

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012

SESSION OF 2012

196TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 67

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 11 a.m., e.s.t.

**THE SPEAKER (SAMUEL H. SMITH)  
PRESIDING**

#### PRAYER

The SPEAKER. This morning the prayer will be offered by Rev. Michael Reid, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

REV. MICHAEL REID, Guest Chaplain of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

We bow our heads and open our hearts in prayer.

Dear God,  
"I believe in you: increase my faith.  
I trust in you: strengthen my trust.  
I love you: let me love you more and more...."

"I praise you as my constant helper,  
And call on you as my loving protector.

"Guide me by your wisdom,  
Correct me with your justice,  
Comfort me with your mercy,  
Protect me with your power."

"Enlighten my understanding,  
Strengthen my will,  
Purify my heart,  
and make me holy."

"Help me..." to acknowledge the sacredness of life,  
and "...to respect and love  
All whose lives I touch,...  
My friends and my enemies.

"Help me to conquer anger with gentleness,  
Greed by generosity,  
Apathy with fervor.

"Help me to forget myself  
And to reach out toward others...."

"Keep me...attentive at prayer,  
Temperate in food and drink,  
Diligent in my work,  
Firm in my good intentions.

"Let my conscience be clear,  
My conduct without fault,  
My speech blameless,  
My life well-ordered.

"Put me on guard against my human weaknesses.  
Let me cherish your love for me,  
Keep your law,..." and apply it to the noble work  
to which I have been called.

To You, O God, be the glory, the honor, and the power now  
and forever. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

#### JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, approval of the Journal of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, will be postponed until printed.

#### JOURNALS APPROVED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all Journals not now in print will be approved.

#### HOUSE BILL INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

**No. 2734** By Representatives PAYNE, BAKER, BOBACK, GABLER, HESS, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, MOUL, PYLE, QUINN, READSHAW, SCAVELLO and SWANGER

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for additional parking regulations.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION,  
November 14, 2012.

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease for a moment.

The House will come to order.

If I could have the members' attention. I would appreciate if the members would take their seats.

### BOB LANIER INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. I just wanted to introduce a special guest that is with us. Former NBA (National Basketball Association) star Bob Lanier, graduate of St. Bonaventure, played with the Detroit Pistons from 1970 to 1980, and then with the Milwaukee Bucks from 1980 to 1984.

The members will please hold the conversations down. I would appreciate your attention.

Mr. Lanier – I prefer to call him that because he is a lot bigger than any of us – was in the Capitol for a specific purpose today, and I wanted to afford him the opportunity to address the House about the issue that he came to town for. So without any further ado, please welcome to the podium Bob Lanier.

Mr. LANIER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate it. I appreciate the hand. Stop it. Stop it. Stop it.

It is an honor for me to be here. I stopped over with the Lieutenant Governor and they took me by the architecture. The beauty of where you all work is just amazing to me. It is second only to I think when I was at St. Peter's in Rome. Can you hear me? Sorry.

Let me tell you why I am here right quick. I just want to make sure about World Diabetes Day. That is why we have the blue pins on. We appreciate all of you that have helped in support of diabetes. I work with the NBA. We have a great, great partnership with the American Diabetes Association and Sanofi. Diabetes is a dreaded disease. All of you know it. It was in my family. I am a type 2 diabetic. And all the support that you can give for our cause, I think it helps all of us. It helps our society in general, health costs, everything.

So thank you all very much. Have a good day. I know it is a short day for you all, so enjoy.

The SPEAKER. I thank the members for their attention.

### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Turning to leaves of absence, the majority whip does not have any requests for leaves of absence today.

The Speaker recognizes the minority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman, Mr. Kevin BOYLE, from Philadelphia for the day; the gentleman, Mr. Dwight EVANS, from Philadelphia County for the day; and the gentleman, Mr. WHITE, from Washington County for the day. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

### MASTER ROLL CALL

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

The following roll call was recorded:

#### PRESENT—195

Adolph	Dunbar	Kirkland	Pyle
Aument	Ellis	Knowles	Quigley
Baker	Emrick	Kortz	Quinn
Barbin	Evankovich	Kotik	Rapp
Barrar	Evans, J.	Krieger	Ravenstahl
Bear	Everett	Kula	Readshaw
Benninghoff	Fabrizio	Lawrence	Reed
Bishop	Farry	Longietti	Reese
Bloom	Fleck	Mackenzie	Roae
Boback	Frankel	Maher	Rock
Boyd	Freeman	Mahoney	Roebuck
Boyle, B.	Gabler	Major	Ross
Bradford	Galloway	Maloney	Sabatina
Brennan	Geist	Mann	Saccone
Briggs	George	Markosek	Sainato
Brooks	Gerber	Marshall	Samuelson
Brown, R.	Gergely	Marsico	Santarsiero
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Masser	Santoni
Brownlee	Gillen	Matzie	Saylor
Burns	Gillespie	McGeehan	Scavello
Buxton	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Schmotzer
Caltagirone	Godshall	Metzgar	Simmons
Carroll	Goodman	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Causar	Grell	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Christiana	Grove	Millard	Sonney
Clymer	Hackett	Miller	Staback
Cohen	Hahn	Milne	Stephens
Conklin	Haluska	Mirabito	Stern
Costa, D.	Hanna	Moul	Stevenson
Costa, P.	Harhai	Mullery	Sturla
Cox	Harhart	Mundy	Swanger
Creighton	Harkins	Murphy	Tallman
Cruz	Harper	Murt	Taylor
Culver	Heffley	Mustio	Thomas
Curry	Helm	Myers	Tobash
Cutler	Hennessey	Neilson	Toepel
Daley	Hess	Neuman	Toohil
Davidson	Hickernell	O'Brien, M.	Truitt
Davis	Hornaman	O'Neill	Turzai
Day	Hutchinson	Oberlander	Vereb
Dean	James	Parker	Vitali
Deasy	Josephs	Pashinski	Waters
DeLissio	Kampf	Payne	Watson
Delozier	Kauffman	Payton	Wheatley
DeLuca	Kavulich	Peifer	Williams
Denlinger	Keller, F.	Petrarca	Youngblood
DePasquale	Keller, M.K.	Petri	
Dermody	Keller, W.	Pickett	Smith, S.,
DiGirolamo	Killion	Preston	Speaker
Donatucci			

#### ADDITIONS—0

#### NOT VOTING—0

#### EXCUSED—5

Boyle, K.	Harris	Perry	White
Evans, D.			

#### LEAVES ADDED—3

Godshall	Micozzie	Simmons
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The SPEAKER. One hundred and ninety-five members having voted on the master roll call, a quorum is present.

### GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. If I could have the members' attention, I would like to introduce a few of the other guests that are with us today.

Located in the rear of the House, as a guest of Representative Culver, we would like to welcome Jennifer Dodge. Jennifer, stand and give us a wave; there by the back door. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also, up in the gallery, as guests of Representative Freeman, we would like to welcome Hamish MacPhail, a senior at Lafayette College; Marissa Galante, a junior at Lehigh University; and Scott Gelbman, a senior at Lafayette College. All three are interning in Representative Freeman's office. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also, located to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome a couple of people that have been around this building for a few years: Steve Pancoe and his wife, Sandy. Steve has retired after 33 years with the House Republican Caucus. Steve, best wishes in the future endeavors.

### STEPHEN PANCOE PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Is the gentleman from Mercer County seeking recognition under unanimous consent?

I would appreciate the members holding the conversations down. If I could have your attention, please.

The gentleman from Mercer County, Mr. Stevenson, is recognized under unanimous consent.

Mr. STEVENSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt thanks and best wishes to a staff member of the Republican Caucus who is retiring shortly after more than 37 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth.

Stephen Pancoe, as director of the caucus administrator's office, has served in the House Republican leadership offices for most of his tenure here in the House. Steve started with the House on October 1, 1979. His longevity and dedication are matched by only a few other caucus staff members. In fact, there are just a handful of members here in this chamber who were here when Steve began his career. Over the past three-plus decades, Steve has been a member of the field services staff, under policy chairman Rick Cessar, for a session, before serving with policy chairman Ken Brandt for four sessions. His service also includes three sessions with two additional policy chairmen, John Perzel and John Barley.

Mr. Speaker, most of the members today know Steve for his work under my predecessor, majority caucus chairman Merle Phillips, where he was his director for 16 years. As a native of Northumberland County, Steve was a natural fit when he served with Representative Phillips during those years on his staff. I first met Steve when I was a newly elected member in late 2000, and from what I recall from those early days, he was extremely helpful in assisting me to get my bearings around the House during those first few weeks, just as he has helped many others through the years.

Steve's knowledge and institutional memory have also been extremely valuable to me. When I was chosen as caucus administrator 2 years ago, it was through his expertise that I was able to quickly learn the ropes of my various duties and

responsibilities. During those early days and in the 2 years that followed, Steve became a trusted associate and a good friend.

Aside from his work in the Capitol, Steve has also been a public servant in his own community, being elected to the board of commissioners in Newberry Township, York County, where he has served for 6 years. Apart from his roles as a valued staff member and elected official, many of us know Steve as an ardent history buff. For the past decade, he continues to be active in the 18th century living history community. Steve has participated in events in Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, and central Pennsylvania. His character, William Clapham, provides a view of 18th century life as a colonel in the Pennsylvania Provisional Regiment, who moved north from Harris Ferry to build Fort Halifax and Augusta in the year 1756. In fact, from time to time, you may recall seeing Steve in his reenactment gear, sharing his love of history and recounting tales of his persona to both Capitol staff and visitors alike. I would guess that he will now be able to spend even more time sharing that devotion to history.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly my pleasure today to publicly thank Steve for his service to the caucus and to wish him the very best in his upcoming retirement. I would like to ask Steve to stand so that we may recognize him for his service. Steve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman. Pancoe, all I will say is try to behave.

### GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Another guest that is located to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Patty Beck Henry and her husband, Curt. Patty is retiring from Representative Everett's office after 27 years of service. Welcome to the hall of the House. Please stand.

### PATTY BECK HENRY PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Is the gentleman from Lycoming County, Mr. Everett, seeking recognition under unanimous consent?

The gentleman is in order.

Mr. EVERETT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Patty Beck Henry began her career with the PA House of Representatives back on November 1, 1985, with then 84th State Representative Al Bush. Patty continued her career after Representative Bush's retirement with Representative Brett Feese. After Brett's retirement, she was nice enough to allow me to work for her, as I have in our district office for the past 6 years.

Like many of the folks that work in our district offices, Patty is a vociferous advocate for our constituents when they come in with a problem with State government. Once she takes up a problem for our constituents, it will get solved, and I am sure that there are many folks here in Harrisburg in the legislative liaison offices that have heard Patty's melodious voice on the phone over and over until she solves a problem.

Her relationship with our constituents has always been very personal, and she is going to be very missed in Lycoming County, as I have been informed in various supermarkets and everywhere I go. I think that they would much rather keep Patty than me. Unfortunately – or fortunately for me – she was not on

the ballot and I was. Her contributions have been many, and she is going to be sorely missed in Lycoming County. I want to thank her for all her service. Thank you very much, Patty.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Representative Everett is going to make Representative Stevenson look bad. He did not get Pancoe any flowers.

### **GUESTS INTRODUCED**

The SPEAKER. Also located to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome a group of guests from the United Way: Tony Ross, president of the United Way of Pennsylvania; Joe Capita, president of the United Way of the Capitol Region; Jill Michal, president of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia; and Jenna Earley, public policy manager, United Way of Pennsylvania. They are here today as the guests of Representative Scavello. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

### **STATEMENT BY MR. SCAVELLO**

The SPEAKER. Is the gentleman from Monroe County, Mr. Scavello, seeking recognition under unanimous consent?

The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. SCAVELLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One hundred twenty-five years ago, a Denver woman, a priest, two ministers, and a rabbi got together to help their local community. "Frances Wisebart Jacobs, the Rev. Myron W. Reed, Msgr. William J.O'Ryan, Dean H. Martyn Hart and Rabbi William S. Friedman put their heads together to plan the first united campaign for ten health and welfare agencies. They created an organization to serve as an agent to collect funds for local charities, as well as to coordinate relief services, counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and make emergency assistance grants in cases which could not be referred. That year, Denver raised \$21,700 and created a movement that would spread throughout the country to become the United Way."

Today it is a worldwide movement, with 63 United Way organizations located across communities in the Commonwealth. This year they have collected over \$175 million to distribute to organizations across our Commonwealth. Nationally, that figure is \$3.9 billion.

After all these years, United Way is still focused on mobilizing the caring power of communities and making a difference in people's lives. I am honored to have served on the board of United Way of Monroe County, chaired the 2000 campaign in Monroe County, and today as a statewide board member of United Way of Pennsylvania. Just recently Monroe County residents – not just in Monroe, but of course our Commonwealth – experienced firsthand the importance of our local United Ways after the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy.

We recently passed my HR 802 recognizing the 125th anniversary of the United Way organization, and I thank each of you for your vote. And today we have officials – and I would like to again mention them – today we have United Way officials who are committed to helping Pennsylvania advance the organization's common good to benefit all communities across our Commonwealth.

And again, I would like to recognize and give them a second hand: Tony Ross, president of the United Way of PA; Joe Capita, president of the United Way of the Capital Region; Bob Nelkin, president of the United Way of Allegheny County; and Jill Michal, president of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia.

Please remember to show your support in your local communities for the United Way and for their selfless contributions to the residents of each and every one of your districts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### **HANOVER YMCA GIRLS GYMNASTICS TEAM PRESENTED**

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite Representative Tallman to the rostrum for the purpose of presenting a citation to the Hanover YMCA Girls Gymnastics Team.

May I have the members' attention.

Mr. TALLMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The coaches in the back and our Hanover gymnastics team here all have jackets, and I am not going to read their citation, but they are three-time national YMCA gymnastic champions, and I think that is a fantastic accomplishment on their part.

If I remember correctly, because their former coach, Mr. Cockley, while we were here late the last day or so of session, he was keeping me posted on my laptop here on the floor of the score as the competition was progressing. So let us have the coaches in the back stand also.

The SPEAKER. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Mr. TALLMAN. And if I am correct, I think they won by one-tenth of a point. Is that the correct score? All right; I was close. But it was close. Anyway, I just want to recognize this team for being three-time national champs in girls gymnastics for the YMCA.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker returns to leaves of absence and recognizes the majority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. GODSHALL, for the remainder of the day. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

### **CALENDAR**

#### **RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35**

Ms. YOUNGBLOOD called up **HR 935, PN 4302**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life of former United States Senator Arlen J. Specter and extending condolences to his family.

On the question,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

### YEAS—193

Adolph	Donatucci	Kirkland	Pyle
Aument	Dunbar	Knowles	Quigley
Baker	Ellis	Kortz	Quinn
Barbin	Emrick	Kotik	Rapp
Barrar	Evankovich	Krieger	Ravenstahl
Bear	Evans, J.	Kula	Readshaw
Benninghoff	Everett	Lawrence	Reed
Bishop	Fabrizio	Longietti	Reese
Bloom	Farry	Mackenzie	Roae
Boback	Fleck	Maher	Rock
Boyd	Frankel	Mahoney	Roebuck
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Major	Ross
Bradford	Gabler	Maloney	Sabatina
Brennan	Galloway	Mann	Saccone
Briggs	Geist	Markosek	Sainato
Brooks	George	Marshall	Samuelson
Brown, R.	Gerber	Marsico	Santarsiero
Brown, V.	Gergely	Masser	Santoni
Brownlee	Gibbons	Matzie	Saylor
Burns	Gillen	McGeehan	Scavello
Buxton	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Schmotzer
Caltagirone	Gingrich	Metzgar	Smith, K.
Carroll	Goodman	Miccarelli	Smith, M.
Causar	Grell	Micozzie	Sonney
Christiana	Grove	Millard	Staback
Clymer	Hackett	Miller	Stephens
Cohen	Hahn	Milne	Stern
Conklin	Haluska	Mirabito	Stevenson
Costa, D.	Hanna	Moul	Sturla
Costa, P.	Harhai	Mullery	Swanger
Cox	Harhart	Mundy	Tallman
Creighton	Harkins	Murphy	Taylor
Cruz	Harper	Murt	Thomas
Culver	Heffley	Mustio	Tobash
Curry	Helm	Myers	Toepel
Cutler	Hennessey	Neilson	Toohil
Daley	Hess	Neuman	Truitt
Davidson	Hickernell	O'Brien, M.	Turzai
Davis	Hornaman	O'Neill	Vereb
Day	Hutchinson	Oberlander	Vitali
Dean	James	Parker	Waters
Deasy	Josephs	Pashinski	Watson
DeLissio	Kampf	Payne	Wheatley
Delozier	Kauffman	Payton	Williams
DeLuca	Kavulich	Peifer	Youngblood
Denlinger	Keller, F.	Petrarca	
DePasquale	Keller, M.K.	Petri	Smith, S.,
Dermody	Keller, W.	Pickett	Speaker
DiGirolamo	Killion	Preston	

### NAYS—0

### NOT VOTING—1

Simmons

### EXCUSED—6

Boyle, K.	Godshall	Perry	White
Evans, D.	Harris		

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

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Mr. MACKENZIE called up **HR 937, PN 4311**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life of Mr. Robert W. Mader, beloved Mayor of the Borough of Alburtis, and expressing condolences upon his passing.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker returns to leaves of absence and recognizes the majority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman, Mr. SIMMONS, from Lehigh County for the remainder of the day. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

### CONSIDERATION OF HR 937 CONTINUED

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

The following roll call was recorded:

### YEAS—193

Adolph	Donatucci	Kirkland	Pyle
Aument	Dunbar	Knowles	Quigley
Baker	Ellis	Kortz	Quinn
Barbin	Emrick	Kotik	Rapp
Barrar	Evankovich	Krieger	Ravenstahl
Bear	Evans, J.	Kula	Readshaw
Benninghoff	Everett	Lawrence	Reed
Bishop	Fabrizio	Longietti	Reese
Bloom	Farry	Mackenzie	Roae
Boback	Fleck	Maher	Rock
Boyd	Frankel	Mahoney	Roebuck
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Major	Ross
Bradford	Gabler	Maloney	Sabatina
Brennan	Galloway	Mann	Saccone
Briggs	Geist	Markosek	Sainato
Brooks	George	Marshall	Samuelson
Brown, R.	Gerber	Marsico	Santarsiero
Brown, V.	Gergely	Masser	Santoni
Brownlee	Gibbons	Matzie	Saylor
Burns	Gillen	McGeehan	Scavello
Buxton	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Schmotzer
Caltagirone	Gingrich	Metzgar	Smith, K.
Carroll	Goodman	Miccarelli	Smith, M.
Causar	Grell	Micozzie	Sonney
Christiana	Grove	Millard	Staback
Clymer	Hackett	Miller	Stephens
Cohen	Hahn	Milne	Stern
Conklin	Haluska	Mirabito	Stevenson
Costa, D.	Hanna	Moul	Sturla
Costa, P.	Harhai	Mullery	Swanger
Cox	Harhart	Mundy	Tallman
Creighton	Harkins	Murphy	Taylor
Cruz	Harper	Murt	Thomas
Culver	Heffley	Mustio	Tobash
Curry	Helm	Myers	Toepel
Cutler	Hennessey	Neilson	Toohil
Daley	Hess	Neuman	Truitt
Davidson	Hickernell	O'Brien, M.	Turzai
Davis	Hornaman	O'Neill	Vereb
Day	Hutchinson	Oberlander	Vitali
Dean	James	Parker	Waters
Deasy	Josephs	Pashinski	Watson

