

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

SESSION OF 2008

192D OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 68

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 1 p.m., e.s.t.

THE SPEAKER (DENNIS M. O'BRIEN) PRESIDING

PRAYER

The SPEAKER. The prayer will be offered by Representative Karen Boback.

HON. KAREN BOBACK, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Merciful Father, as we gather in this great House, may we never forget the reasons that brought us here in the first place: our community spirit, our willingness to serve, and our desire to make our part of this world a better place in which to live.

May we never forget that the votes we cast in this chamber will have a direct impact on the Commonwealth and the people back home. May we never forget that the services we provide are paramount to those we serve. And may we never forget that as Your children, we represent You first and then those who sent us to this great House.

In Your name may we never forget. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

JOURNALS APPROVED

The SPEAKER. The Journals of Tuesday, May 6; Wednesday, May 7; Monday, May 12; Tuesday, May 13; Wednesday, May 14; and Thursday, May 15 of 2008 are now in print. Will the House approve those Journals?

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Journals are approved.

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, approval of the Journal of Thursday, November 13, 2008, will be postponed until printed. The Chair hears no objection.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair turns to requests for leaves of absence.

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, who requests that Representative GRUCELA of Northampton County, Representative SAMUELSON of Northampton County, and Representative SHIMKUS of Lackawanna County be placed on leave for the day. The Chair hears no objection. The leaves will be granted.

The majority whip requests that Representative BENNINGTON of Allegheny County and Representative GIBBONS of Lawrence County be placed on leave for the week. The Chair hears no objection. Those leaves will also be granted.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who requests that Representative DALLY of Northampton County, Representative MAHER of Allegheny County, Representative PERRY of York County, and Representative ROCK of Franklin County be placed on leave. The Chair hears no objection. These leaves will also be granted.

The members will report to the floor.

MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER. The Chair is about to take the master roll. Members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

PRESENT—194

Adolph	Freeman	Markosek	Rohrer
Argall	Gabig	Marshall	Ross
Baker	Galloway	Marsico	Rubleby
Barrar	Geist	McCall	Sabatina
Bastian	George	McGeehan	Sainato
Bear	Gerber	McI. Smith	Santoni
Belfanti	Gergely	McIlhattan	Saylor
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Melio	Scavello
Beyer	Gingrich	Mensch	Schroder
Bianucci	Godshall	Metcalfe	Seip
Bishop	Goodman	Micozzie	Shapiro
Blackwell	Grell	Millard	Siproth
Boback	Haluska	Miller	Smith, K.

Boyd	Hanna	Milne	Smith, M.
Brennan	Harhai	Moul	Smith, S.
Brooks	Harhart	Moyer	Solobay
Buxton	Harkins	Mundy	Sonney
Caltagirone	Harper	Murt	Staback
Cappelli	Harris	Mustio	Stairs
Carroll	Helm	Myers	Steil
Casorio	Hennessey	Nailor	Stern
Causer	Hershey	Nickol	Stevenson
Civera	Hess	O'Brien, M.	Sturla
Clymer	Hickernell	O'Neill	Surra
Cohen	Hornaman	Oliver	Swanger
Conklin	Hutchinson	Pallone	Tangretti
Costa	James	Parker	Taylor, J.
Cox	Josephs	Pashinski	Taylor, R.
Creighton	Kauffman	Payne	Thomas
Cruz	Keller, M.K.	Payton	True
Curry	Keller, W.	Peifer	Turzai
Cutler	Kenney	Perzel	Vereb
Daley	Kessler	Petrarca	Vitali
DeLuca	Killion	Petri	Vulakovich
Denlinger	King	Petrone	Wagner
DePasquale	Kirkland	Phillips	Walko
Dermody	Kortz	Pickett	Wansacz
DeWeese	Kotik	Preston	Waters
DiGirolamo	Kula	Pyle	Watson
Donatucci	Leach	Quigley	Wheatley
Eachus	Lentz	Quinn	White
Ellis	Levdansky	Ramaley	Williams
Evans, D.	Longietti	Rapp	Wojnaroski
Evans, J.	Mackereth	Raymond	Yewcic
Everett	Mahoney	Readshaw	Youngblood
Fabrizio	Major	Reed	Yudichak
Fairchild	Manderino	Reichley	
Fleck	Mann	Roae	O'Brien, D.,
Frankel	Mantz	Roebuck	Speaker

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—9

Bennington	Grucela	Perry	Samuelson
Dally	Maher	Rock	Shimkus
Gibbons			

LEAVES ADDED—2

Mackereth	Tangretti
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LEAVES CANCELED—1

Samuelson

The SPEAKER. A quorum being present, the House will proceed to conduct business.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 2840 By Representatives HUTCHINSON, CAUSER, DENLINGER, EVERETT, GODSHALL, HARRIS, MAJOR, McILHATTAN, MENSCH, RAPP, ROCK and R. STEVENSON

An Act amending the act of December 15, 1955 (P.L.865, No.256), entitled "An act requiring rents and royalties from oil and gas leases of Commonwealth land to be placed in a special fund to be used for conservation, recreation, dams, and flood control; authorizing the Secretary of Forests and Waters to determine the need for and location

of such projects and to acquire the necessary land," further providing for the Oil and Gas Lease Fund; providing for reallocation of moneys in fund; and making editorial changes.

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, November 17, 2008.

No. 2841 By Representatives REICHLEY, BEYER, GILLESPIE, GODSHALL, GRELL, HARHART, HERSHEY, MENSCH, PEIFER, VULAKOVICH and WATSON

An Act providing a special tax exemption from school property tax increases for certain persons.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, November 17, 2008.

No. 2842 By Representatives REICHLEY, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, DALLY, EVERETT, HARRIS, HERSHEY, M. KELLER, MARSICO, MURT, SONNEY and WATSON

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 required referendum or public hearing prior to construction or lease; and repealing provisions relating to public referendum requirements for increasing certain taxes.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, November 17, 2008.

No. 2843 By Representatives REICHLEY, PETRI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, CUTLER, EVERETT, GODSHALL, HARHART, SAYLOR and WOJNAROSKI

An Act establishing a carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program; providing for the powers and duties of the Department of Environmental Protection; and establishing the Energy and Carbon Savings Trust Fund.

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, November 17, 2008.

The SPEAKER. Members and guests will please take their seats. Members and guests will please take their seats. The aisles will be cleared.

T.H.I.S. INTERNS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Today the Pennsylvania House of Representatives will recognize a group of hardworking and dedicated college students. Each has decided to set aside a semester of their education in order to gain valuable, hands-on experience in our wonderful system of government.

To refine their skill set in the public arena, each student was placed in an internship site specifically tailored to their individual strengths and interests. These students are the future leadership of our State government, and it is truly admirable that they have taken significant steps toward becoming informed, practiced, and active citizens in our Commonwealth.

These students hail from a variety of colleges and universities and have been placed in a number of State agencies and offices and are with us today in the rear of the House. Please stand and be recognized as I read your names.

From Millersville University, Melanie Ianniello, working with the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. She is

represented by the Honorable Mike Sturla. Would you please stand and be recognized.

From Lock Haven, we have Christopher Welker, working with the Office of the Budget. His school is located in Representative Mike Hanna's district. Would you please stand and be recognized.

From Edinboro University, we have Tommy Warchol, working with the Legislative Office of Research Liaison. He is from Representative John Hornaman's district.

From Indiana University of Pennsylvania, we have Gary Clark, who works at the Department of Public Welfare. His school is located in Representative Jeff Pyle's district.

From East Stroudsburg University, Joshua Kreger, who works with the Pennsylvania Child Care Association. Joshua is represented by Representative Mike Carroll.

From Shippensburg University, Susan Law, who works with the Governor's Office of Policy and Planning. Her legislator is Representative Joe Markosek.

