003, as "Food Allergy Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 80, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 8 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 80**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of May 2003 as "Community Action Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to begin immediately in the Rules room at the rear of the Senate Chamber. We expect to be back on the floor in about 5 minutes.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the Senate will stand in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Senator ROBBINS, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported a communication from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, recalling the following nomination, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

SULLIVAN COUNTY JURY COMMISSIONER

April 29, 2003

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated April 21, 2003, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, as Jury Commissioner, in and for the County of Sullivan, to serve until the first Monday of January 2004, vice Dorothy P. Schoch, deceased.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

NOMINATION RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I move that the nomination just read by the Clerk be returned to His Excellency, the Governor.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The nomination will be returned to the Governor.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Senator ROBBINS, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following nominations made by His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

March 14, 2003

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kathleen Pavelko, 5 Chantilly Court, Mechanicsburg 17050, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice James Adovasio, Ph.D., Erie, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

BRIGADIER GENERAL, PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

March 11, 2003

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Colonel Jerry G. Beck, Jr., 20 Egret Circle, Denver 17517, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Brigadier General, LINE, with assignment as Deputy Commander, Headquarters 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, to serve until terminated, vice Brigadier General John T. vonTrott, reassigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I request that the nominations just read by the Clerk be laid on the table.

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be laid on the table.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator ROBBINS,
That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session
for the purpose of considering certain nominations made by the
Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM TABLE

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I call from the table
certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

**MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION**

March 14, 2003

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the
advice and consent of the Senate, Kathleen Pavelko, 5 Chantilly Court,
Mechanicsburg 17050, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial
District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission, to serve until the third Tuesday of January
2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice James
Adovasio, Ph.D., Erie, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**BRIGADIER GENERAL, PENNSYLVANIA
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

March 11, 2003

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the
advice and consent of the Senate, Colonel Jerry G. Beck, Jr., 20 Egret
Circle, Denver 17517, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial Dis-
trict, for appointment as Brigadier General, LINE, with assignment as
Deputy Commander, Headquarters 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania
Army National Guard, to serve until terminated, vice Brigadier General
John T. vonTrott, reassigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

On the question,
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator ROBBINS and
were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Armstrong	Helfrick	Musto	Thompson
Boscola	Hughes	O'Pake	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Orie	Wagner
Conti	Kasunic	Piccola	Waugh

Corman	Kitchen	Pileggi	White, Donald
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	White, Mary Jo
Dent	LaValle	Rafferty	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Lemmond	Rhoades	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Logan	Robbins	Wonderling
Ferlo	Madigan	Schwartz	Wozniak
Fumo	Mellow	Stack	
Greenleaf	Mowery	Stout	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted
"aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I move that the Execu-
tive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Senators STACK, FERLO, LOGAN, MUSTO, KUKOVICH,
STOUT, EARLL, M. WHITE, CONTI, DENT, COSTA,
WENGER, LAVALLE, THOMPSON, ORIE, WAGNER,
BRIGHTBILL, CORMAN, HUGHES, ARMSTRONG,
KITCHEN, WONDERLING, O'PAKE, SCHWARTZ, GREEN-
LEAF, MELLOW, ROBBINS, ERICKSON, TARTAGLIONE,
RAFFERTY, A. WILLIAMS, WOZNIAK, BOSCOLA and C.
WILLIAMS, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution
No. 88**, entitled:

A Resolution proclaiming the week of May 3 through 10, 2003, as
"SAFE KIDS Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from
Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Madam President, I rise to offer this resolu-
tion proclaiming the week of May 3 through 10 as "Safe Kids
Week" in Pennsylvania. From 1996 through 2000, more than
1,200 Pennsylvania children under the age of 15 lost their lives
because of violence and unintentional injuries. The causes of
death included falls, motor vehicle crashes, bicycle crashes, poi-
sonings, fires, choking, scalding, and drowning incidents. It is
pretty scary, but it gets worse. Each year one out of every four
children is hurt seriously enough to require medical attention.
These injuries cost society \$165 billion annually. All in all, pre-
ventable injuries are the number one killer of children 14 years
and under in the United States. Yet 90 percent of these injuries
could have been prevented if families had taken the simple steps
necessary to protect their children.