DeLissio	Kampf	Payne	Wheatley
Delozier	Kauffman	Payton	Williams
DeLuca	Kavulich	Peifer	Youngblood
Denlinger	Keller, F.	Petrarca	
DePasquale	Keller, M.K.	Petri	Smith, S.,
Dermody	Keller, W.	Pickett	Speaker
DiGirolamo	Killion	Preston	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—7

Boyle, K.	Godshall	Perry	White
Evans, D.	Harris	Simmons	

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

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Mr. MICCARELLI called up **HR 938, PN 4312**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and extending condolences upon the passing of Eric James Reinholt.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—193

Adolph	Donatucci	Kirkland	Pyle
Aument	Dunbar	Knowles	Quigley
Baker	Ellis	Kortz	Quinn
Barbin	Emrick	Kotik	Rapp
Barrar	Evankovich	Krieger	Ravenstahl
Bear	Evans, J.	Kula	Readshaw
Benninghoff	Everett	Lawrence	Reed
Bishop	Fabrizio	Longietti	Reese
Bloom	Farry	Mackenzie	Roae
Boback	Fleck	Maher	Rock
Boyd	Frankel	Mahoney	Roebuck
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Major	Ross
Bradford	Gabler	Maloney	Sabatina
Brennan	Galloway	Mann	Saccone
Briggs	Geist	Markosek	Sainato
Brooks	George	Marshall	Samuelson
Brown, R.	Gerber	Marsico	Santarsiero
Brown, V.	Gergely	Masser	Santoni
Brownlee	Gibbons	Matzie	Saylor
Burns	Gillen	McGeehan	Scavello
Buxton	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Schmotzer
Caltagirone	Gingrich	Metzgar	Smith, K.
Carroll	Goodman	Miccarelli	Smith, M.
Causser	Grell	Micozzie	Sonney
Christiana	Grove	Millard	Staback
Clymer	Hackett	Miller	Stephens
Cohen	Hahn	Milne	Stern
Conklin	Haluska	Mirabito	Stevenson
Costa, D.	Hanna	Moul	Sturla
Costa, P.	Harhai	Mullery	Swanger
Cox	Harhart	Mundy	Tallman
Creighton	Harkins	Murphy	Taylor
Cruz	Harper	Murt	Thomas
Culver	Heffley	Mustio	Tobash
Curry	Helm	Myers	Toepel
Cutler	Hennessey	Neilson	Toohil

Daley	Hess	Neuman	Truitt
Davidson	Hickernell	O'Brien, M.	Turzai
Davis	Hornaman	O'Neill	Vereb
Day	Hutchinson	Oberlander	Vitali
Dean	James	Parker	Waters
Deasy	Josephs	Pashinski	Watson
DeLissio	Kampf	Payne	Wheatley
Delozier	Kauffman	Payton	Williams
DeLuca	Kavulich	Peifer	Youngblood
Denlinger	Keller, F.	Petrarca	
DePasquale	Keller, M.K.	Petri	Smith, S.,
Dermody	Keller, W.	Pickett	Speaker
DiGirolamo	Killion	Preston	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—7

Boyle, K.	Godshall	Perry	White
Evans, D.	Harris	Simmons	

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

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. SMITH

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite to the rostrum, for the purpose of making some farewell remarks, Representative Ken Smith. Ken has been here 6 years, representing the 112th District, Lackawanna County.

I would appreciate the members' attention.

Representative Smith, welcome to the rostrum.

Mr. K. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it just dawned on me, with Representative Matt Smith leaving and with myself leaving the House, you now become the most handsome Smith in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago, shortly after being sworn in as a member of this House, I was standing against the brass rail in the back of the chamber. Then Representative John Yudichak stood beside me and asked, "So what do you think?" I was completely overwhelmed. So began a journey of life's education.

I want to express my profound gratitude to the people of the 112th District for giving me the honor and privilege to be their voice in Harrisburg. I could only hope that I have represented their interests well. For more than 200 years, hundreds of men and women have shared the privilege of sitting in this great chamber. Each of us has been granted a temporary, fleeting moment to rise to the challenge and make a positive, constructive mark on the history of Pennsylvania.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my leadership, particularly Frank Dermody – a former Lackawanna County resident – Mike Hanna, and Jenn Mann. Jenn, I love you. You are the best. You have always given me the tools that I needed to represent the people of the 112th District.

And to my family: To my wife, Dorothy, thank you for being my consummate campaign organizer – a thankless job, but without you and your efforts those years never would have happened. To my children – my son, Ryan, who is a private first

class in the United States Army military police, and to my daughter, Kaleena, thank you for all of your support. And my son, Ryan, if he could be here today, he loves this chamber and he would just love to spend every minute. My daughter, Kaleena, not so much. If it does not have anything to do with fashion, she is not interested, but I love you. To my mother, thank you for your support, your guidance, and your love. Life, life's journey, has not always been easy, but I want to thank you for standing next to me every step of the way. And my mother-in-law, E, thank you for all of your support. And I know tonight when I get home she will call me and she will say, "Ken, I watched you today on ESPN." Close. To my siblings – who I know are not watching – thank you for all you have done for me over the years. And to my family and friends, my family and friends, how do I ever say thank you enough? Your guidance, your love, your energy, standing with me every step of the way. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Being here in Harrisburg 3 to 4 days a week can become very challenging, as you all know. Finding my home away from home became a part of the overall experience these past 6 years. And I must comment on my Harrisburg residence on Green Street, known to most of you as the hall of justice. As one of the Green Street boys, I have had the chance to share my opinions with others who sometimes agreed and sometimes disagreed. There were serious debates and lighthearted banter. During my stay on Green Street, we have been robbed, we have been mugged, the shower fell through the floor, the kitchen stove leaked natural gas, and occasionally we had a visit from the health inspector. But at the end of the day, I would not trade it for the world. I would not trade it because of my lifelong friends that I have made, guys like Harry Readshaw, the statesman of Green Street; Tim Solobay, Sugar; Paul Costa, master of the hall of justice and events coordinator; John Sabatina, assistant events coordinator; Dave Mayernik, in-house government relations; Bill Keller, chief negotiator and master legislator; Mike Carroll, my close friend, to-the-point kind of guy, hardworking, and as he would say, find a way and get it done; John Yudichak, now Senator John Yudichak, house grouch – I will say it again, house grouch; Brandon Neuman, bright, hardworking, and I will predict it now, someday Supreme Court Justice; and our sergeants at arms, Gaynor Cawley and Tommy Tighe.

To my staff, where would I be without them? To my former chief of staff, Lee Ann Munley, I can remember our first day on the job. We looked at each other. I looked you in the eyes and I said, "And now what?" Well, it did not take long for the phones to ring and the crises to begin. We grew on the job. We worked hard, and I believe we represented the people of the district well. I do not know what I would have done without your tenacity, your dedication, and your get-the-job-done spirit. John McGurl, who has moved on to another job, my young, high-spirited legislative assistant. I want to thank my former summer interns, and in particular, Dean Cali. Dean is currently a full-time legislative assistant in my office. After graduating from college, he went on to banking and came back to our staff. He is young, he is bright, strong work ethic, and at the same time keeps us laughing. Eddie Ruddy in my office; nobody answers the phone like Eddie Ruddy. Cathy Wechsler, my current chief of staff. For the past year, Cathy, you have done a great job at running the district office, keeping me on time for the most part, and available for constituent service. You are a true professional. My legislative assistant here, my first

legislative assistant here in Harrisburg, Sharon Stepp, a great gal with lots of energy and a good sense of humor. I cannot thank her enough for setting me in the right direction. I remember the first day on the job when we were sworn in, I had 130 of my closest friends and family show up on two buses. Her job of the day was to put them in the right direction, get them lunch, get them to the events, and she did it. She did it with great ease and grace. And finally, as they were all getting on the bus to go home, she looked at me and she said, "Ken, your family is crazy," and she is right. My current legislative assistant, Jenifer Rosenberger; Jenifer, you have done a great job stepping into the job in a difficult time and making sure I was off in the right direction here in Harrisburg.

To my fellow members, without exception, without exception, what I have witnessed within this chamber on both sides of the aisle is elected Representatives that are dedicated to their constituents and needs of the people of Pennsylvania. And as all of you are aware, as we live in this time of 24/7 news frenzy, a media that favors speculation over analysis, conflict over consensus, and the mentality of seek and destroy, I have found that you, each member here holds a special element in your heart.