From Bloomsburg University, Amanda Waldman, who works in the Lieutenant Governor's Office. She is represented by Garth Everett.

From Kutztown University, Angela Blizman, who works with the Department of Health. She is represented by Eddie Day Pashinski.

From Slippery Rock University, Apryle Barta, who works at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Tom Yewcic is her Representative.

From Clarion University, Sean Gilfillan, who works at the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He is represented by Representative Fred McIlhattan.

From Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Justin Silvis, who works for the Department of Health, the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. Justin is represented by Representative Kathy Rapp.

From California University of Pennsylvania, Mitchell Walker, who works on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is represented by Representative Pete Daley.

And last, from Mansfield University and working in my office is Carrie Goodyear. Carrie is represented by Representative Bev Mackereth.

The interns are all enrolled in The Harrisburg Internship Semester, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. One or two students are chosen from the 14 participating State universities to spend a semester with us in Harrisburg to learn about policy and government process, while at the same time helping us advance the agencies in which they have been placed.

Joining the students on the House floor today is Dr. Glenn Geiser-Getz, the resident faculty director of T.H.I.S. program. He carefully chooses the site for each intern, pairing each with an appropriate mentor to ensure the students grow not only professionally but personally as well.

I would also like to recognize three more interns who are working in my office. They are Megan Cleary, a graduate of the University of Delaware. Megan is represented by Representative Ron Marsico.

Phil Luciano, a senior at Messiah College. He is the constituent of Representative Rick Geist.

Haylee Zirman is a junior at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster. Her college is located in Representative John Bear's district.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House, I want to thank you all for coming. I hope you are enjoying growing, and learning from your individual internships. I wish you all success in all that you endeavor to accomplish, and thank you so much for taking this opportunity to learn about our institutions in these, your formative professional years.

I now ask the House to join me in welcoming these interns to the floor of the House. Would you please stand and be recognized.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to welcome Helen Jackson, who is here with the State Boroughs Association. Helen is also on the State Women's Commission with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. She is the guest of Representative Michele Brooks. Would you please stand and be recognized.

The Chair would like to welcome students and parents from the Friendship Baptist Academy of New Holland, PA, here as the guests of Representative Gordon Denlinger.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who requests that Representative Bev MACKERETH be placed on leave. The Chair hears no objection. The leave will be granted.

The Chair asks all members to please take their seats, as we are about to take up condolence resolutions.

Members will please take their seats. The Sergeants at Arms will close the doors of the House. Members will please take their seats.

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, before we take up today's condolence resolutions, I think it is appropriate that we acknowledge the passing of our wonderful Lieutenant Governor, Catherine Baker Knoll.

I have had a very warm and personal association with Catherine Baker Knoll, the Lieutenant Governor, not only as the presiding officer of this chamber and recognizing her wonderful talents in presiding over the Senate chamber, but she truly has been a formidable leader in this great Commonwealth. She stands as an example and an invitation for all the women to run for public office. She has truly been a pioneer.

I cannot tell you the countless occasions that we have appeared together at functions, raising awareness and funds for children's causes across this Commonwealth and many other instances where we shared the rostrum and many warm conversations. Catherine Baker Knoll is truly one of a kind in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and will be sadly missed.

For all the members of the General Assembly, the information concerning her funeral rights will be advanced to your office.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR
LT. GOV. CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL**

The SPEAKER. I think it is appropriate that we stand and remember Catherine Baker Knoll and her dedicated service to this Commonwealth with a moment of silence.

Members and guests will please rise.

(Whereupon, the members of the House and all visitors stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the Honorable Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll.)

The SPEAKER. Members and guests may be seated.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. NICKOL called up **HR 960, PN 4580**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and expressing condolences for the supreme sacrifice of Police Sergeant Michael C. Weigand, who lost his life in the line of duty in a motorcycle accident on September 14, 2008.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to recognize Representative Nickol, followed by Representative Moul, for remarks on this resolution.

Mr. NICKOL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On Sunday morning, September 14, Sgt. Michael C. Weigand of the Eastern Adams Regional Police Department was riding his motorcycle, providing a police escort during a Blue Knights benefit ride to raise money for the Latimore Township Park.

The benefit ride was proceeding in the westbound lane on Route 234 when an eastbound driver slowed for the approaching police vehicle. A truck in back of this vehicle did not notice it slowing down. The driver then suddenly applied his brakes but lost control of his vehicle and it skidded across the road, striking Sergeant Weigand. Sergeant Weigand was just 25 years old.

Michael Weigand followed his father into police work. He loved police work along with riding his motorcycle. He was very well liked by everyone in the community and known for being able to resolve intense encounters with good humor.

As noted by Rev. Michael E. Messner of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, although Sergeant Weigand was young, his life should not be measured by the number of years he lived but how he lived them. He served as an example to all.

We would like you to join us in recognizing Sergeant Weigand with a House resolution, and I will recognize Representative Moul to read that resolution.

Mr. MOUL. "A Resolution honoring the life and expressing condolences for the supreme sacrifice of Police Sergeant Michael C. Weigand....

"...Police Sergeant Michael C. "Junior" Weigand, 25, of East Berlin, died in the line of duty on Sunday, September 14, 2008, as the result of a motorcycle accident;...

"...Sergeant Weigand is survived by his wife, Amanda L. Weigand;...

"...Sergeant Weigand was born February 14, 1983, in Pittsburgh to Michael E. and Kimberly A. Weigand of East Berlin;...

"...Sergeant Weigand was a 2002 graduate of Bermudian Springs High School and a 2003 graduate of the Allegheny Police Academy;...

"...Sergeant Weigand previously served with the Eastern Adams Regional and Latimore Township Police departments and was a certified crime prevention officer;...

"...Sergeant Weigand also taught fifth grade D.A.R.E. classes at Bermudian Springs School, was a member of the East Berlin Fire Company, the East Berlin Fish and Game and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club;...

"...Sergeant Weigand was also an avid hunter, motorcycle rider, golfer and a Pittsburgh Steelers fan who loved spending time with his family;...

"RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and extend condolences for the supreme sacrifice of Police Sergeant Michael C. Weigand, who died on September 14, 2008, in the line of duty as a result of a motorcycle accident; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to Amanda L. Weigand and Michael E. and Kimberly A. Weigand, respectively."

The SPEAKER. Members and guests will please rise as a sign of respect for Police Sgt. Michael C. Weigand.

(Whereupon, the members of the House and all visitors stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of Police Sgt. Michael C. Weigand.)

The SPEAKER. Members and guests may be seated.

FAMILY INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Representative Nickol.

Mr. NICKOL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I could, I would like to recognize the members of the Weigand family who are with us here today.

Sgt. Michael Weigand's mother and father, Kimberly and Michael Weigand. If they would stand.

I should note that his father is chief of the Latimore Township Police Department in Adams County and was also his boss. The Weigand family moved to Adams County from Allegheny County, where Chief Weigand was active in police work himself.

Sergeant Weigand's wife, Amanda, is also with us and his 3-year-old daughter, Lanie.

