

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2002

SESSION OF 2002

186TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 17

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 12 m., e.s.t.

THE SPEAKER (MATTHEW J. RYAN) PRESIDING

PRAYER

REV. MICHAEL A. DUNFEE, Chaplain of the House of Representatives and pastor of Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Great and Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, giver of all good and perfect gifts, may Your blessing rest upon Your servant, Wallis Brooks, who seeks to serve You by serving the people of this Commonwealth.

Keep her and her family from all harm and all danger. Grant her the courage, the wisdom, and the will to do the right thing. As she seeks to live out her calling, may she turn often to You and find her strength renewed to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members and visitors.)

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Thursday, February 14, 2002, will be postponed until printed. The Chair hears no objection.

The Speaker refers the following bills, which the clerk will read. We are doing a little housekeeping before we go into the formal ceremony.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 2382 By Representatives WALKO, RUFFING, LAUGHLIN, ROBINSON, HORSEY, JAMES, COSTA, LEVDANSKY, MARKOSEK, WASHINGTON, TRELLO, DERMODY, PISTELLA, FRANKEL, STEELMAN, LESCOVITZ, YOUNGBLOOD, ROBERTS and PALLONE

An Act providing for the implementation and application of new assessed values after a countywide reassessment; establishing procedures

for notice, appeal and hearings related to reassessments; and providing for certifications.

Referred to Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS, February 25, 2002.

No. 2383 By Representatives PALLONE, SOLOBAY, COSTA, PETRARCA, M. BAKER, BASTIAN, CAPPELLI, COY, CREIGHTON, FREEMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, JAMES, KAISER, LAUGHLIN, MARKOSEK, MELIO, MICHLOVIC, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROBERTS, ROONEY, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SHANER, STAIRS, STEELMAN, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ, WOJNAROSKI, YUDICHAK and PIPPY

An Act amending the act of March 28, 1984 (P.L. 150, No. 28), known as the Automobile Lemon Law, further providing for definitions and for civil cause of action.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, February 25, 2002.

No. 2384 By Representatives J. TAYLOR, ARMSTRONG, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BLAUM, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, L. I. COHEN, COSTA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALLY, EACHUS, FICHTER, FLICK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, HARHAI, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, LYNCH, MANN, MARKOSEK, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MICOZZIE, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROBERTS, RUBLEY, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STEELMAN, STURLA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRELLO, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act establishing the Municipal Firefighter Education and Training Program; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, February 25, 2002.

No. 2385 By Representatives LEVDANSKY, J. TAYLOR, DeWEESE, VEON, FREEMAN, TANGRETTI, SURRA, TURZAI, MANDERINO, GRUCELA, CURRY, BEBKO-JONES, M. COHEN, McGEEHAN, HALUSKA, YOUNGBLOOD, PALLONE, JOSEPHS, MELIO, CORRIGAN, PRESTON, HARHAI, WASHINGTON, PISTELLA, TRICH, THOMAS, WOJNAROSKI, COSTA, HORSEY, SCRIMENTI, DAILEY, YUDICHAK, SANTONI, STURLA, TRAVAGLIO, WANSACZ and G. WRIGHT

An Act amending the act of July 28, 1988 (P.L.556, No.101), known as the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, further providing for the Recycling Fund; providing for agency duties; establishing the Community Renewal and Conservation Heritage Account; and making repeals.

Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, February 25, 2002.

HOUSE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 434 By Representatives WANSACZ, SANTONI, WATSON, READSHAW, GEORGE, WASHINGTON, COY, GRUCELA, JAMES, SHANER, WOJNAROSKI, MELIO, LAUGHLIN, PETRARCA, PRESTON, CALTAGIRONE, HARHAI, PALLONE, CREIGHTON, KIRKLAND, GEIST, HORSEY, MCGILL, MCGEEHAN, MYERS, STEELMAN, MICHLOVIC, THOMAS, MAJOR, SCHRODER, WALKO, STABACK, MANDERINO, G. WRIGHT, YOUNGBLOOD, CURRY, BEBKO-JONES, JOSEPHS, STURLA and WILT

A Resolution urging the Department of Health to develop a task force to investigate the health effects of toxic mold.