I just want to share this one quick story with you. About 2 years ago I had a single mom walk into my office right off the street. She had two children – one in her left hand, one in her right hand. She walked right into my office and she started to cry. She said, I am sick and so are my children. We do not have health care, and I cannot afford to get them medicine. So I said, sit down. We were able to help the children and we were able to get the young mom access to health care. And before she left, I wrote her a personal check so that she could go to the pharmacy and get her prescription drug. And I do not say that to pat myself on the back or to say that I am special, but I know with certainty each and every one of you in this chamber has done that time and time and time again without anyone knowing, and you do not want anyone to know. But the point I am trying to make is that we as legislators, we do not knock people down and we do not step on them when they are down. And I believe that the media wants people to believe that if we are not here, we are not working. That is unfair and it is unjust and it is not right.

Each one of you are very special, hardworking people that make a sacrifice to the people of this Commonwealth, and I believe with every ounce of my heart that the media today needs to recognize that. And I know that those types of stories in my own little part of the universe would never be told, would never be told in the print media or the electronic media. It is a shame.

My advice to each one of you is to continue what is right, follow your heart, and never change who you are as a person. I ask you to please always remember those in the dawn of life, the shadows of life, and the twilight of life. They may not always ask for your help, but they sure need us.

In closing, I want to leave you with some words of wisdom that a friend of mine shared with me not too long ago. The words are this: "Life is not a race – but indeed a journey. Be honest. Work hard.... Say 'thank you,' 'I love you,' and 'great job' to someone each day...Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given, it is not accidental – search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life

and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free." Always be ready to "forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself – plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Live for today, enjoy the moment."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Representative Smith, I was just telling him I really appreciated his words and especially the comments about how sometimes this job is mischaracterized in the public's eye. I thought you expressed that in a very appropriate and tactful manner. I personally appreciate it.

I want to congratulate you and thank you and present you with a commemorative gavel to help remind you of your days here in the House and wish you the best in all your future endeavors. Thank you.

We are going to break for lunch and then come back. We have a few more members that would like to deliver some farewell remarks.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER. This House stands in recess until 1:30, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

### AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

The SPEAKER. I would appreciate if the members would proceed to the floor.

### GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. I would like to introduce a couple of other guests that are with us this afternoon.

Located in the rear of the House, we would like to welcome Debra Reznick, and she is here as the guest of Representative Toohil. Debra, please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House; at the side there.

And to the left of the rostrum, as a guest of Representative Metcalfe, we would like to welcome Allison Shelly. Allison, welcome to the hall of the House.

Members, please report to the floor.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. PRESTON

The SPEAKER. If I could have the members' attention. We would like to invite to the rostrum Representative Joe Preston. Joe has been serving the 24th Legislative District for 30 years.

Joseph, welcome to the rostrum.

Mr. PRESTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I bargained with Life for a penny,  
And Life would pay no more,  
However I begged at evening  
When I counted my scanty store.

For Life is a just employer,  
It pays you just what you ask,  
But once you have set the wages,  
Why, you must bear the task.

I worked for a menial's hire,  
Only to learn, dismayed,  
That any wage I had asked of Life,  
Life would have willingly gave.

Mr. Speaker, to the majority and minority leadership and to my brothers and sisters in the House of Representatives of the legislature, some people would say, well, what are you going to say? I just told the minority leader I had no idea what I was going to say until I started walking up here, but I think it is important because of the body politic.

Let me first start off with two people who are not here who mean so much to me. One is my 92-year-old mother, who basically always told me to keep my head up high. The other, who passed on in the year 2000, was my dad, Joseph Preston, the only man in my whole life, in all my family and all the people that I have met across this country and in different parts of the world, that I have never, ever heard him complain in my whole life.

Now I come to you at the end of almost half my life, of 30 years, and 35 years ago, and most of you know the movie "The Blues Brothers"? I met someone in that mall where they drive through and wrecked it, and 35 years – I am sorry; 40 years now – but 35 years ago we got married. She has tolerated me in a lot of different ways. And most of us know what it is to the other half of the corporation with the trials and tribulations. And one of the things in the legislature that we get a chance to be able to do with our parents, when you speak in front of groups, but at the same time to the other half of your corporation is, my wife who is back there, Odelfa Smith Preston, thank you very much.

Family. Thirty years ago almost this week – well, it was this week, Mr. Speaker – four people got in a car and came up here: Tony DeLuca, Dave Mayernik, and Joe Markosek. We came up here together, and I never will forget when we came across that bridge at night saying, wow, what have we gotten into? And we started talking about the responsibilities of family. What was interesting, I remember holding up the election at that time because they did not have a seat for my wife and daughter. My daughter was 3 weeks old, and Diana is back here now and she has her daughter of 7 months. So we have gone through that. Along with that is my son, Joe Preston III; his wife, Munirah; and their children, Joe Preston IV – whom we call J.P. IV – Jazmane, and Maura. I would like to be able to thank you also for the absenteeism that I put away of doing the House's business, but I wanted to thank you for your presence and let you know how much I still love you in each and every way. Thank you.

I am left-handed, so a lot of us realize what it is like to be able to have extensions of your arms, and all of us understand very significantly how important staff is. And I guess when



I came here, Dave Mayernik and I shared a secretary. Things are a little different now. I understand you are finally going to get wise and go back to that. But we started off with Ms. Jeanne Sullivan. And I always like this now, because Lavette Page started off as a staff person, and I would like to take a little credit, because she was the first staff person as a legislative assistant, and now I like to think about the Right Reverend Dr. Lavette Page. Dianna Bush; Tawna Bauer; my executive director, Gail Davis; the research analysts, Tim Scott and Jerry Livingston; Lisa Kubeika; Wendy Shearer, my personal secretary; and the executive director of the Consumer Affairs Committee, Beth Rosentel.

District office staff. I mean, I know I have always heard this term about "chief of staff," and we come up with a whole lot of titles. We never had that. We just called ourselves Team 24. I will give you an example. You are looking at the janitor in the district office, because I never thought, and I want you to understand this, you never get too big to do the little person's job or too little to do the big person's job. But Sandra Roberts, for 25 years, has held the fort down there, along with Brandon Davis and Juanita Gale. I would like to be able to give the staff a big hand. Thank you very much.

I also had writers such as Tom Andrews, Amy Hartman, Roseann Cardau, and Cameron Texter.

Some of the people who, as we go, we try in this life to make a difference. There was Dock Fielder; my long-lost brother, Tommy Martinelli; Bubby Harriston; and Commissioner Tom Foerster. We came along and together.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you something else as I get ready to leave. One of the best things about leaving, I am going to give you my BlackBerry. I cannot wait to get rid of the BlackBerry – "CrackBerry," however you want to look at it.

People always like to talk about some of the things that you have done. You are probably looking at the only person amongst you right now in 30 years that never had a press conference. I always thought that the staff, we should be doing things instead of stopping and telling somebody something we wanted to do or something we did in the past. I never did that. And I have never gone around and talked about I, me, mine. But some of the things that I think about, and I will give you a quick story. When we had those grants, Mr. Speaker? I merged a very exclusive women's college in the Pittsburgh area along with an ecumenical group, and we got a grant to deal with Black men who were functionally illiterate.

I helped another group as far as learning with books. Three months later I sat down at the Homewood-Brushton library, and I watched a gentleman who 3 months before that was functionally illiterate sit down and read a story with 15 young people in that audience. Two of them were his children. How do you ever as a legislator or an elected official put a price on that?

And those are some of the things that we have to remember, to try to treat people like we would like to be treated. You heard earlier today that there are some people who do not get the benefit of everything, and it is true, and if we ever sat in the same seat, and this is so important to me, because whether we come – and I came up in the great Joe Petrarca's district. I am just a kid off the Kiskiminetas River. I came up in the small town of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. What I remember, though, what I remember was not until I was 9 years old my mother explained to me why I did not go on a field trip, because I remember the parents taking their kids off of a bus. And when

I was 9 years old, 3 or 4 years later she explained to me that the parents took their kids off the bus because I as a Black man or a Black child could not ride on that bus, and they said if I could not go, they were not going to go. We need to be able to address these things. This is something every day in my life that I have had to go and face, when I went to college, went I went to school, and even in the dichotomy here. When I introduced my staff, you noticed the diversification. Part of my challenge to my leadership is, diversification should be you pick the best person. You pick the best person no matter if they are too tall, too short, too old, too young, too black, too white, too yellow, too brown, too much Democrat, too much Republican.

One of the biggest arguments I ever had with the great K. Leroy Irvis is I asked him, and some of you old-timers might remember, remember Hefty Fryer? Probably one of the most conservative Democrats that we have ever had. And I asked him one time, why are you so close to him? And he says, let me tell you something, if you open up a bank or you have a grocery store and someone comes in to do business, do you ask them what their political philosophy is? But yet in a sense, we create these lines of demarcation.

When I traveled, I remember sitting down and dealing with certain issues and saying, we have the most segregated legislative body in the country. Not even talking about color: separate phone systems; separate media rooms; wasting money on separate print shops; Democrats on this floor, Republicans on this floor. When you go to Washington, unless you know, who do you know, what office are they really in? I want to say this to our leadership and to the members: We need to do this. Bob Marley once said, one day in this world, the color of one's skin will be just as insignificant as the color of one's eyes. I have to be able to address that to you while I have your attention, and please remember that.

Some of the bills that I guess I am proudest of – you heard me tell this story – there was no statewide dropout program. This first piece of legislation, along with the Job Corps, is what we did. We changed some things in the city of Pittsburgh. I did the legislation to change the way the police trial board was judged, where officers were made a lot more accountable. I remember the bill that we did permitting the city of Pittsburgh to have district council elections. We had to have a State policeman go to; it was a Holy Cross basketball game where the Governor was at, and he had to sign the bill before 12 o'clock to be able to make it, and now today they have district elections.