Also, his sister, Erin, and her husband, Burnell Bevenor, who was also Sergeant Weigand's partner on the police force, and they are accompanied by their 1-month-old daughter, Anden.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—193

Adolph
Argall

Freeman
Gabig

Marshall
Marsico

Ross
Rubley

Baker	Galloway	McCall	Sabatina
Barrar	Geist	McGeehan	Sainato
Bastian	George	McI. Smith	Santoni
Bear	Gerber	McIlhattan	Saylor
Belfanti	Gergely	Melio	Scavello
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Mensch	Schroder
Beyer	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Seip
Bianucci	Godshall	Micozzie	Shapiro
Bishop	Goodman	Millard	Siptroth
Blackwell	Grell	Miller	Smith, K.
Boback	Haluska	Milne	Smith, M.
Boyd	Hanna	Moul	Smith, S.
Brennan	Harhai	Moyer	Solobay
Brooks	Harhart	Mundy	Sonney
Buxton	Harkins	Murt	Staback
Caltagirone	Harper	Mustio	Stairs
Cappelli	Harris	Myers	Steil
Carroll	Helm	Nailor	Stern
Casorio	Hennessey	Nickol	Stevenson
Causer	Hershey	O'Brien, M.	Sturla
Civera	Hess	O'Neill	Surra
Clymer	Hickernell	Oliver	Swanger
Cohen	Hornaman	Pallone	Tangretti
Conklin	Hutchinson	Parker	Taylor, J.
Costa	James	Pashinski	Taylor, R.
Cox	Josephs	Payne	Thomas
Creighton	Kauffman	Payton	True
Cruz	Keller, M.K.	Peifer	Turzai
Curry	Keller, W.	Perzel	Vereb
Cutler	Kenney	Petrarca	Vitali
Daley	Kessler	Petri	Vulakovich
DeLuca	Killion	Petrone	Wagner
Denlinger	King	Phillips	Walko
DePasquale	Kirkland	Pickett	Wansacz
Dermody	Kortz	Preston	Waters
DeWeese	Kotik	Pyle	Watson
DiGirolo	Kula	Quigley	Wheatley
Donatucci	Leach	Quinn	White
Eachus	Lentz	Ramaley	Williams
Ellis	Levdansky	Rapp	Wojnaroski
Evans, D.	Longiotti	Raymond	Yewcic
Evans, J.	Mahoney	Readshaw	Youngblood
Everett	Major	Reed	Yudichak
Fabrizio	Manderino	Reichley	
Fairchild	Mann	Roae	O'Brien, D.,
Fleck	Mantz	Roebuck	Speaker
Frankel	Markosek	Rohrer	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—10

Bennington	Grucela	Perry	Samuelson
Dally	Mackereth	Rock	Shimkus
Gibbons	Maher		

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

CALENDAR

RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. BAKER called up **HR 959, PN 4569**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life of Elkland Borough official Donald E. Carman and expressing condolences upon his death October 5, 2008, as the result of an automobile accident.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes Representative Baker on the resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of HR 959.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in Tioga County, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs and its membership suffered a great loss with the tragic death of its president in a terrible auto accident.

President Donald E. Carman was a great human being, and from a bipartisan standpoint, we may not hear this very often, but I know that nine terms ago, this gentleman worked all day at the polls for me outside in some very nasty weather, and he was a Democrat. He has been a good personal friend of mine for 25 years probably, and he certainly deserves as much tribute as we can give him this day.

Mr. Carman's life was a shining example of community service and leadership. A native of the borough of Elkland, Tioga County, he reached out to serve his nation as a member of the U.S. Navy. He then emerged as a key leader upon his return to Tioga County, becoming a local elected official, and engaged in several civic organizations. Mr. Carman embodied the type of leadership that was characterized by sharing, and he passionately encouraged others to grow and to develop.

Most recently, serving as the Elkland Borough manager, Mr. Carman had over 30 years of local government experience as an active participant in the Elkland Borough, the Tioga County Boroughs Association, and several statewide boards. He possessed a love of his borough, county, and State that he routinely demonstrated as a PSAB (Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs) leader. Mr. Carman also assisted the Tioga County Regional Planning and Economic Development Agencies, and he served his community through the Elkland Library Board, Lodge No. 421, and the Tioga County Municipal Authority. His dedication to public service better enabled his community to successfully complete projects of local and regional impact.

In addition to these exceptional accomplishments, he was most proud of his beloved wife, Patricia, who preceded him in death. His family of 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren were his pride and joy. Donald E. Carman was clearly a dedicated husband, father, friend, and leader, and Tioga County citizens and the PSAB will not forget the positive attitude that Mr. Carman embraced his entire life and career.

Thank you, Don, for making a difference and providing a great example for others to emulate.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS INTRODUCED

Mr. BAKER. I would like to, before we vote this, Mr. Speaker, recognize his family members that are with us: Lisa Carman, daughter, and Lisa's daughter, Erika Jackson. Please stand and be recognized.

And also with us, representing the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, is Robert Orr, the acting elected president upon his death; Betty Ann Moyer, trustee, board member, and elected borough councilwoman from Danville Borough; and Helen Jackson, past president of PSAB, Lawrence County, currently councilwoman from New Beaver Borough.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—193

Adolph	Freeman	Marshall	Ross
Argall	Gabig	Marsico	Rubley
Baker	Galloway	McCall	Sabatina
Barrar	Geist	McGeehan	Sainato
Bastian	George	McI. Smith	Santoni
Bear	Gerber	McIlhattan	Saylor
Belfanti	Gergely	Melio	Scavello
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Mensch	Schroder
Beyer	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Seip
Bianucci	Godshall	Micozzie	Shapiro
Bishop	Goodman	Millard	Siptroth
Blackwell	Grell	Miller	Smith, K.
Boback	Haluska	Milne	Smith, M.
Boyd	Hanna	Moul	Smith, S.
Brennan	Harhai	Moyer	Solobay
Brooks	Harhart	Mundy	Sonney
Buxton	Harkins	Murt	Staback
Caltagirone	Harper	Mustio	Stairs
Cappelli	Harris	Myers	Steil
Carroll	Helm	Nailor	Stern
Casorio	Hennessey	Nickol	Stevenson
Causer	Hershey	O'Brien, M.	Sturla
Civera	Hess	O'Neill	Surra
Clymer	Hickernell	Oliver	Swanger
Cohen	Hornaman	Pallone	Tangretti
Conklin	Hutchinson	Parker	Taylor, J.
Costa	James	Pashinski	Taylor, R.
Cox	Josephs	Payne	Thomas
Creighton	Kauffman	Payton	True
Cruz	Keller, M.K.	Peifer	Turzai
Curry	Keller, W.	Perzel	Vereb
Cutler	Kenney	Petrarca	Vitali
Daley	Kessler	Petri	Vulakovich
DeLuca	Killion	Petrone	Wagner
Denlinger	King	Phillips	Walko
DePasquale	Kirkland	Pickett	Wansacz
Dermody	Kortz	Preston	Waters
DeWeese	Kotik	Pyle	Watson
DiGirolamo	Kula	Quigley	Wheatley
Donatucci	Leach	Quinn	White
Eachus	Lentz	Ramaley	Williams
Ellis	Levdansky	Rapp	Wojnaroski
Evans, D.	Longiotti	Raymond	Yewcic
Evans, J.	Mahoney	Readshaw	Youngblood
Everett	Major	Reed	Yudichak
Fabrizio	Manderino	Reichley	
Fairchild	Mann	Roae	O'Brien, D., Speaker
Fleck	Mantz	Roebuck	
Frankel	Markosek	Rohrer	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—10

Bennington	Grucela	Perry	Samuelson
Dally	Mackereth	Rock	Shimkus
Gibbons	Maher		

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

* * *

Mr. KESSLER called up **HR 961, PN 4574**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life of Elizabeth J. Magners, who died on October 10, 2008, and extending condolences.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes Representative Kessler.

Mr. KESSLER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand here today to honor the life of Elizabeth J. Magners, who served 64 years in the Civil Air Patrol. Myself and all the State Representatives here certainly feel honored and privileged to honor your mother here today.

Honoring the life of Elizabeth J. Magners, who passed away on October 10, 2008, and extending condolences:

Elizabeth J. Magners, 81 years old, of Boyertown, Berks County, died on October 10, 2008, of natural causes.

Mrs. Magners was a lieutenant colonel and an accomplished 64-year member of the Civil Air Patrol and joined as a teen on June 20, 1944, and was the past president of the Lehigh Valley Chapter 274 Air Force Association.