Referred to Committee on RULES, February 25, 2002.

COMMUNICATION FROM PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The SPEAKER. The Chair acknowledges receipt of the report of the current 911 systems submitted by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

PETITION REFERRED

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Article VI, section 4, of the Constitution, the Speaker is hereby referring the attached petition for impeachment to the Judiciary Committee.

COMMUNICATION FROM PENNSYLVANIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER. The Chair acknowledges receipt of the operating budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 for the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER. The Chair acknowledges receipt of the 2000-2001 Public Utility Commission annual report.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

COMMUNICATION FROM INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

The SPEAKER. The Speaker acknowledges receipt of the report on the Insurance Department's Flood Insurance Consumer Education Plan.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

WRIT OF SPECIAL ELECTION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker submits for the record the writ of special election for the 176th Legislative District.

The following writ of special election was submitted:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, SS:

TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL WEAVER, ACTING SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AND TO MARIO SCAVELLO, CHAIRMAN, DONNA ASURE AND JAMES E. CADUE, CONSTITUTING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF MONROE COUNTY.

GREETINGS: WHEREAS, A vacancy exists in the office of Representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the One Hundred Seventy-sixth Legislative District of the County of Monroe, consisting of the townships of Coolbaugh, Jackson, Paradise, Pocono and Stroud (Part, Districts 02, 03 and 04) and the boroughs of East Stroudsburg, Mount Pocono and Stroudsburg, caused by the reason of the resignation of Chris R. Wogan, the 9th day of January, two thousand two.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew J. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and by the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided, do hereby command you:

That you cause an election to be held in the said County of Monroe on the 23rd day of April, A.D., two thousand and two to choose a person to represent said Legislative District in the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, for the remainder of the term expiring November 30th, two thousand and two, and that you give due and public notice of said election throughout said District, in the form and manner directed by law.

Given under my hand and the seal of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, this 19th day of February, A.D., two thousand two.

Matthew J. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives (SEAL)

ATTEST:
Ted Mazia
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the House will now take up the swearing in of Representative-elect Wallis Brooks. The Chair hears no objections.

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dick Filling, Commissioner of Elections.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Commissioner Filling.

Mr. FILLING. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of presenting the returns for the special election held February 12, 2002, in the 149th Legislative District.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the Commissioner.

The clerk will read the returns, please.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the Special Election for Representative in the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania held in the One hundred forty-ninth Legislative District, as the same has been certified to and filed with my office by the Montgomery County Board of Elections. Wallis W. Brooks, having received the highest number of votes in the Special Election, and having complied with the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code pertaining to Primary and Election Expenses, was duly elected a Representative in the General Assembly.

* * *

SPECIAL ELECTION
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
149TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
FEBRUARY 12, 2002

OFFICIAL RESULTS

	VOTE TOTALS
Republican – Wallis W. Brooks	3,922
Democratic – Daylin Leach	3,616
Independent – Angelo C. Faragalli	637

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of State
Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation
February 26, 2002

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code [25 P.S. §3252(b)], I do hereby certify that the candidate who was elected Representative in the General Assembly from the

149th District in the Special Election held February 12, 2002, Wallis W. Brooks, has filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled “Primary and Election Expenses.”

(SEAL) Witness my hand and the seal of my office this twenty-sixth day of February, 2002.

C. Michael Weaver
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

REMARKS BY JUDGE TRESSLER

The SPEAKER. The Chair requests the Representative-elect to stand in the well of the House for the purpose of taking the oath.

The oath of office required by Article VI, section 3, of the Constitution to be taken by members of the General Assembly will now be administered by the Honorable Paul Tressler, judge of the Court of Common Pleas located in Montgomery County.

Judge Tressler.

JUDGE TRESSLER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank all of you for being here today for Wally’s day. I would be remiss if I did not make a comment or two with respect to Wally, and I was given the opportunity as long as it was brief, and it will be.

It is my distinct pleasure to be here today to administer your oath, Wally, to this office, and I hope and I trust it will be just the beginning of many such oaths that you take.