But the other thing, I think, is that working with the bipartisan – and we have talked about this – bipartisanship. Former Chairman Ray Bunt: We did a bill that probably no one has ever done in the history in the way we did it. It is why we have cable competition today. Both leaderships were against the bill. Democrat, Republican, majority, and minority were against the bill. We still moved the bill with only three negative votes, and the Governor wound up signing the bill. That is about working together, whether it was with Bob Flick or Bob Godshall, who had to go home earlier. In the next 20 years the Consumer Affairs Committee and all the members who are on there, there is going to be infrastructure and intermodal transportation development. There are going to be more people who are going to be working from union jobs, meaningful-wage jobs, when we passed that CSIC (collection system improvement charge) bill, and I want to thank you. And I remember the forgiveness and the instructions that we had, but

we passed that bill with hardly anybody against it. In the next 20 years, the biggest jobs bill that we have really passed that are meaningful wages – that was possible.

That is about basically what I wanted to be able to tell you. I have enjoyed the trip. I look forward to expressing myself in a lot of different ways in other capacities, and I will never, ever forget you. And I wanted to talk to you like I have always talked to myself. If you notice, I did not read a speech. One of the biggest differences when I came in here was people talked from here, and when you start seeing people read speeches, it means someone else is putting the words together. We need to get back to a little bit of that, except for when you are dealing with empirical statements and things that are involved with a lot of technology.

Mr. Clymer is a perfect example. He does not read a speech all the time. He speaks from his heart. We need to be able to do that. I have never had a problem, when we had big decisions and tough times with the Consumer Affairs Committee, but Bob and I, Bob Flick and I, we always sat down and discussed what we disagreed upon and then we moved forward. I encourage you to do that.

And I leave you with the last thought. If you want to be a good choir, you have got to hear the person on both sides of you, but you have got to be able to hear yourself talk just as well. We need to come together. This House should not be so divided. I encourage you to work together.

As I like to be able to say, sayayung, sayonara, arrivederci, au revoir. Later on, my brothers and sisters. God bless you.

The SPEAKER. That was very well said.

As Representative Preston was talking, I think of a few times when some of us remember occasions or two when Joe might get a little excited about something, and he could be a little fiery. But, you know, and it goes to a little bit of what he was talking about, he might get a little heated up sometimes, but within the hour or the next day, you can bet everybody came back down to earth and you would have the good conversation you needed. And I remember you firing a few off here now and then with that passion, but that is a good thing.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Joe, it has been a pleasure serving with you, and I want to present you with this commemorative gavel to help mark your years of service to the people of Pennsylvania and to your legislative district. God bless you in everything you do.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. MICOZZIE, will be placed on leave for the remainder of the day.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. HUTCHINSON

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite Representative Scott Hutchinson to the rostrum. Scott has represented the 64th Legislative District for 20 years, and he is another one of those guys that is moving to the other end of the building. We will not hold that against you too much.

Scott, welcome to the rostrum.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Yes, I did write my speech because I am not sure I can make it through this, but bear with me.

Before I start, I did want to recognize my family who is with me here today. Girls, if you would stand up. With me is my wife, Mary Beth, who is the wind beneath my wings. I came to the House as a single man, but I found a very talented, accomplished, and forgiving woman who always goes the extra mile. Thank you.

Also, my three daughters – Sophie, Anne Marie, and Lucy. I was blessed to be able to announce all three of their births on the floor of the House, and those were certainly milestone days for Mary Beth and me. They can tell you that I give more speeches at home than I do in my job. They have grown up in the proverbial fishbowl, but they still think that coming to the Capitol Building is pretty cool. They could probably give you a tour of this building, as well as a tour of Hershey's Chocolate World, which we have been to hundreds of times. That is not an exaggeration; we have gone through that tour a hundred times, I will bet. And to show what they really do with their spare time, one of my daughters a few years ago, a little bit younger, said, "Dad, will we ever get to watch a parade in our lifetime?" Thank you, girls, for your love and support.

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1. This last year, as I have contemplated the big challenges in my life, I found comfort often in those few words from Scripture that address the inevitability of change as we make our life's journeys. New opportunities for growth and new opportunities to serve others have opened before me.

One score years ago, I was elected to the House in a campaign I fondly refer to as "The Revenge of the Nerds." As I was welcomed into the Capitol for the first time in my very sheltered life at that point, this nerdy 31-year-old was very unsure of what I had gotten myself into.

The first evening here was a dinner with some members of the Northwest Caucus, and we were talking about the leadership elections which were to be held the next morning. As an aside, I could write a book about that leadership election alone, but we will have to leave that for another day. Anyway, I can still remember how I was greeted by Dave King, former member Dave King, who was sitting beside me at dinner that evening, and here is what he said to me: "Welcome to the Land of Oz. This is the most interesting but also the most unexplainable experience you will ever have." Boy, was he right.

Today I am less naive, and some will say I may even be cynical, but I do have a treasure trove of current history and countless stories stored in my brain. Someday I will write them down. But I have ridden the roller coaster from laughter to frustration to tears and back to laughter again. I have less hair on my head today, but I also have worked alongside some of the most interesting, amazing, and talented people imaginable. Thank you for that ride.

I have never been good at goodbyes, and I still get nervous when I have to give big speeches. In fact, I have been thinking back to high school when I was one of several top students in our class and I was given the chance to speak at our graduation. But in that instance, I chickened out. Thank goodness several of my classmates volunteered to speak, and I was off the hook. Yes, this rather shy guy now speaks in public for a living, or as my daughters used to say, "Dad, are they going to drag you up front again?"

Now comes the part that we as politicians really dread, and that is leaving names out of lists. But I think it is a tradition, and for those of you who know me, I really cherish tradition, so here goes.

First, I want to thank the people of the 64th District, Venango and Butler Counties. I am humbled and I am honored that you took the chance to choose me to represent you in Harrisburg those 20 years ago and then stuck with me.

Next I want to thank everyone here, past and present, whose influence has molded me in some manner – some large, some small, some good, and some, well, not so good. But I love and respect each and every one of you. But please forgive me if I do leave you out or if I have offended you in any other way. I will say this: If for some reason you feel slighted today, I promise I will put you in my speech when I leave the Senate someday.

I also wanted to say that I have many fond memories of folks who are no longer here, but we will have to leave those for the sidelines also.

I will start with Speaker Smith. Sam is one of the northwest legislators. You were a mentor to me in many ways early on in my career. I am sure there are now days that you regret that I am still here, but I appreciate your help over the years and your guidance and helping me get started in this wonderful position.

Next I would like to recognize Chairman George. I think we have a different, unique kind of bond, and it really goes back to my family roots from Houtzdale and Madera. As the Chairman and I leave this body together, I think I am going to put a little bit of a time perspective on that, and that is, I am still fascinated that Bud George talks about and remembers my grandfather, who is someone I had never met. As a matter of fact, my grandfather was deceased 9 years before I was even born. So I think that is a neat perspective on the passage of time. And I also wanted to recognize him for his service as the last World War II veteran in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Speaking of mentors, Mike Turzai, the whirlwind from Allegheny County. Mike came here 8 years after me, but very quickly he was teaching me how to have influence, how to be more effective, how to get things done. He also really brought some focus to many issues and agenda items that I believed in but really could not articulate well, and I appreciate that, Mike. Mike and I also had the chance to travel around the State for various and sundry reasons, and I know Mike will remember that I think we heard one gentleman testify about 15 times before the Finance Committee about the same property tax plan. Mike, thank you for your guidance, both professionally and personally. Thank you for your friendship and support.

Next I would like to recognize landslide Julie Harhart. Julie, at the beginning of her career, barely made it here – a very, very close election. But since coming here 18 years ago, she sat behind me the whole time, and that includes all those days when we had the all-night sessions, and it was a bonding period, to say the least. Julie has always been an inspiration because of her courage, her convictions on some really tough issues, and she really was there to keep me on an even keel. But the only note I am going to leave you with, Julie: Please remember to unplug your heater, because I do not want you to burn down the Capitol.

Next, Kerry Benninghoff. Kerry has been my buddy in the foxhole for 16 years, both professionally as well as personally. I am sure that we will continue to be friends and commiserate as we go to separate sides of the building. Thanks, Kerry.

Next I would like to recognize a group fondly known as the Roxy Caucus. We have a flexible membership that includes Kerry, Marty Causer, Kathy Rapp, Matt Gabler, Jim Cox, Daryl Metcalfe, Brad Roae, all people with true convictions, but they have all been confidantes to me, friends, people I can lean on for anything. And I also know that we have had many laughs in the past and we will, I am sure, going forward.

Others I would like to recognize, the folks who sit back in the cheap seats, as it were, or maybe in the back-bench area, where really I have been seated in that row for my entire 20 years. Some of the folks there today are Dick Stevenson, Donna Oberlander, Michele Brooks, Curt Sonney, Jeff Pyle, Brian Ellis, George Dunbar, Eli Evankovich, Sue Helm. Folks, I think I do not have to tell any of the members, but you really do get close to those who are sitting near you on the floor, both for commiseration but also to have some fun together, and I will miss those friendships.

The remaining members of my freshman class: Matt Baker, Tim Hennessey, Stan Saylor, Jerry Stern. That was the Republican side. And on the Democratic side: Bill Keller, Larry Curry, Greg Vitali, Dante Santoni, Ron Buxton, Thaddeus Kirkland. Our class really has seen a lot of changes here in Harrisburg, but I really think we were one of the best classes. We have done a lot.

A shout-out also to the upper East Wing members and staff. You know, even though I moved my office away from the upper East Wing 6 years ago, I still frequent those hallways, because the people are so friendly and very welcoming, and I hope that even when I go to the Senate, you will allow me to come back over there and hang out from time to time.