Dr. C. Everett Koop, Chairman of the National Safe Kids
Campaign, offers this observation: If a disease were killing our
children at the rate unintentional injuries are, the public would be
outraged and demand that this killer be stopped. Based on the
numbers, I find it hard to disagree, Madam President. Fortu-

nately, Pennsylvanians have decided not to sit idly by and watch these trends continue. In cooperation with a national grassroots movement, the Pennsylvania Safe Kids Coalition was formed to aggressively promote awareness of the need to prevent childhood injuries. Currently, there are Safe Kids Coalitions in 13 counties and Safe Kids Chapters in 24 additional counties. Awareness, education, and understanding are the tools we have at hand to combat the epidemic of serious, preventable injuries. Once risks are comprehended, steps can be taken in the household, the community, and the school to create safer environments for our children.

Madam President, in recognition of this serious problem and the need to provide remedies, I urge unanimous approval of this resolution proclaiming May 3 through 10 as "Safe Kids Week" in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. David McMichael, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Herr, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Martin, Michael H. Allen, Jr., Jonathan D. Naff, Matthew W. Pyle and to Peter D. Allen by Senator Armstrong.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sean P. Hand, Domenick Patrick Rosato, Christopher G. Adams, Beverly C. Allen, Elaine D. Pivinski, Joshua Haines, Jonathan Oplinger, Jeffrey Ecklof, Joseph Ecklof, Jason Dagnall, Terry Hannold and to the Northampton High School Varsity Wrestling Team by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Phil Fitzpatrick and to the Levittown-Fairless Hills Rescue Squad by Senators Conti and Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Laentena Shelley, Justin Allen Pifer and to Ashley N. Matter by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mary Lou Scarf, Anita L. Kelly and to Mark J. Keeler by Senators Dent, Wonderling, and Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Art and Mary Harrover, John and Toni Sarmacy, Ray Fern, Emil DelCimuto, David Voelker, Richard Voelker and to Marcia Deaktor by Senator Ferlo.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Karl E. Fisher by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kelly, Christopher J. Martin, David John Santarelli and to Jessi Perruquet by Senator Helfrick.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the City of St. Polten, Austria, and to the Mishler Theatre by Senator Jubelirer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to William B. Lynch by Senator Jubelirer on behalf of Senator Pippy.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Vaughn, Honorable William J. Franks and to Joseph R. Teets by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Temple University Children's Medical Center of Philadelphia and to the Special Olympics Philadelphia Annual May Games Competition by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Johnathan Garlow, Shane Thomas Lavin and to Robert Likar by Senator Kukovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Jewish Family Service of Greater Wilkes-Barre by Senators Lemmond and Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Plum Food Pantry of Pittsburgh by Senator Logan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mosier, Mr. and Mrs. George Howland, Timothy James Storm and to Bryan James Schmitt by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Frances G. Langan and to Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank of Dunmore by Senator Mellow.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nancy J. Towsey, Norman Maynard Smith and to Michael Devlin by Senator Mowery.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Karaffa, Ann Genetti McNelis and to Gary J. Foose by Senator Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Father Nicholas S. Rashford by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to West Deer No. 3 Volunteer Fire Company of Gibsonia by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Roberts, Jr., by Senator Piccola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Christopher McCarty by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lindsay Mitchalk by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Diana Perry, William Frederick Brandenstein and to the citizens of the Borough of Jamestown by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lauria Berrier, Amanda Frederick, Rebecca Rishell, Tiffany Truesdale and to Leadership Tioga County's Youth Leadership Program Class of 2003 by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Elliot Shelkrot, Emanuel Freeman and to Sun Ra Arkestra of Germantown by Senator Schwartz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Milliken and to Velma Sumney by Senator Stout.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to New Freedom Trail Church of the Nazarene by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Donald Glen Smith by Senator Wenger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to 422 Homes by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Richard D. Frederick, Benjamin Stewart Brooks, Gregory Michael Hartle, James E. Arner, Sarah Elizabeth Smith, Frank Kenneth

Magagnotti, Christina Dawn Rankin and to Jaime Lyn Weeter by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. William Dillard, Jr., by Senator A.H. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rabbi Henry Cohen and to the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Alex Shaver and to the Bishop Carroll High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team by Senator Wozniak.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mercer, Senator Robbins.

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, today we passed Senate Resolution No. 80, which designates the month of May as "Community Action Month" in honor of the month that the 43 community action agencies in our Commonwealth provide to all 67 counties. For over 35 years, community action agencies have provided outreach to low-income individuals and families to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Through locally designated programs, community action addresses a multitude of needs, including food, emergency and affordable housing, home weatherization, literacy in education, job training and placement, transportation, day care, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and personal and family development. The truth is, community action changes lives by helping people help themselves.