Wally worked in the district attorney’s office; she was assigned to my court, and she is an outstanding – I do not want to say young lady – woman. During her time with me, there is no question in my mind she has tremendous integrity, she has tremendous fairness, and she has the ability to make tough decisions, and I think that all of you here will be benefited from her talents.

I am sorry that she is going to be leaving, and I know that the judges in our county will miss her. On the other hand, I know she is going to bring the same industriousness, the same intelligence, and the same integrity to the office that she is now going to serve, and I believe honestly that within a short period of time, the people you represent will know how blessed they are.

I will tell you right now, I ran into Ray Bunt, Representative Bunt, and Representative Fichter this morning. They told me they were going to take you under their wing. Wally, do not allow that to happen.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

JUDGE TRESSLER. Who is going to hold the Bible for you, your children? All right.

Will you place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me.

I, Wallis Brooks, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Member asserted oath.)

JUDGE TRESSLER. Congratulations. God bless you.

GUEST INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. I would like at this time to introduce a former neighbor of mine in Avalon, New Jersey, Judge Tressler's wife, Nancy. I had not seen her in quite a while until this morning when the judge came to my chambers, and we looked at one another and, you know, something looked familiar, and then she had the good sense to tell me what it was. At my age, I forget.

REMARKS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Judge, I am more political than you; I welcome this young woman to Harrisburg.

On behalf of all the members of the House of Representatives, I am pleased to welcome our newest colleague, the honorable lady from Montgomery County, Wallis Brooks. It will take me awhile to swing from Wallis to Wally, because when – and this is not part of my script – when I was told the name of our candidate, Wally Brooks, I am expecting a baseball player or, I was not quite sure what to expect, and then all of a sudden when I met Wally, I understood how wrong, how terribly wrong, I was in my expectations, and let me just say really from the bottom of my heart that we welcome you here very much.

It is a special day for you as you join us in this chamber to work for the good of the people that you are now going to represent as a Representative. It is special because it is the day you took an oath to preserve, protect, and serve with fidelity, and it is also special because you are joined here by your lovely family, your five children, Bradley, Erica, Joanna, Christina – four children, pardon me. Maybe something is missing here that I did not catch.

It is nice to see, it is nice to see that you brought your own judge. We occasionally have to provide judges, and from time to time I have brought my wife with me to perform that function. She is a member of the bench and knows Judge Tressler.

We are honored that your mentor and friend, the district attorney of Montgomery County, is here with you. Mr. District Attorney, would you please rise? I am sure you are well known to everybody here, but there are some from other parts of the State. The district attorney, the very distinguished district attorney, from Montgomery County, Bruce Castor. We not only salute his good counsel but his good sense in suggesting to you and urging you to run for this seat, and throughout this campaign I know he gave you 100 percent of his support or perhaps more.

We are very, very honored to have Judge Tressler with us to administer the oath. He, I am told, is a friend of yours, a longstanding professional friend, and I also understand it will be difficult for him to contain his pride as he swears in one of "Tressler's angels." That is apparently an inside joke that someone on my staff knew about.

Your hard work in the administration of justice as an assistant district attorney – and I was amazed by this number, and I am not sure where it came from, but I would hold on to it dearly – of disposing of as many as 100 cases in a day – that must have been a class-action guilty plea – has earned you the reputation that you now have as one of Tressler's angels, and it enhances, of course, your own professional reputation. I invite you to continue that enthusiastic hard work while you are here in the House, and when you do, you will then become one of Ryan's angels or Perzel's angels or Barley's angels or some of the others of us with whom you will be working over the years. As a former prosecutor, you have shown yourself to be very dedicated, dedicated to those

you have promised to serve as a government official.

As you embark on this journey as a legislator and a lawmaker, I am sure you will realize soon enough that your success will depend on knowing when to fight and when to negotiate and chiefly the differences between the two. Here you will find – and sometimes it takes a little while – you will find that negotiation is the key to legislation. There are 203 members of the House and there are 50 in the Senate, and you cannot be right all of the time. The other guy is right, too, occasionally, and you have got to be prepared to negotiate and get the best that you can get under the circumstances. In the end, if you keep these things in mind, your ultimate goals of our efforts here, you will find, transcend the political process. They revolve, rather, around the development of character, that indefinable quality that leads individuals to be responsible citizens.