She earned the Civil Air Patrol Distinguished Service, Exceptional Service, and Meritorious Service Awards and numerous commander's certificates and was renowned as the best information officer of the Civil Air Patrol in the nation.

As a teen, she competed for and won a Civil Air Patrol competition, learning to fly and solo fly as a pilot. She later became a local Civil Air Patrol squadron commander, as well as the State organization's public affairs officer.

Mrs. Magners produced a radio show called "Wings over Boyertown" and a unit publication called "The Question Mark" to boost the Civil Air Patrol's profile and was honored by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for her work.

FAMILY INTRODUCED

Mr. KESSLER. The widow of Arthur G. Magners, Jr., Mrs. Magners is survived by daughters Nancy Ross and Rebecca Hoopes and son Richard. Would you please stand and be recognized.

"WHEREAS, It is fitting that the House of Representatives recognize the years of public service Mrs. Magners gave to the citizens of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of Elizabeth J. Magners and extend condolences for her death on October 10, 2008."

Thank you.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—193

Adolph	Freeman	Marshall	Ross
Argall	Gabig	Marsico	Rubley
Baker	Galloway	McCall	Sabatina

Barrar	Geist	McGeehan	Sainato
Bastian	George	McI. Smith	Santoni
Bear	Gerber	McIlhattan	Saylor
Belfanti	Gergely	Melio	Scavello
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Mensch	Schroder
Beyer	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Seip
Biancucci	Godshall	Micozzie	Shapiro
Bishop	Goodman	Millard	Siptroth
Blackwell	Grell	Miller	Smith, K.
Boback	Haluska	Milne	Smith, M.
Boyd	Hanna	Moul	Smith, S.
Brennan	Harhai	Moyer	Solobay
Brooks	Harhart	Mundy	Sonney
Buxton	Harkins	Murt	Staback
Caltagirone	Harper	Mustio	Stairs
Cappelli	Harris	Myers	Steil
Carroll	Helm	Nailor	Stern
Casorio	Hennessey	Nickol	Stevenson
Causser	Hershey	O'Brien, M.	Sturla
Civera	Hess	O'Neill	Surra
Clymer	Hickernell	Oliver	Swanger
Cohen	Hornaman	Pallone	Tangretti
Conklin	Hutchinson	Parker	Taylor, J.
Costa	James	Pashinski	Taylor, R.
Cox	Josephs	Payne	Thomas
Creighton	Kauffman	Payton	True
Cruz	Keller, M.K.	Peifer	Turzai
Curry	Keller, W.	Perzel	Vereb
Cutler	Kenney	Petrarca	Vitali
Daley	Kessler	Petri	Vulakovich
DeLuca	Killion	Petrone	Wagner
Denlinger	King	Phillips	Walko
DePasquale	Kirkland	Pickett	Wansacz
Dermody	Kortz	Preston	Waters
DeWeese	Kotik	Pyle	Watson
DiGirolamo	Kula	Quigley	Wheatley
Donatucci	Leach	Quinn	White
Eachus	Lentz	Ramaley	Williams
Ellis	Levdansky	Rapp	Wojnaroski
Evans, D.	Longietti	Raymond	Yewcic
Evans, J.	Mahoney	Readshaw	Youngblood
Everett	Major	Reed	Yudichak
Fabrizio	Manderino	Reichley	
Fairchild	Mann	Roae	O'Brien, D., Speaker
Fleck	Mantz	Roebuck	
Frankel	Markosek	Rohrer	

NAYS-0

NOT VOTING-0

EXCUSED-10

Bennington	Grucela	Perry	Samuelson
Dally	Mackereth	Rock	Shimkus
Gibbons	Maher		

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

The SPEAKER. The Sergeants at Arms will open the doors of the House.

**FAREWELL ADDRESS
BY MR. STEIL**

The SPEAKER. At this moment the Chair will presume upon Representative Steil to come to the rostrum.

Mr. STEIL. (Banged gavel.) Whoa; that was fun.

Well, I would like to offer just a few remarks after my 16 years and eight terms in this General Assembly.

First of all, I would like to introduce my family that is with us here today. So they are out in the back, and if you would stand up, please: first of all, my wife, Kaaren, who is here. I will tell you that no one, no one has been more supportive in my career than Kaaren has been. She was involved in every campaign, spent many nights home alone, fixed dinners late, and still was supportive of all of the things I had to do.

Also with us today are my daughter, Pamela, and her husband, Michael, and my grandchildren, Micah and Chloe, and they are standing back there. And also my grandson, Haydn, who is down here in front as a guest page today.

And without our staff, we could not accomplish anything. With me for 16 years is Kimberly O'Neill, who is in the back, along with her husband, David, and children Caitlin and Collin, who is actually also serving as a guest page today.

In addition, we have Jeannie, who is certainly the best, the best administrative assistant and secretary that I have ever had, along with Joyce Frigm, who was – there she is, down here – who was the executive director of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee in the last term. All of these people made it possible for me to act in the role that I did. Thank you so much for being here today. I really appreciate that.

One of the things that we as members often got to do and one of the things I enjoyed doing most was going to elementary schools, especially the fourth grade when they first picked up their study of government. And one of the things I always said to them was, do you realize that in the State of Pennsylvania, there are 12 1/2 million people, but only 203 people get to do this job? To me, that is very special. It is very special because so few people can do it. And there was not a day that I did not walk into this chamber and look up at the ceiling and look around at the artwork on the walls, look at the majesty of this building, and say, wow, how did I ever get chosen to be here?

But it also brought home to me that everything that we do affects real people. At the end of every one of our decisions, there are real people, people who just desire the comfort and security of their homes and their families. But it is our ideas and our policies that can never forget these real people. So when we generate ideas, I have always believed that ideas belong to no one. They are not partisan. They are not Republican ideas; they are not Democrat ideas. They are just good ideas, because they help the people that we represent, and we should never forget those people.

And when it comes to ideas, as you know, one of the things that Representative Shapiro and I have constantly championed, along with the help and support of our Speaker, Dennis O'Brien, was the Reform Commission.

Now, I will say that the word "reform" is probably the most overworked word in this last 2-year session. It has been used for everything from the size of the paper that we use to the aisles, the color of the walls. Everything is reform, but really, reform is simple: Reform is about process. So whatever we call it, whether we call it change, whether we call it revitalization or improvement, whatever it is, it should be about process, not about policy.

And to me, that means two really simple things. One is that every member here has an equal chance to have their ideas heard; secondly, that ideas should stand or fall on their merits. They should not be the result of someone else's decision, but

they should be the result of our ideas representing the people who elect us, and we ought to, each and every one, have an opportunity to offer those ideas.

And in the bottom line it means that reform does not come from this book. It does not come from the words we speak. Reform comes from here; it comes from the heart, and we have to believe that what we are doing represents those two ideals: that members have an equal opportunity to offer their ideas, and that ideas should stand or fall on their merits.

And that is why I hope you will consider in the next session what is now HR 851, which is a form of automatic calendar. It ensures that every member has the opportunity to bring some of their ideas to a vote in every session, and I fully accept and you will accept that some of those ideas will fail. Failure is okay; surrender is not. But even in failure, it is instructive, because it tells us how we may succeed the next time.

So life is a succession of triumphs and failures, but I will tell you that I will never regret a single day that I spent here with you, my friends and my colleagues. Thank you.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. DeWEESE. While Representative Steil is still at the podium, 30 seconds on my part.

As a senior member on the opposite side of the political divide, the Speaker's Reform Commission that you and Representative Shapiro headed were the most substantive and dramatic changes in the way we do business in my 33 years here, and I doff my hat to your enthusiasms and your integrity.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair would also like to personally thank Representative Steil for being for reform long before it was customary or easy for the rest of us to think about it. So I would like to present this ceremonial gavel to Representative Steil and wish him Godspeed.

Mr. STEIL. Thank you.