I want to thank the entire staff of the House. I am still impressed and I do remember very early on that I was amazed by the professionalism and friendliness of our committee staff, our Appropriations staff, the CORE employees, and they are under some very trying circumstances, folks. So I want to thank them and say God bless you all for putting up with some big egos and some real quirky idiosyncrasies.

Thank you to those who have made my Environmental chairmanship a great experience: Joe Deklinski, Jonathan Lutz, Mark Brown, as well as Craig Brooks, Tony Guerrieri, and Geoff MacLaughlin at the Joint Conservation Committee.

Folks, my personal staff has really, really been outstanding. They make me look good through their tireless efforts. They never get the glory they deserve or thanks in an adequate way for the job well done, but I truly do appreciate them. And in many ways, as you probably know, your staff becomes like an extended family, so I want to thank them.

In my district, Kim Scott, Becky Hedglin, Julie Danzer, and former employees Becky Sawyer and Christine Bubeck. And here in Harrisburg I have been ably served by Kristy Walters, Jessica Guyer, and my original assistant, Wendy McCloskey. Thank you all so very, very much.

I am winding down, and they say that every speech should challenge the audience, so I am going to give you three pieces of advice and take it for what it is.

Number one, listening is important. We must all listen more. I know politicians love to speak, but the most critical thing we should do is listen to others and learn from them. Whether it is constituents, colleagues, in floor speeches, in testimony, or even from news sources, the best way to improve oneself as well as improve our world is to listen to others. I think Emerson's quote

is timeless: "Every man is my superior in that I may learn from him."

Number two, please see the treasures that are in all four corners of this wonderful State of Pennsylvania, and by that I mean both the people from across this State who are treasures in their own right, as well as the unique physical venues that our State has to offer. I believe it is an important part of our job to go to as many areas of the State as we can, to hear and see citizens in their own element. We have a diverse but very rich State with many important ideas out there. Also, the physical surroundings of Pennsylvania contain other valuable riches, and they give us a glimpse of the strengths, our diversity, and our opportunity. From the underground coal mines in Greene County to the forests of Warren County to a Marcellus rig in Bradford County to the Susquehanna nuclear generator, you can see the triumph of Pennsylvania ingenuity and safely improving the quality of life and the quality of our society.

And besides that, I cannot account for the number of businesses and plant tours that I have participated in over the years. My girls always know when I have gone on a plant tour, because when I come home, they see I am in a good mood and I have so many things to tell them. It is fascinating, and I would tell you to take advantage of those.

I have also been to bike trails, small museums, restored community theaters, countless cultural venues and historical sites in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania as a legislator, and it has heightened my Pennsylvania pride and broadened my horizons immensely. Take advantage of all that Pennsylvania has to offer.

And number three, pay attention to history, including recent history. That includes the rich history of our institution of the General Assembly and our traditions here. Traditions, though sometimes quaint, can protect us from bigger harm, and distilling the lessons from history can help illuminate our journey forward. I learned so much from senior members. Even at this time in my career, I am still learning from senior members, and I believe that all of you can, too.

In addition, longer term history is also chock-full of danger warnings as well as pathways to solutions. Our nation's Founders were exceptionally brilliant and God-inspired, so learn, understand, and follow their lead.

Now I bid farewell to this esteemed body, the People's House. I leave as a frequently frustrated legislator who is also the most blessed man alive. When the job of legislating gets me down, I remind myself of the words of Winston Churchill: "...democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried."

Thank you. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless this Commonwealth. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Yeah, there are times, Scott, that I wondered about how good a mentor I was to you. But seriously, it has been a great journey and you have been a great friend, and we wish you the best of luck in the Senate. I think you will find some frustrations over there as well.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. I also want to present you with a commemorative gavel to remind you of your years in the Pennsylvania House. Good luck to you, and God bless you.

### STATEMENT BY MR. ADOLPH

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Adolph, under unanimous consent.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, obviously when you hear those retirement speeches, and this job does get to you, it does mean an awful lot to each and every one of us. And I came before you about 3 weeks ago and announced the retirements of three very special people that put in 78 years collectively to the service of this House. Well, this morning I was sitting in my office and a young woman that I have known for 24 years came walking in my office and she announced her retirement, and she has been with this House 33 years. So the House Republican Appropriations Committee has now lost four people with a total of 111 years of experience and institutional knowledge, something that Representative Preston kept on talking about in his farewell speech.

I had to ask her— Kathy Vranicar is her name. She worked in a cubical for 33 years, no bigger than probably this desk and this podium. But she probably knows more about health and welfare in this State than any other person in the Commonwealth. And I had to ask her, was it my reelection as Appropriations chairman that pushed her over the hump and announced it the day after? And she just said to me, she said, "Bill, this is the biggest struggle I've had in my adult life." She said, "It's time to go." And, you know, I was giving her encouragement and always whispering in her ear, I said, "If it means anything, the chairman would like you to stay," okay? So I guess when she found out who the chairman was, she decided to retire.

But Kathy has always taken very seriously the needs of the disabled throughout this Commonwealth, and she tried to balance that with the taxpayers of this Commonwealth. And maybe it was the unbelievable struggles that we had with the loss of the Federal stimulus money and so forth and so on over the last 2 years and the long hours that this woman put in — weekends, holidays — putting together a budget for the Department of Welfare.

She tried to sneak out on us. She did not want to be a part of any retirement plan. I think she waited until the others had their cake and ice cream and all that good stuff and she sprung this on us. But I said I would not allow her to disappear from this House without allowing members and staff an opportunity to thank her and say goodbye and best wishes on a wonderful retirement. Kathy Vranicar.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. BUXTON

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite Representative Ron Buxton to the dais for some farewell remarks. Ron has served the 103d Legislative District, obviously the home of the Capitol, right here in the city of Harrisburg, for 20 years.

Mr. BUXTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I have observed many of these goodbyes over the last two decades that I have been here in the House of Representatives, and you know, it really never sinks in until you are standing here and you are the one saying goodbye.

I am truly grateful for the privilege of having served the people of the 103d Legislative District for 20 years. I have always tried to do right by them. I am equally grateful for the opportunity to have served with my colleagues who are present here today, and also those that have gone in the past since I have been here in 1993. I cannot think of another occupation that would have afforded me the opportunity to meet so many people and to make so many friends.

My respect for the House of Representatives as an institution cannot be overstated. The members of this chamber are extremely dedicated, and I am proud to have been a part of this legislature.

I particularly want to thank my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus who have elected me twice to their Democratic leadership team in the past 4 years. It has been a true honor to represent my peers in a leadership capacity.

I believe each of us comes here with one primary objective: to serve our constituents to the best of our ability. We want to help people, and that should remain our guiding principle throughout our tenure here. The oath we affirm every 2 years must remain valid. I do not measure the success of a legislator by the number of laws passed but rather by the compassion and dedication in solving problems for constituents. We all have a myriad of stories to tell about constituent services. Those stories will live with us forever.

I have been fortunate to have achieved some legislative and policy successes over my course of 10 terms in this legislature, but none would have been possible without my colleagues and others who recognize the need to address issues of common concern to the residents of Pennsylvania. The responsibilities of our job are very daunting, to say the least. For all practical purposes, there are no days off, despite an inaccurate image often portrayed by some of our detractors.

In addition to the honor of service for the past and present House of Representatives, I have also had the pleasure of working with large numbers of local officials from my county, my school districts, and my municipalities. There is almost a limitless matrix of issues which involve cooperation between the various levels of government, and we have mutually benefited from the input of these difficulties.

I should also note that I have the unique experience of representing our State capital, which presents its own challenges, as many of my predecessors will admit. Along with the boroughs of Steelton and Highspire and part of Swatara Township, I hope I have left a positive impact on the 103d Legislative District.

As we all know, our jobs extend hardships to our families. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those members of my family who were able to join me today. In the rear of the House is my father and his wife, Bob and Betsy; my two sons, Ryan and Eric; and two of my four grandchildren, Eyan and Carter. Eyan and Carter, give me a wave.

By virtue of working together on a daily basis, many of us develop very close relationships with our Capitol and district office staffs. If I may say, they become, as Scott indicated earlier, our extended family. I wish to recognize members of my staff: Linda Farling, who has been my chief of staff for 18 years – stand up; Donna Robinson, who has been my district office

manager for 19 years; Cindy Schue, who has been my legislative assistant and leadership assistant for 12 years; and Tamboura Hatcher, who is my legislative assistant.

My leadership staff, who has guided me through the last 4 years in my capacity as the caucus administrator, has done a great job for me. I am so appreciative to Julie Orris, who is my executive director – Julie; Tim Malinak, who is my leadership legislative specialist; and to David Schlansker, L.A. (legislative assistant), who knows every parking spot in the underground garage.

I would also like to recognize a group of close friends who honor me with their presence today, and they are sitting in the back with my family and staff. Thank you, friends.

I would be remiss if I did not give a shout-out to three staff members who work hard to ensure that everything goes well on the House floor and beyond, and those three are Wally Macon, Dave Spizzirri, and Lynn Bias. You all know who they are.

In wishing you all a final farewell, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the extraordinary experience of serving with you here in this House of Representatives. In 1992 when I began this journey, I gave an inaugural speech at my swearing-in ceremony at City Hall. I wish to conclude this journey today with the same words I started with 20 years ago:

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me....  
With God as our father  
Brothers—

— and sisters —

—all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.

God bless you all, and God bless this great State of Pennsylvania.

## COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Ron, it has been a pleasure to serve with you. Your calm, measured, and pragmatic style has always been refreshing and rewarding, and somebody that we know we can talk to and just kind of get the facts. We appreciate your service. God bless you. We have a commemorative gavel for you, also, to mark your service to the people of Pennsylvania, and wish you the best in the coming years.

I would like to invite Representative Scott Boyd to the rostrum. Scott has been serving the 43d Legislative District, Lancaster County, for 10 years.

## FILMING PERMISSION

The SPEAKER. No reflection on you, but we are also going to give permission for media access to the floor to Ben Simmoneau and Andrea Korff of KYW-TV in Philadelphia for 20 minutes for videotaping and audio.

## FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. BOYD

The SPEAKER. Welcome to the rostrum.

Mr. BOYD. Thank you.

First of all, I want to thank Representative Hutchinson – I guess I should call him Senator Hutchinson. He helped me get through the part of this about being emotional. I have been struggling with how I am going to react to this whole process, and I figured out: It must be something about the name. It has to be in the name Scott. So he only has to be worried about that, I guess, for a very short period of time, because his first name is changed to Senator, right? But if I get emotional, blame Hutch for me, okay? Also, I want to thank everybody who is still here. Those of you who are in those seats, who have gone through these speeches before, I just want you to know how much it means to those of us who this is our final farewell. Thank you guys for hanging out.

I remember my first day I got here, when we got sworn in, the class of 2003. We were a large class. There were flowers all around. We got our seating arrangement and I was sitting right where Representative Doyle Heffley is. I was sitting – or no, no, no, Joe Emrick. I was sitting where Joe Emrick is, Representative Joe Emrick. Sorry; I have to get this respect thing going. I am sitting in the middle of the row, and my name is "Boyd." To my left is a guy named "Hickernell." We were in the same class, a B and an H. I leaned over to him and I said, "I thought the seating arrangements around here were done by seniority?" He said, "They are." I said, "I am a B and you are an H. Why are you out there and I am in the middle?" He said, "Well, I am not going to lie to you, I know people." And I said, "Yeah, but wait a second. I called the Speaker." He said, "I called the Speaker's staff." Right. I learned a valuable lesson – that was my first day – and the valuable lesson is that staff means everything.

So I want to start out my speech by thanking and acknowledging the wonderful staff that we all have had the opportunity to work with. And truly, they do make the trains run on time. I have to tell you, it is amazing how the June 30th, that deadline is there, and the staff is so in tune with meeting that deadline. So there are a few people that I want to just mention and worked with on research staff: affectionately, Sharon Schwartz – I call her Schwartzie; Bruce Hanson; Vicki DiLeo on the Labor Committee; Susan Boyle in State Government; Kim Hileman on the Democratic side on State Government; Art McNulty in Insurance; Phyllis Gould; Kathy McCormac; Alan Cohn; Greg Grasa, who – I love this story – Greg Grasa and I ran against each other in the primary, and when I got here, he ended up working with me and became one of my writers, which is a testament to what can happen in the political environment if you learn to work together. And of course my dear friend, my campaign manager, who got me through my very first campaign, who is now our PRC (public relations coordinator) in the Public Relations Department, Diane Moore. I do not know if Diane is watching, but you are the best. I appreciate you very, very much.

I want to mention my personal staff, who is on the floor with me today. First is Debbie Acor. Debbie retired not too long ago from the House. She was the only legislative staff person for the 43d Legislative District when it was reapportioned from western Pennsylvania. So Debbie now, by the way, she is running

around the building today talking to everybody, and they say, "Deb, do you miss it?" She says, "Not a bit." She is encouraging everybody to take the deal. So, Deb, I appreciate you being here. I am going to have them all stand up at one time. Nicole Wilbourn; Nicole worked in my district office, and now she is a legislative secretary up here. She worked for Marguerite for a season, came back to me, and now she has landed with Daryl Metcalfe, Representative Metcalfe, Chairman Metcalfe. Josiah Shelly, who was one of my district aides, is now our legislative research analyst in State Government, doing a bang-up job. By the way, he wants everybody out here who has any questions on voter ID (identification) to see him. I love it. I am getting out. Okay. Who am I missing? Oh, Lori Blackiston, my district office constituent service specialist, is not here because she is back in the district working. Lori, you are probably watching online. Answer the phone. Stop watching television. Okay. Enough said about staff. Why do you guys not stand up. Please give them a round of applause.

I just want to mention some of my friends in the leadership staff who have been great to work with, and you all know, and you work on both sides of the aisle. I have had the distinct pleasure – and I say that loosely – to be in the majority for three terms and in the minority for two terms. I can tell you that one is better than the other, but you learn to work with staff in both processes. I am just going to mention some folks real quickly: of course Dave Thomas and Tony Aliano; Karen Coates – where is Coatesy? Is she around? Coatesy? I will be thinking about you; Krystjan Callahan; Steve Tuckey, Dr. Ed Nolan – wish him well in his retirement; Ritchie LaFaver; Kelly Fedeli; and James. James – the younger fellows do not remember this – but James, before he was the mace carrier, worked for the Appropriations chairman, Mario Civera. Every Tuesday James made lunch and we all went into Mario's conference room and had lunch. James is a great macebearer, but he is a better chef. I vote for James back having lunch on Tuesdays in Adolph's conference room. That is just to put that out there, all right? I told you I would have fun, Sam. I hope you do not mind. Let me see. Of course, working in the minority, working with the Democratic staff, I had a great time working with Nora Winkelman, Paul Parsells, Laura Kuller, Miriam Fox, Mike Schwoyer, Rick Speese – I ran into Rick today. He is retired. Boy, does he look relaxed. I have to tell you, I think he is enjoying himself. Enjoyed working with all of them and many, many others, but these are just the ones that come to my mind. And of course the folks down front: Wally, Cuppy, the guys that help us out, the pages that work. And Wally down front, did you ever notice Wally's seat has the beads on it? Every time I bring school groups in, they say, "Why does that chair have those beads on it?" I say, "It is simple: because Wally wants it that way." Right, Wally? That is good.

All righty. I want to tell you another story. I did not know this could happen, but I had a fire company in my district, the Leola Fire Company, and they had a 1975 pumper and they gave it away. And they gave it to a fire company in Cokeburg, Pennsylvania. Anybody know where Cokeburg is? See, look at that. Cokeburg, Pennsylvania. Tim Solobay's district. And when they found out, the Cokeburg Fire Company found out that Leola was going to give them this fire truck, they invited my wife and me out for a celebration. I mean, the whole town turned out, and it is 80 percent Democrat. So we drive out, and the fire truck is out there, and it was just really this great time.

We go into the fire hall, and the fire hall is massive. It was a huge fire hall, and they had a bar that was bigger than Gilligan's, but they did not have a fire truck. I was like, wow, this is remarkable. Listen, here is the point to the story. This State is incredibly diverse. I mean, it is just a different, you know, from one— I mean, it was less than a 4-hour drive and I felt like I was in a different country. It just strikes me how important we as legislators are in that process, because we are ambassadors for our districts. So I just encourage you, stop at Cokeburg sometime. It is a great town. It is Neuman's district now. It just struck me at how remarkable the diversity is.

Representative Babette Josephs, back in '05, I believe, I was the prime sponsor of the Pennsylvania marriage protection amendment, something that Babette was not fond of at the time. The Democrats came in in the majority in '06, and the press called me up and said, "Representative Boyd, what do you think the odds are for the marriage protection amendment?" My comment to the press was, "With Babette Josephs as a majority chair of the State Government Committee, it will be one cold day." And that word got out, and she used that in her district as campaign material. I became her honorary campaign chair for her reelection because her district was so pleased that this right-wing wacko from Lancaster County said Babette has got this bill tied up. It was really kind of interesting. She came up on the floor and she thanked me – shows you how diverse the State is. Also told me I ought to keep my mouth shut, especially when you are talking to the press, right? I did not learn that one yet. No, I am getting into it here, but I am leaving so you cannot get too mad. All right.

Another story I want to tell you about is Mikey McGeehan. Mikey is back in the back corner there. This is a riot. First committee assignment, I got a call from Brian Preski, who says, Scott, you asked for these committees, but we are not going to put you on the one that you asked for. We are putting you on Labor. I said, you are putting me on what? Labor? I said, do you know who I am? Have you read my resume? Do not put me on Labor and expect me to put up any labor votes. I am just not going to do it. No, no, no, we want you there. I said okay. So the first committee meeting we have is right at St. Patrick's Day, and if there is one thing you know about McGeehan, he is Irish, right? I hope. If not, I am in trouble. So I have this bake shop in my district – can you tell we have baked goods in Lancaster? – so I bought McGeehan these cupcakes that were decorated all up for St. Paddy's Day. I brought them up and I gave them to him in our first Labor meeting. And you know, he said thanks and it was fine and we laughed and he slapped me on the back like he does, you know, and he pinches your arm. And I said, you know, this was really cool, but he did not really make a big deal. And then we went to the voting in the meeting and he voted against us, and I was like— Here is the secret. Honestly, I am going to tell you the truth: I thought he was a Republican. I thought he was one of ours and I was shocked that he was voting against us in the committee meeting. Here is my point to the story. We are not all that different. Representative Preston brought it up. We are not all that different. I have great friends on both sides of the aisle. I love working together. The greatest joy I have ever had in my entire time here was working together to get things done. It is much, much more fulfilling than working alone. I just encourage you with that for the future.