Few legislators here are known for big wins. Very few of us have ever done anything that will go down in history with our names on it as a big victory. Most of us, hopefully, are known for our steady day-in-and-day-out performance in just trying to meet the needs of our constituents and for the careful, thoughtful consideration they give the thousands of votes cast in this chamber. Attention to these matters, in my judgment, is the true measure of being a worthy member of this institution.

All of us look forward to working with you. Your energy, openness, and friendly advice are always welcome.

You follow in the footsteps of a gentlewoman and friend who will be missed in the chamber, the former Representative and now Senator, Connie Williams, and while we miss Senator Williams, I join the electorate of your district in having no doubt that you are up to the task and will represent them to the utmost of your ability.

Let me add my congratulations to that of your friends, those of our members who are present today, and welcome you once again to the House of Representatives. You will enjoy it. I have. I do not make many mistakes, and I did not make one when I did this. Somebody said I should not campaign this time on term limits, because I have been here 40 years. It is a wonderful, wonderful place to be, and you will meet the nicest people you will ever meet in all of your life right here in the chamber of this House.

Thank you for running, and congratulations on being elected.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. I wonder if the majority leader, do you care to make any comments?

Mr. PERZEL. Yes, I would like to make a few, Mr. Speaker.

I would like Wally to realize that she is not even close to Bunt and Fichter on the seating chart on the floor of the House, so we made sure that she was not back too close to the bad influence that they could extend on her.

A couple of things, a couple of important things. I mean, you are really privileged to be here today with all of your friends and supporters, because normally when we are sworn in, we get four tickets. So in January of '03 when you come back, Wally, there are only going to be four people sitting here wishing you well on swearing-in day, so make sure that you pick the four carefully. Well, I am sure who the four would be.

There was a lot of talk, you know, about this being an election, for you it was going to be a hard win, a hard-fought fight, and they were going to get rid of you right after this election. I just wanted you to know in 1976— Well, I did lose in '76. I ran in 1978, and I won by 4,000 in a district that was 3-to-1 Democrat. Obviously

you can win; I am still here, and you can, too, but it is going to take this teamwork. You really did an awful lot of door-to-door. It is meeting your fellow citizens and explaining what you stand for and what you believe in – that is what this is really all about – and then coming here and trying to persuade your colleagues that the ideas and the thoughts that you have are good for everybody in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and at that point in time it really does come to compromise. Just when they were talking about getting your bills passed and how many you have done, I was just saying to John Barley behind me that I got my second one passed last year in my 23 years here. So it is a little tough to get them passed; they are few and far between, but they are all meaningful.

But you do have an influence on all the things that we will be able to do here, you really do, and every member, we try to hear what they have to say and we try to put their input into each of the pieces of legislation that we pass. So to that extent you are going to be able to do an awful lot of things for the people of your community, so I wish you luck with that.

You know what it was like going— I was told by Michael to mention door-to-door at least six times; I am up to number two. But it is. I mean, everybody here will tell you that that is the key. I mean, Lita Cohen when she first ran, she was incredible, absolutely incredible. She would change outfits in the back of the car with the photographers there in order to be able to hit the next 500 houses she had to go to. But, I mean, that was dedication.

I want to thank Bruce for what he did. When we called and said we needed a candidate for this district, he said, do not worry about it; I have got Wally Brooks; she is right here, and he was right. You know that Dick McClatchy held this seat for a very, very long time and then Colleen Sheehan and then Connie Williams. So it has been very difficult; it was hard for you to win and it was a close victory, but hard work will pay off, and I believe that you are going to be back here in January. You have your children here, and we hope to see them all back here.