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. PETRONE

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask Representative Petrone to come to the rostrum.

Representative Petrone is entitled to have the attention, as the other retiring members are – the undivided attention, I would add, of the members of this House, because for 28 years he has given us his undivided attention. So for Representative Petrone and the other retiring members, I would ask all members to please take your seats and respect our retiring members.

Representative Petrone.

Mr. PETRONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Colleagues, I cannot believe that this day has finally arrived.

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Those words, written by Thomas Paine in December 1776, still hold true today, and those words were the words that kept

me going when times got tough during my 28 wonderful years of service.

Looking back on those years, I am proud of so many things, and I was fortunate to witness and take part in so many monumental events in the life of this great Commonwealth, events such as gubernatorial inaugurations, the General Assembly convening in Philadelphia to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, the centennial of this magnificent Capitol Building, the renaissance of Pittsburgh as well as the revitalization of many of our older communities throughout the State, conservation efforts to clean up our waters, and providing better access to medical care for seniors.

While I am proud of the work that I have accomplished on behalf of the residents of the 27th Legislative District and all Pennsylvanians, I certainly cannot take credit, sole credit, for I know that it was also through the efforts of my staff, my colleagues in the General Assembly, and my constituents that these good things occurred.

I want to thank so many people for a thousand acts of kindness – the pages, our PENNDOT specialists, the staff of the Legislative Reference Bureau and other legislative service agencies, and all those who helped the members of the legislature to carry out their duties.

I thank the dedicated employees of my Harrisburg and district offices, and in memoriam I remember those of my staff that I have lost over the years – Ethel Tracy, my first secretary, 15 years with me; Edwin Lysakowski, 27 years with my Pittsburgh office; and Donna Ash, 18 years here in my Harrisburg office.

To all the great people I have had the opportunity to serve with, including five mayors of Pittsburgh, five Pennsylvania Governors, and the many local government officials throughout my district.

I would also like to thank the people that influenced me in my early years and who helped to shape me into the man I am today: my 11th and 12th grade speech teacher, Mary Kate Ford – wherever you are, I thank you; I thank you – without whose steady perseverance and guidance I would not be here today.

My family, including my beautiful daughter, Christa, who flew in from Pasadena, California, to be with us today. And her friend, Frank Mendicina, who was, by the way, a Marine Corps boxing champion on Okinawa, undefeated in 33 bouts, for those Marines present in the audience. Please stand up and say hi, Frank, or say "Semper Fi" if you wish.

And my son, Dean, I want to thank, for whom I vow to fight for the rest of my life to eradicate the plague of drugs that are the scourge of our society. I pledge to do that for the rest of my life, and you know the reasons why.

Babe Ruth once said, "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." This is a message I would like to impart to you, my coworkers and colleagues and friends, legislators old and new. No matter what we set out to accomplish, we should never cease to work as a team. We must always recognize that our work is for the public good and that the good work cannot be accomplished without utilizing the strengths of others. And never forget that our legislative seats belong to the people, not to us. They belong to the people. That is where we started, and that is where they shall return.

To the newest members of the legislature, I would like to remind you to always stand up for what is right and just and always follow your conscience. Our State and our nation are facing tough times, but as Thomas Paine said, the strong soldiers will carry on. I trust that you will all prove yourselves to be strong soldiers and public servants through and through.

I hope that you will find the strength to do what is right and forge an alliance with your fellow lawmakers, even those across the aisle, for the betterment of our Commonwealth and its citizens. I hope that you will be as blessed as I have been throughout my tenure while serving with legislators with names like Amos, Emil, Carmel, Steve, Jim "The Rock of Monessen," Al "The Real Deal," Ruth Harper, and E. Z. Taylor.

I have also been privileged to follow the fine example set by Pennsylvania leaders named Irvis, Ryan, Manderino, Casey, and as well as our beloved Lieutenant Governor, Catherine Baker Knoll, who was a native of the borough of McKees Rocks from our district that I share with Representative Kotik.

I hope that all of you will be able to experience this great State as I have, from the shores of Lake Erie to the City of Brotherly Love, from Pittsburgh's three rivers to the banks of the Susquehanna, from canoe trips down the Pine Creek Gorge to bear trapping in Wayne, Pike, and Tioga Counties with Gary Alt of the Game Commission, and sacking rattlesnakes in Crossforks, Potter County. I have seen the beauty in all of our 67 counties, and I hope that you will see that beauty and will do your best to preserve and protect it.

Looking back on my great life experiences, I remember all the wonderful opportunities that have been afforded me, as well as the individuals I was fortunate to meet along the way, legends such as Gen. Jimmy Stewart, Mickey Rooney, Paul Newman. I recall sitting next to mayor, and later Governor, David L. Lawrence during my first plane ride home from boot camp in Bainbridge, Maryland. I remember the excitement of being at the commissioning of the USS Pittsburgh with Governor Thornburgh in New London, Connecticut, and spending the day underwater aboard the submarine, the USS Philadelphia. And even just walking down the impressive halls of this building and sitting down in this great chamber, it was always a thrill to me every time I was here, every day for 28 years.

My swearing into office in January 1981 was one of the highest times of my life, one of the happiest times of my life. Today, November 17, 2008, is one of the saddest, because it is time to say goodbye. In the words of singer Andrea Bocelli, "Con Te Partiro."

I would like to leave you with some words I spoke more than 50 years ago during an oration about Gen. Robert E. Lee: "Rear your sons and daughters to be Americans. Good Americans. And let us all enjoy the many blessings our benevolent maker has" so graciously "bestowed upon us."

I thank you all, farewell, and God bless. Thank you.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Representative Petrone, on behalf of all your friends in this General Assembly and beyond, please accept this ceremonial gavel.

Mr. PETRONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

Mr. PETRONE. All the best to you.

Thanks for 28 wonderful years.

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. SURRA

The SPEAKER. At this time the Chair would welcome Representative Surra to the rostrum.

Mr. SURRA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Those are the guys over there who, when I spoke on the House floor, used to hold up scorecards like I was a diver in the Olympics. They would give me an 8 or a 9 or a 4 if I did not do very well. So I am going to miss those days.

It has been quite a ride. In the late 1980s and in 1990, I was a schoolteacher in a public school in DuBois, Pennsylvania. I never had any political desires, never any inkling that I would ever run for office, and the situation presented itself and I ran and I won. It was kind of hokey. My yard signs were made out of the 8-inch aluminum siding off my neighbor's house. I spent \$9,000 of my own money, and come the day after election, lo and behold, I won, and I was like, wow, now what do I do?

I tried to make reservations at a motel here in Harrisburg, and I did not have a credit card. I worked very hard as a young married man, paid for everything I had, remodeled my home one room at a time. I grew up in a family that valued hard work and paying your bills. So I went to my banker and I begged him to write a letter of credit for me, and I did, I got a credit card with a \$300 line of credit, and I was able to reserve rooms so I could stay in Harrisburg.

I certainly had some good times here. I remember, I think it was Governor Rendell's first year, we were here December 23 trying to pass what was left of the budget that year, and everybody was not in a very good mood. And Representative Belardi and I went out and rented a Santa Claus suit, and I came in throwing out candy canes, and not too many people knew who I was. If you remember that, it was pretty funny. And Speaker Perzel said, "The gentleman from the North Pole is recognized," and that was a pretty interesting evening and one that I will never forget.

I remember June 29, a couple of summers ago when I had a heart attack, and all the outpouring of respect and good wishes and good will from everybody in this chamber. We are a special body, ladies and gentlemen.

Over the years, I have worked on many issues, and I have made many friends. We have had our partisan fights and battles, and I stood at that rostrum with as much fire and vim and vigor in my body as I could when I fought against something that I did not think was right. But through it all, I never made it personal. When we left this House floor, the people on the other side of the aisle or even people on my own side of the aisle that I did not agree with, I left that behind us. I did not think that they were bad people, I just did not agree with their ideas.