Today we recognize the good work done by those involved in community action. I have seen firsthand the work done in my district in the Mercer County Community Action Agency, headed by Ron Errett.

Again, I thank all the staff who work at community action agencies for all that they do, and continue to do, for the community.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Piccola.

Senator PICCOLA. Madam President, about 10 or 15 miles down river from where we are sitting today is a nuclear power plant, Three Mile Island. It is probably the most famous nuclear power plant in the world after the events of March 1979, when the people of central Pennsylvania were traumatized by the world famous, or infamous, nuclear power accident that occurred there, and the focus of the world was on Middletown and Three Mile Island for days and weeks during that period of time. At the time of that accident, Governor Dick Thornburgh exercised extraordinary leadership in containing the effects of that accident, but more importantly, in reassuring the people of central Pennsylvania that he and the State of Pennsylvania, as well as the Federal government, in conjunction with President Jimmy Carter, were going to do everything in their power to make sure that the citizens of this region would be safe from any emission of radioactive material from Three Mile Island. We have lived with that nuclear power plant for over the last 20 years, always having it in the back of our minds. And in the year 2001 and 2002, after the events of September 11, 2001, under the leadership of Governor Ridge and Governor Schweiker, special attention was paid to

the security at Three Mile Island, as well as the other nuclear power plants of the Pennsylvania. And due to the concern of the residents of this region, as well as the concern of local government officials and the State legislative delegation, Governor Ridge and Governor Schweiker devoted extraordinary State Police and National Guard attention and security around the clock at Three Mile Island.

It is for that reason, Madam President, that today I come to the floor of the Senate rather stunned and disappointed at the rather precipitous action that has apparently been taken today by Governor Rendell, announcing that effective at midnight tonight, the around-the-clock security by National Guard and State Police at all of the nuclear power plants of Pennsylvania will be terminated. The precipitous action that Governor Rendell is taking tonight may or may not be justified. I simply do not know, because I only learned of this announcement a few hours ago by way of a press release that I obtained emanating from the Governor's Office. As far as I know, there has been absolutely no consultation on this action by anyone in State government, with any Member of the legislative delegation either here in central Pennsylvania or around any other nuclear power plant throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I know for a fact that the borough of Middletown, situated in close proximity to Three Mile Island, was not consulted in advance. They learned of this action from my office. I know for a fact that the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency, charged with evacuation procedures and some of the notification procedures attendant to that plant and that emergency plan down there, was not notified in advance of this action and heard it first from my office. I know for a fact, Madam President, that this is not a partisan issue, because my good friend and colleague from western Pennsylvania, Representative Mike Veon, in recent months has called for an extended National Guard presence at the nuclear power plants in Pennsylvania, due to the heightened security risks attendant to the war on terrorism. And in spite of the fact that we have had a slight reduction in the level of alert, it seems to me that at the end of the hostilities in the Middle East, now is not the time to be reducing State presence at the nuclear power facilities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I know for a fact, Madam President, that the people of my district and the central Pennsylvania region, having suffered the trauma of 1979, do not want a power plant like Three Mile Island, world famous, world famous, Madam President, and we know for a fact that it was a potential target of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, we do not want to see the security of that facility compromised.

I am rather disappointed that the Governor failed to at least inform us in advance of this action that he has taken, and I am calling on him today, Madam President, and I hope soon in conjunction with many of my colleagues in the General Assembly, to call upon him to delay and postpone indefinitely this precipitous action until he and his experts in State government have had the opportunity to explain to us, to explain to the local government officials of central Pennsylvania, and all of Pennsylvania, as well as the people of central Pennsylvania, why this action is in their best interests and why it should be done.

So today, Madam President, I rise on the floor of the Senate to express my disappointment in the Governor and his rather precipitous action and his failure to communicate, not only to the

legislature and not only to the local government officials, but to take this precipitous action without even consulting the people of Pennsylvania whose lives and security are at risk in proximity to these plants.

Madam President, I thank you for allowing me to make these remarks under Petitions and Remonstrances.

ADJOURNMENT

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Piccola.

Senator PICCOLA. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, May 5, 2003, at 2 o'clock p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 12:55 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.