I would like to wish you good luck. I would like to tell you that, truthfully, our doors are open. My home phone number is listed. And Bill DeWeese, he talks a little bit, gets a little carried away with the big words, but if you really want to ask a question, he will try to help. All the members here will try to help, both sides of the aisle. And you are going to find it a really neat experience. It is truly unlike anything you have ever done in your life, and we are all equals. That is why when the press says that I make everybody do what I want, I say everybody has one vote; I do not make anybody do anything. If you are with us, you are with us; if you are not, well, I can understand.

But good luck. I am really pleased to have you here. It was a hard-fought campaign, and you deserve an awful lot of credit for what happened here.

Thank you, congratulations, and if we can help, you know where we are.

REMARKS BY MRS. BROOKS

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The lady from Montgomery, if you would do me the kindness of going over to where Mr. Perzel was and perhaps introducing any members of your family that you would care to introduce to the House.

Mrs. BROOKS. Well, this is my first surprise. I was told I would not speak.

I would like to introduce my children, whom I am enormously proud of and love dearly: Bradley is 22 and Erica, 19; Joanna, 17; and Christy, 15.

There are some very good friends here I would love to introduce. Gail and Tom Hough; they have been with me all the way for 20-something years, and they are just terrific people. Kate McMahon, who has been kind enough to give up her son to work in our office, Patrick. Patrick, do you want to stand up? First official duty. And of course, Tracey Specter is here and Ken Davis and Scott Zeloff and Marilyn Vaccarello, who worked a tremendous amount of hours and really was an invaluable person on the team, and all the committee people. I am thrilled to death Judge Tressler is here. He drives a hard courtroom. We did a lot of work in his courtroom and a lot of good work. And of course, my dear friend, Pastor Dunfee. And we also have a second judge here. I do not know if you know that Judge Tressler's wife is also called Judge Nancy.

Anyway, it has been an exciting experience for me. I have truly loved it. I was back to door-to-door yesterday, and I came to a particular door and this woman said, what is my State legislator doing going door to door again, and I thought, I am her State legislator and she is now giving input on what I should be doing. And I thought, this is what it is all about; someone now thinks they can come to me, comment on what, you know, I should be doing, and feeling that they could talk to me about it, and that is how I want to be known, as approachable, available. And I am very outgoing and I love to talk to people, so I think this will be a great experience, and I really want to work for the people back home.

Thanks very much. Thanks to everybody that came. I am thrilled.

REMARKS BY MR. COHEN

The SPEAKER. One of the Democratic leaders happens to be in the hall of the House. You maybe saw me point to him a moment ago and ask a question, silent question, and he quickly shook his head in the affirmative that he would like to also join in welcoming you, and the Chair accordingly recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Cohen.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Democratic Caucus, the most recent alma mater of Senator Connie Williams, it is my pleasure to welcome you, your family, and your friends to Harrisburg. Wallis Brooks, you have worked hard to get here – too hard, some of our most fervent Democratic campaigners would say. Whether you just serve out your term or serve with the same length of time as some of your distinguished predecessors, you will remember your tenure here, I hope fondly, for the rest of your days.

You have come to Harrisburg at the best of times and the worst of times. The paradox of this famous Charles Dickens phrase applies, because you have many vital decisions to make with record speed. These decisions will not only define your relationship with your constituency but will, more importantly, define your relationship with the future of Pennsylvania. You will help set the direction of Pennsylvania for many decades to come.

Already in this ceremony you have received somewhat conflicting advice from Speaker Ryan and Judge Tressler, and the conflicts in advice that you will get are just beginning.

In your district it is an understatement to say that there is no shortage of legal opinions and medical opinions. As the legislative game of ping-pong and the tough issue of medical malpractice continues, already the House has passed the first version of medical malpractice reform, the Senate passed the second, the House the third. The pressures on you on this issue will ratchet up daily.

As emotionally wrenching as the medical malpractice issue is, it is just the beginning. This is a tough budget year. Twenty-three years ago your predecessor, Dick McClatchy, a strong fiscal conservative, led a successful effort to raise tax rates with near unanimous Republican support. He did it because he and Dick Thornburgh felt it had to be done because of tough economic times. These times are also tough. The bills for past decisions are coming due.