And I think in this country today, we have a lot of problems, ladies and gentlemen, from infrastructure to education, but our biggest problem is that we cannot even talk about them. Our biggest problem is that we cannot sit down as men and women, Republicans or Democrats, Black or White, Christian and Jew, and talk about the problems and what we can do to make this country better and move this country forward.

I have always been willing to reach across the aisle and work with my colleagues. I did some good work with Representative

Steve Nickol – this chamber is losing a good member; he is retiring – Scott Boyd and Gene DiGirolamo. I never could say your name, and I am Italian. But over the years we did some good work, and hopefully we made Pennsylvania just a little bit better because of our efforts.

And yes, I did make some friends – Dick Hess, Merle Phillips, Rick Geist, and many others. I have friends on this side, too – Keith McCall, a lot of memories; Todd Eachus; former Representative Belardi; Representative Gergely. I guess I will not be able to outfish him anymore now that I am not going to be down here, so that is his problem. And Hanna and Haluska, if they do not take me hunting with them, they will not get anything, and you guys know that is true.

I have served under some great chairmen – Chairman Belfanti on the Labor Committee. For 16 years I was on the committee with Chairman Belfanti. And his former Republican colleague, now retired, Representative Bob Allen was a good chairman. And Chairman Roebuck on Education; Mr. Staback on Game and Fish. This House is full of great people on both sides of the aisle. We work very hard, and unfortunately, the vast majority of people have no idea what we go through – the evenings spent away from home; the evenings when you are at home when you are not home because you are at a township meeting or a commissioners' meeting or a volunteer fire department meeting or an Eagle Scout award.

On top of that, your weekends are not your own. You know, we have to run for reelection every 2 years. It is a tough business, but you know, when you are the gladiator and you climb in the arena, sometimes you get stabbed. So I have no regrets; that is the business I chose.

When I came here, I had three young sons ages between 5 and 11 years old. Today they are grown men, and I missed a lot. I did my best to be a good dad, trying to balance the tremendous time that this job demands. I tried to attend everything, all their Little League games or wrestling matches or football games.

I remember many a night leaving this chamber and driving home with what seemed to be lightspeed to make – we will not go there – but to make a wrestling match, and then I would drive back so I could be here for session the next day. Now, that is a 330-mile wrestling match that takes 6 minutes, but many times my kids, their matches were over earlier because they pinned their kids early. But when I would drive that far, I would encourage them to let the match last a little bit so I got to see them.

Oftentimes I used to tell people that my family took a back seat to this job, but that was not true, because in reality, they were not even in the car. Their lives revolved around my schedule and, Dad, what are you doing this weekend? Do you think we can do this? Dad, what is going on Friday? Do you think we can do this? And through it all, my wife, Vicki, was at my side. It was her responsibility to take care of the home front.

When I first got here, we had a coal furnace. I used to lie awake at night dreaming about whether my children would wake up frozen in their beds because she could not keep a fire going to save her life. So eventually we upgraded; now we are burning fuel oil, so we are living the high life up there in Elk County.

I would be remiss if I did not talk about my staff: Julie Orris, my executive director; Lisa Schreck, assistant executive director; David Schlansker, who was in charge of parking for

the House Democratic Caucus. If you think being the administrator is an easy job, I encourage you to talk to Merle Phillips on the Republican side. It is not easy. Everybody wants to park right beside their desk, and the door better open towards their desk. It takes a lot of saying "no." I remember telling the incoming freshman class last year, there is not a bad office in this place, it is just some are much better than others, and you are on the low end of the food chain so you are going to get what you get. Timmy Malinak; Timmy did a lot of my research, most of my correspondence. I would say my number one draft pick in the last 2 years – we had to pick up a new person because someone left the office when I was elected the administrator – it would be Steph Hardman. She started out basically in charge of my schedule, coordinating the tremendous amount of constituent service work with our district offices, and ended up doing all my amendments and drafting my legislation.

My staff in my district, we handled over 20,000 constituent service requests a year. That is an unbelievable thing. I had three phone lines in two offices and not enough people to answer the phones. It was an awesome thing to watch work and we did it well, and they deserve a tip of the hat. They made me look good. There was no problem that was too large, no problem too small for my staff to take care of. I really like to believe that my staff here in the Capitol are probably the most loyal staff of any member of this General Assembly, but we all have good staff and we need to recognize that. Some staff in the Democratic Caucus: Vicki DiLeo, who is executive director of the Labor Committee, she actually lives and breathes this job; Mike Herzing, who is in our Communications Office, does a good job; and of course, Wally Macon down there, I do not think the place would run if Wally did not show up for work. We have great staff and we have to recognize that, and I tip my hat to all the Democratic and Republican staff for all of the fine work that you do, and believe me, we do not give you enough credit for doing it.

Finally, I think I am going to close now because I do not want to put you to sleep out there, but I put my heart and soul into my job. If I made any mistake throughout my career, it is that – and I do not think this was a mistake; it is not in my nature – it is that I never voted for what was politically easy or what was politically expedient. I always voted for what I thought was right and what was the best thing to do for Pennsylvania. When we were faced with daunting deficits, I did what was necessary to fund our schools, plow our roads, and keep our grandparents in the county home. I always did what was best for average, working families. I fought hard for workers to keep their workplaces safe, to make sure that they had unemployment compensation and that workers' compensation took care of them if they happened to get hurt in the workplace. Then our low-wage workers at the minimum-wage level, we increased their wages once in a while.

In the end, I want to thank the fine people of Elk and Clearfield Counties that honored me by sending me down here for nine terms. I just pray that the 75th District is a little better place to live, send your kids to school, and find a decent job because of my efforts all those 18 years. I leave proud of my service with my back straight, my head held up high, and the wind at my back. I want to thank each and every one of you. It has been a pleasure serving with you. Godspeed.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Now you are not allowed to hit anyone with this. I would like to present Representative Surra with a ceremonial gavel for your dedicated service and your warm sense of humor.

Mr. SURRA. Thank you very much.

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. BASTIAN

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to welcome Representative Bob Bastian to the rostrum.

Mr. BASTIAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think my duty today is to give thanks to those who got me here, who kept me here, and who made it very easy for me during the last 10 years. I am going to start at the top in my thanks, and my first is thanks to God for the mercy and grace and strength that He gave to me to do this job for the last 10 years. Next is my wife, Susie, and I think Susie is in the back, if she would stand up, please. Thanks, Mom, for being here. We have been married for 46 years now. She has become my best friend, and she is a great Christian woman.

I would like to also thank my secretary here in Harrisburg. I do not know if she is on the floor, but I know she is watching from the office, and that is Gigi Baker. She has always been very kind to people, the many people who came down here to visit from the 69th District. Next are my secretaries in the district office, who do a fantastic job: Deb Hittie, Mary Knepper, and Marcia Atkinson. And three other fine ladies who over the years have been working for me off and on: Annette Isgan, Helen Lucas, and Leigh Snyder.

And just a quick thank-you to the campaign people in the Republican Party in Somerset County. I do not know if Rick O'Leary is on the floor today, but Rick O'Leary has always been a great staff person. I have used his services many, many times. I thank Rick and Bruce Hanson from the Labor Committee. I depended on him for a lot of answers. Eric Bugaile from Transportation, Joe Deklinski, and finally, the two Agriculture Committee people on the Republican side, Jay Howes and Kerry Golden. They have both become good friends, and I appreciate their services very, very much.

Two members that I always listened to very well – and when they stood and talked, I always listened – and they are Steve Nickol and Dave Steil. When I needed to know something about the issues they knew about better than I did, I went to them and I always appreciated what they had to say.

My seatmate, Duane Milne. Duane, thanks for being there. He is a sophomore now. He is going to be a great sophomore. I had the pleasure of sitting with him for the last 2 years and getting to know him. He is a very hard worker. My old seatmate, Kathy Watson, for the 6 years before that; thanks, Kathy, for being there. The guy sitting behind me, Kerry Benninghoff; the guy sitting in front of me, Paul Clymer; and across the aisle is Jerry Stern, and I thank you guys for being there and all of the conversations that we had. The guys that surrounded me back in the district: Jess Stairs to the west of us; Dick Hess to the east; Tom Yewcic to the north. I always enjoyed those guys. We talked about issues all the time because we had common problems and that demanded common solutions.

I do want to take a moment to thank the three Toms on the Democratic side: Tom Yewcic, who is a good and decent Christian man; Tom Tangretti – I think Tom is here someplace – a good, decent Christian man; and Tom Caltagirone, whom I always enjoyed working with on issues. Tom, thank you very much for the help. We have an issue down in Philadelphia that we work on together, or have for the last 4 or 5 years, and that is turning trash into oil. I know Tom is going to carry that forward.

Matt Baker and Art Hershey and Carl Dingus with the Capitol Ministries, Matt and Art, thanks for that, and we always had some good sessions on Tuesday mornings.

To the leadership: Sam Smith and Dave, Mario and Sandy, Jerry and Mike, Merle and John Perzel, you guys have been good to me and I always appreciated your help over the years.

Art Hershey, the Ag Committee chair; Jess Stairs, our Education chair; Gene, our Labor chair; and Russ, the Veterans Affairs chair, thanks for the time.

And to Denny, you were put in a tough spot. You handled it well, sir. Thank you very much for your service.

One of my favorite Democrats has always been Rich Grucela. He is not here today, but when we were up in Lehigh County a good many years ago on an Ag Committee trip, we were in an ag class and a teacher showed us a Lehigh Valley chain saw, so I made him a Lehigh Valley chain saw, and I will present it to him at a later time. Some of you might remember that a good many years ago.

To Ron Miller and Daryl Metcalfe, two guys that I came in with 10 years ago, I appreciate you guys. There are still two of you left now from that four freshman class a good many years ago.

When I won 10 years ago in the fall of 1998, I got two letters that I think are memorable and I want to mention them quickly. I got one from a client, and she said you have been given more opportunity than most to do good, and I think I have honored that request. And from Greg Pile, Bishop Greg Pile – and I know many of you know him – he is down here every day, in the spring, for Lutheran Day. I got a letter from him – and Greg actually is a second cousin of mine – and he said congratulations on winning your office and I hope you can always use it as an opportunity and not as a sentence. I did not understand the last part of that until later on in my career when there were some days and some weeks down here that were a sentence. Some of those days I could always truly say that Harrisburg looked best in the rearview mirror.

However, with all the ups and downs and the discouragement sometimes, I think I am a better person for having served these 10 years. I hope my district is better. I know I worked very hard back in the district.

Just two quick comments about Harrisburg in general. We have become way too partisan for the last 10 years. I think it is worse now than it was 10 years ago. It is obvious when the board lights up over there and half are red – I mean, one side is red and one side is green. You know doggone well that everybody who votes red is not against that bill and everybody that votes "yes" is not for that bill. We have become very partisan. We are intimidated somewhat by leadership and by the administration sometimes to vote the way we do. Instead of thinking for a party or leadership, we need to think what is right and what is wrong. I have been guilty of that too often myself, but it should not stay that way. If we do not get reform – and I think Dave Steil answered this very well – if we do not get

reform, the voters are going to be sure that at some point we get reform.

There is an old story about a philosopher that at one time asked a very simple question: Is it better to remember to forget or is it better to forget to remember? And he probably answered the question himself, it is always better to remember to forget. We have to remember to forget those little statements that we heard a fellow member say – no matter which side it is – about us and we overheard that statement. We have to remember to forget that bill that somebody stole from us and came back when they were in leadership and inserted the same bill, took it as their idea, and now we are against it because it is their idea. We have to get over that, and we have to remember to forget those little instances. We have to remember to forget that campaign against us 5 years ago where people took something out of context, a reporter took something out of context. We have to remember to forget those situations.

I am very happy that in the past election I was able to replace myself with a like-thinking individual. I hope you will give Carl Metzgar the same respect and the same courtesy that you gave me for the last 10 years.

Finally, I want to talk about transition for just a moment. I worry about the transition of going from a Representative, where you are going 100 miles an hour, and I am going to start making that transition right now. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that anybody ever took their clothes off up here, but I am going to the coveralls that I came here with. This is where I came from 10 years ago, and I am very happy to wear coveralls for the next remaining part of my life.

And finally, I just want to say one other thing. You know, the "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away....," said by MacArthur. I am going to say, old vets never die; they just go home and start checking cows again.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Somewhere under all this paraphernalia that has been laid at the rostrum, there is a ceremonial gavel, and I would like to thank you, Representative Bastian, for your leadership, your friendship, and your spirituality. Thank you very much.

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. HERSHEY

The SPEAKER. The Chair would welcome Representative Art Hershey to the rostrum for remarks.

Mr. HERSHEY. Good afternoon. I will not be long.

My thoughts were the last month or two, is it time to go? And I thought, yes. Then I thought, do I really want to? Then I thought, not really.

I have 14 grandchildren, 8 brothers and sisters and spouses. All are relatively in good health. So I have missed quite a few family events that I am looking forward to attending.

It has been a great honor for me to leave the farm and come to Harrisburg and represent the 13th District. The church family that I grew up in and I am still a member of teaches service to others. So it was a good transition for me to leave the farm and get involved in public service. I was challenged at a church service many, many years ago when the minister's theme was –

he said, "develop an attitude of gratitude," and I never forgot that.

Congressman Joe Pitts, who was a member here for quite a while, told me as a State Representative I would have more opportunities in a week's time to interact with people than most ministers.

A Scripture passage that I am very fond of is Proverbs 3:5-6. I am going to use a term that the late Speaker, Leroy Irvis – whom, by the way, I was very fond of – used when he referred to the Bible. He would say it is stated in the Holy Writ. Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."

I have a deep passion for agriculture and conservation. The better we take care of the land, the better it will take care of us. I was proud to have sponsored the ACRE (Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment) law, along with the help of our other Ag chair at that time, the Honorable Pete Daley. Pete, thanks so much for your help and also that of Representative Stern. The agriculture staff, Kerry Golden and Jay Howes, were very helpful. Thank you both. It was our third try to get an agreement with our municipalities and the ag community.

We need to keep telling our agriculture story. We are privileged to have a great Secretary of Agriculture to guide us.

Many new residents that moved into our ag communities did not understand agriculture, and when something negative came up, the first thing that came to their mind was to create unmanageable ordinances. We have a great agriculture heritage. We need to foster that and not hinder its development. Agriculture needs to grow and develop new methods to be successful. If we pass ordinances to hinder agriculture and prevent its growth, we will discourage young people from getting involved and we will go backward.

The proposals being suggested by the animal rights activists will double the cost of our food supply. Instead of being number one in relationship to the portion of our income spent for food, that could rise to one-half of our family income to pay the grocery bill.

I counted 11 bills that I sponsored and got passed in my 26-year career. Another bill I am happy about was just passed this past spring, the Umbilical Cord Blood Education and Donation Act, HB 874, Act 12 of 2008. This will cost some dollars, but right now there is a bill in the Senate that will put some money into the cost of collection and storage of cord blood. This is a great tool to not only stop the spread of disease but is known to cure up to 80 different diseases. The Pennsylvania Health Department has all their new information on their Web site.