You have undoubtedly become extremely familiar with polling in the past few months. The problem is that a lot of issues that poll well have long-term consequences, some of which are adverse for even the best of policies. Polling samples and focus groups may not face the long-term consequences of the policies they favor, but this year, you must.

For instance, because of our long-term sentencing policies, we have a record number of prisoners who cost taxpayers upwards of \$25,000 a year apiece.

We in the General Assembly wanted to push people off the welfare rolls. Some did leave the welfare rolls and made a successful new start, but others cannot work or cannot find work. Their 5-year eligibility period expires shortly, and this may or may not be a time when compassion and prudence overwhelm political rhetoric.

We wanted to show Philadelphia that its schools could be run far better. A new School Reform Commission was appointed and granted extraordinary new powers. We need more money, the School Reform Commission said almost immediately upon being appointed, echoing the position of the prior school board. Governor Schweiker's budget proposals give more money for Philadelphia, \$75 million, but only a 1-percent school district increase for the rest of the State. With hundreds of Philadelphia school district employees in your district and thousands of school students in your district, you have tough decisions to make on school funding.

The list goes on and on. Is the postponement of tax cuts a tax increase? You will decide. When do tax incentives to attract business become fiscal irresponsibility that repels business? That will be your call, too. And finally, on this sunny, happy day, how much rain is falling in Pennsylvania? In other words, how much of Pennsylvania's Rainy Day Fund savings account should be tapped or saved? Speaker Benjamin Franklin said a penny saved is a penny earned, but after becoming Speaker, he was defeated for reelection.

As a Republican Representative from a historically Republican but now marginally Democratic district, you face unique political challenges this year. Above all, in the midst of the massive conflicting pressures, you must deal with the demands of your own conscience.

If Democratic leader Bill DeWeese were here today, he would regale this audience with quotes from Shakespeare. "I quote Purdon's, DeWeese quotes Shakespeare," the character playing Matt Ryan once complained in a skit at the Pennsylvania Gridiron Dinner. I assume you have read both Shakespeare and Purdon's, so I will quote three of my high school teachers instead.

Their advice has stuck with me over the years. "The facts are hard to come by," Benjamin Sherzer said. "Of course this test is cumulative," Selig Savitz responded. "Life is cumulative." "Always be true to your ideals," Cy Swartz wrote. "Continue to probe and think."

When I won a special election for the House nearly 28 years ago, the Republican leader, Bob Butera, now on the verge of retiring as head of the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, came over to me wearing a very wide smile. "We're the bad guys," he said, with a welcoming handshake. You will find here that there are no bad guys, just bad choices and bad problems. Let us work together to make Pennsylvania a better place for our current citizens and for future generations.

Thank you.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The SPEAKER. The clerk will read a report of the Committee on Committees.

The following report was read:

February 27, 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES

Representative John Taylor resigns from the House Standing Committee on Aging & Older Adult Services.

Representative-Elect Wallis Brooks is appointed to fill the vacancy on the House Standing Committee on Aging & Older Adult Services.

JUDICIARY

Representative Chris Wogan resigns from the House Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Representative-Elect Wallis Brooks is appointed to fill the vacancy on the House Standing Committee on Judiciary.

LIQUOR CONTROL

Representative John Taylor resigns from the House Standing Committee on Liquor Control.

Representative-Elect Wallis Brooks is appointed to fill the vacancy on the House Standing Committee on Liquor Control.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Representative John Taylor resigns from the House Standing Committee on State Government.

Representative-Elect Wallis Brooks is appointed to fill the vacancy on the House Standing Committee on State Government.

Respectfully submitted,
George C. Hasay, Chairman
Committee on Committees

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?
Resolution was adopted.

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time would like to once again thank the gentleman, the Honorable Judge Tressler, for presiding today shortly to do the most important job of the day, swearing in our new member, and with that, these ceremonies are concluded.

I at this time will give the judge a ceremonial gavel that he can take to court and use for proper purposes.

I would like to thank the Chaplain for his participation and offer him a gavel to help with the collection basket.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Is there any further business, majority leader or minority leader?

Hearing none, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. Fichter.

Mr. FICHTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn until Monday, March 11, 2002, at 1 p.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Chair.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 12:43 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.