Now I want to thank my family for their support over all these years. My wife, Joyce, is here today. I am going to ask her to stand. We just celebrated 51 years. Thank you, Joyce. She has made a lot of sacrifices so I could serve. Shelly, I think, was with me 13 years. I am going to read their names and ask them to stand: Shelly and Cindy in my Harrisburg office, please stand. Thank you for your dedication. And also a good friend of mine is here today from State College, J.D. Dunbar, from the Rural Leadership Program. Thanks for coming down, J.D. And all you folks, all you folks in the General Assembly, past and present. I have made so many friends in the past 26 years. Each one is very special to me. Thank you very much.

For the future, I am confident I will find something fulfilling. I might get involved in a few community projects. Maybe I can slow down and quit hurrying here and hurrying there every day. Number one, I am really going to enjoy the upcoming deer season, being outdoors and enjoying Penn's Woods. I will enjoy watching football with a dear friend from Marietta, Pennsylvania. As I get ready to close, you know my background is rooted in agriculture; I am going to leave you with a little nugget. It goes like this: "Society's very existence depends on the top 6 inches of the earth." It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the Commonwealth's resources.

Farewell and God bless.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to present this ceremonial gavel to Representative Hershey. Art, as much as we will miss you here, I know your grandkids and your family will love you for making this decision. Congratulations.

Mr. HERSHEY. Thank you. Thank you.

It was not easy.

The SPEAKER. I know.

Mr. HERSHEY. It was not easy.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the majority leader, Representative DeWeese, rise?

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I realize that Representative Raymond has some closing remarks and farewell wishes to all of us, but before the membership scattered, I wanted to say we will have a Democratic caucus immediately upon Mr. Raymond's observations and his farewell remarks – a Democratic caucus.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. RAYMOND

The SPEAKER. The Chair welcomes Representative Raymond to the rostrum for remarks.

Mr. RAYMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, for 24 years I have been saving up all my talking time for today. As you all know, I do not take the microphone very often and always thought that it was something to be used judiciously, so I am going to get it all in today. But no, I am only kidding.

I want to start off by thanking, of course, my family – my wife, Susan; my son, Ron; and my daughter, Jennifer – for tolerating all these years of political service, not just the 24 years as a legislator but 33 years of running for elected office. I have been doing this a long time, and it is a good time to move on. But I thank my family very much.

I would also like to thank the people of the 162d Legislative District, both past and present, for the honor of serving and representing them here in Harrisburg. It has really been an honor to represent my neighbors up here in Harrisburg, as all of you know. Staff has been mentioned numerous times by prior speakers and they are absolutely correct, without our staff we are nothing. And the staff, you know, I always tell people in the old stump speech, there are two jobs we have, one is in

Harrisburg doing what we are doing today and the other job is back in the district dealing with people's problems on a regular basis, and it is the staff that really gets things done.

I would just like to recognize and mention Janet Kelly, who served 20 years with me in my district office, who started out with me back in the days when we had a typewriter, a telephone, and a desk, and that was it, none of the high-tech stuff we have today. She and Gerri Jackson had that first district office up and running for me. And I would like to recognize the last crew that is closing the doors down there for me – and hopefully they are listening as we speak – Peg Adams, Patty Steger, Charlie Hollenden, and Nick Miccarelli. Now, Nick is here somewhere. Nick, are you here? Nick is in the room back there. He is my former chief of staff, now Representative-elect Nick Miccarelli, who is taking my place. He made me go door-to-door with him. I said he is taller and younger, but not near as good looking. It did not go over very well then either.

I would also like to recognize Lori Koch, Cathy Waddington, Lori Hoffman – sitting down here – Teri Swanger, and the turnkey in my office up here now, Debby Garger, who, in fact, will be working for Nick when Nick takes over in December. I thank all of you for your help; very, very important in getting things done.

Tricia Lehman has been my writer for many, many years; does a great job. I would like to thank her as well.

On the Liquor Committee, Jay Wiederhold, who now works for the beer wholesalers; Dave Thomas, who I am not sure what he is doing these days, but he is a multitasking guy down in front here; and Marcia Lampman have been the execs of the Liquor Committee, and I appreciate everything they have done over the years.

Now, I would like to recognize and thank all my Delco Reps, not only the Republicans but the Democrats. Representative Kirkland and myself have a riverfront in Delaware County. I have always gotten along well with Representative Vitali; he has been a good friend for a lot of years. The Delco Reps, and particularly in Delco, Bill Adolph and Steve Barrar have roomed with me longer than I have done a whole lot of other things in my life, and I would like to thank them. And there will be no stories about our rooming together. Billy paid me.

People have talked about legislation that has been important. I got a couple of things done that I thought were very, very important: the Do Not Call List – and anything I did was done with bipartisan support and it really was good – we did the Do Not Call List. We did the Real Estate Seller Disclosure Law. We established a Pennsylvania Business Resource Center. All bipartisan things that were my bills that were enacted into law, and I appreciate all the support.

But the most important and the most fun thing I had – and I do not see him sitting in the back there – Bob Donatucci has been chair of the Liquor Committee with me for 6 years. I could get nothing done – knowing my Republican colleagues on this side of the aisle do not like to vote for liquor legislation – I could not get a lot of things done without the support of the Democratic Caucus on that side of the aisle, who had a much better view of the world, I think, for dealing with liquor issues, and Bob Donatucci always provided the support I needed as a majority chair and has done it as a majority chair himself over the years and I appreciate everything he has done. Now, the interesting thing – and his executive director, Lynn Benka-Davies, has also been a lot of help in getting stuff

done – the thing people do not know about Donatucci and me is our districts join in the middle of the Philadelphia International Airport, right there in the middle. We have known each other for a long time. We worked well together on Liquor, but we also served as cochairs of the Airport Study Commission that we had for a number of years up here. We have really enjoyed working together, and Bob has been a really, really good friend in a lot of ways, and I would like to thank him for that.

Now, you sit on this House floor, there are 203 people here and you have heard it alluded to by other speakers, but there are little neighborhoods on the floor here. I sit in the seat next to Gordon Denlinger, who has kept an eye on me for a long time and has helped me out in a row of Lancaster County Representatives – my wife is from Lancaster County so they let me sit there – and we sit there and it is pretty interesting. Now, prior to Gordon being next to me, a guy named Sam Rohrer, Representative Rohrer, sat next to me for one term. Now, you know Sam is a little bit more to the right than Raymond is. He could take one term and then he moved his seat. Well, Sam sits behind me; Gordon sits to the left of me, which he is really to the right of me, and they are brothers-in-law, which a lot of people do not know. So I am surrounded by the brothers-in-law from the right in the Republican Caucus, and I appreciate all their help over the years.

Now, speaking of Lancaster County, there is a guy, Scott Boyd, Representative Boyd, sitting down here, who happened to go to high school with my wife's brother, Mike, and knew my wife and her family many years before I did and is a good friend of their family. And, Scott, I appreciate your friendship as well.

I also would like to thank leadership on both sides of the aisle and the leadership going back the 24 years I have been here. They have always been helpful, always been supportive of what we have tried to do, and they are very, very good, and I really appreciate everything they have done.

Lastly, I want to wish all of you in this room only the best going forward, the new Reps coming in, the Reps that are staying, and for you retiring legislators, like myself, I wish you all the best going forward. For a kid who was 20-some years old who wanted to be a borough councilman – that is all I ever wanted to be in life – to get to serve 24 years in this great body, it has been a great ride, and I thank all of you for being a part of it. Thank you.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to present this ceremonial gavel for your dedicated service, Representative Ron Raymond.

Mr. RAYMOND. Thank you. I appreciate it.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE CANCELED

The SPEAKER. The Chair notes the presence of Representative Samuelson on the floor. His name will be added to the master roll.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, who requests a leave of absence for Representative TANGRETTI. Without objection, that leave is so granted.

LETTER SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

Mr. DePASQUALE submitted a letter for the Legislative Journal.

(For letter, see Appendix.)

RECESS

The SPEAKER. At the request of the majority leader, this House will stand in recess until the call of the Chair for the purpose of a caucus.