A couple chairmen that I have worked with through the years, Chairman DeLuca on the Insurance Committee, along with Chairman Micozzie, were great. If you ever get a chance to go out to DeLuca's district, it is a great time. Where is Representative Frankel? Go to dinner with them. It is a fabulous time. Daryl Metcalfe, State Government; I worked with him on the marriage issue. I was a young member and was asked to handle that issue. That was always one of Daryl's signature issues, but he took a backseat to a younger member, something very hard to do. I have never forgotten that, Daryl. You are a good man and you have good staff. Bill Adolph, I want you to know – most people know I am relocating. We are leaving the area. We are going to Florida. People are asking me what we are going to do in Florida. Bill, one thing I am going to do is I am going to work on my handicap, and I am coming back and getting even, okay? I just want you to know. To the leaders, majority leader, I salute you. Thank you. A good friend. Mr. Dermody, I salute you. I wish you guys well next session. You have got some tough issues to deal with and I wish you the best.

A special note of thanks to the gentleman behind me. I am getting into the hard part here. I want to thank Sam personally, and I think he will know what I am talking about, because Sam was honest with me, and I really appreciated the honesty. The Bible says that "Faithful are the wounds of a friend...." Sometimes he inflicted some wounds, and they were good. Thank you. Thank you.

I want to thank the people of the 43d Legislative District. It is truly my highest honor to have represented them. This was making the big leagues for me. This was my dream from the time I was in college and a political science major, and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart, those that might be watching. I love them and I will forever cherish the fact that they gave me an opportunity to do this.

To the Lancaster delegation who were my great friends: Dave, Tom, John, Ryan, Bryan, Gordon – the entire, entire group. I also want to say a special thank you to Mike, P. Michael. You did not think I was going to, you thought I was going to forget you, did you not? I wanted to thank you. You continue to remind me why I sit on the right side of the aisle. I just had to do that; I am sorry.

All right, final story. Freshman year, part of the orientation was the leadership on both sides of the aisle take the freshmen to dinner. Now I think they go to the Crowne Plaza; back in my day it was more fun, we went to the Tavern on the Hill, and I had an interesting experience. After dinner we were sitting around at some tables and I had the pleasure of meeting Matt Ryan. Matt was still alive and was the Speaker in 2002 into the early part of 2003. And I was sitting and he was by himself and we were just sitting there, and he did something remarkable. You have to understand, Matt was battling cancer. It was within 3 or 4 months of when he passed away. So I believe at a certain point in time people come to be pretty reflective of life. He had been here for 40 years or longer, and out of nowhere at this dinner, no one else is around, he turns around and he looks at me, he shakes his finger in my face, and he says, do not let this place get to you, young man. Do not let this place get to you.

So when someone says that to you, you have to start to think, like, what does he see in me? I am an ambitious person, extremely ambitious, and I thought about that. And this is what

I want to say about that. How do you know when it is time to get out? This is when it was for me: when getting even was more important than the human being I was about to get even with. I had lost myself. And I am so grateful, so grateful that some people were honest with me enough to say be careful. So I am back. This is the old me and the new me.

So I want to introduce the people who helped guide me through this, my family. First I want to introduce my daughter and my soon-to-be son-in-law. And I love this, they are getting married next June, and I do not give a rip what you are doing with the budget. So Aubrey and Trip, would you stand up, please. This is my daughter and Joseph Dilger III; Trip. I love you, Sweetie. Next I want to introduce my son and his wife, my daughter-in-law, Debbie. Zach and Debbie, would you stand up. Thank you.

So now I want to introduce the most important person in my life. We have been married 34 years, and this is my wife, Nancy. I want to tell you real quickly, we are moving to Florida. I want you to listen to this. There is this great little marina – McGeehan is going to bring his boat to the marina – and when you drive up to the marina, there is a restaurant there. The restaurant has a sign out and it says, "Free Beer Tomorrow." Get it? So I went back. I am not the brightest bulb, you know? Okay. So here is the deal. You all know this. You have been saying to your significant others, your spouses, "Tomorrow," have you not? Guess what? "Hey, Honey, tomorrow is today. Nancy Boyd, would you stand up?

So I am going to leave you with a passage of Scripture. When Nancy and I were talking about whether I was going to continue and run again way back when, we were praying about it, and she came to me one morning and she said, "Honey, I read this this morning and I believe this is for you." I said, "Okay, what is it?" It is a little-known passage in Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiastes 9:7-10. And this is the answer when people ask me, "What are you going to do, Scott?" It says: "Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for it is now that God favors what you do. Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this...life that God has given you under the sun.... For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...." That is what I am going to do. I am hanging out with the love of my life and we are going for long walks on the beach.

God bless each and every one of you. Thank you for your friendship. Love you very, very much. And, Sam, I salute you, sir. Thank you.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Well, Representative, you began your remarks by saying you were afraid you would be emotional. I would observe that there are some who, in their farewell speeches, express an emotion of kind of sadness of leaving this place. You demonstrated an absolute emotion of joy of leaving this place. So you were very emotional, just contrary to what some might show.

Seriously, you have been a good friend. I wish you the best. I know that you labored with these decisions that you alluded to here. I know it was tough, but it is good to see a content heart

moving on, and it seems that you have done what is right for you and your family. God bless you as you walk the beaches of Florida.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. PAYTON

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite Representative Tony Payton to the rostrum. Tony has represented the 179th District in Philadelphia for 7 years.

Tony, welcome to the rostrum.

Mr. PAYTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Usually when I am up here, I am getting accosted for something I have done, but I have always appreciated the lessons I have learned being at the principal's office under Speaker Smith and previous Speakers.

I did not prepare much, but I just want to say I am very grateful for every moment that I have been in this chamber and all the lessons learned from the many great people here. I have witnessed firsthand the amount of hard work by everyone here on both sides of the aisle.

I want to give a few shout-outs and also want to recognize my staff, family, and most importantly, there are a few women in my life that are very important to me. Number one is my mother, who is in the back. If you could stand, Mom. And the other woman that is very important to me is my future wife, Miss Melissa Knight. If you could stand as well, Babe. You know, I would not be here for the last 6 years if it was not for great staff, so if you guys could stand. Tajuanna, who is my legislative assistant here in Harrisburg; Jojy Varghese, who serves as my chief of staff; Mr. Zachary Epps, who works in the district office; Mrs. Simone Woods, who is in the back; and a few that are not here: Mr. Edgardo Gonzalez and Dafney Tales, both out of the district office. I also would not be here if not for the love and support of great friends like my good friend, Mr. David Dix, who is in the back, and also Mr. Randy Robinson, if he is still here.

I have been blessed the last 6 years to represent the people of the 179th District, and I cannot thank them enough for this opportunity. I came here as a 25-year-old young man with somewhat of a full head of hair; as you can see, that is diminishing very rapidly. I came here as a single man and learned a lot of lessons from so many folks here. I have to thank some of them. I cannot get to you all. I know we built a lot of friendships over the last 6 years, but I want to point out a great friend and mentor of mine who is not here at this time, Representative Dwight Evans, who I have learned a lot from, who has helped me build some things in my community to leave a lasting legacy. I also want to point out the lady in red whose seat I was just sitting in, Mrs. Cherrille Parker, who is a very close friend. There are so many others, from Jimmy Christiana; Mr. Mark Keller; Bill Keller; my good friend and classmate, Bryan Cutler; Joe Brennan; Jeff Pyle; Brian Ellis; Matt Bradford; Kevin Boyle and Brendan Boyle; Mr. Jake Wheatley; my good friend, Frank Farry; Nick Miccarelli, how could I forget him; the Reverend Thaddeus Kirkland; even my good friend, Marty Schmotzer, who gave a very humorous speech the other day; and Eugene DePasquale, who is sitting in front. Also Representative John Maher; Representative Tim Mahoney; Representative Vanessa Brown; Representative Sturla; and my



good friend, Gibby. Sturla, Gibby, Eachus, Wansacz – all great friends, taught me the finer points of how to play Spades during protracted budget negotiations, and I have learned from each of you all here.

One thing that I take away from this is the importance of friendship. I have cherished every moment to build friendships with each and every one of you here. And, you know, over the last 6 years there have been many laughs. I want to thank everyone in the chamber for bearing with my numerous attempts at karaoke. That has been quite the learning experience.

So I just want to say I am thankful. I want to say goodnight, but not goodbye. Thank you.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Tony, we appreciate your service here in the House. You have been a good friend. As you rattled off some of the names, it is obvious that, you know, you followed some of the advice that has been sprinkled through the comments earlier today. Friends are friends, and it does not matter if it is Republican or Democrat, east or west. It is a testament to your personal style, and we appreciate that.

I want to present you also the commemorative gavel to mark your years of service to the people of Pennsylvania. We wish you the best, Tony.

Mr. PAYTON. Thank you. God bless.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. DePASQUALE

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite Representative Eugene DePasquale to the microphone. Gene has represented the 95th Legislative District in York for 6 years.

Mr. DePASQUALE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon, everybody. About 6 years ago, a little bit over, I had a discussion with my wife in the middle of the night. It was around 2 a.m., and the decision was whether I was going to run or not run for this place. And she was a little bit more emphatic that I should do it than I was. So after that decision and 8,000 doors – and you know what it is like, all the knocking on doors – the people decided to send me here. I was going to come and change the world; going to do it all overnight too. I had sort of forgotten that one little thing in life's instruction book, and that is, leave every place just a little bit better than you found it.

So the day before I was going to change the world, I decided to bring my son up to legislature. I wanted to show him what it looked like in here. It was the day before the swearing-in. I do not know if Tim, who is one of the Capitol Police, is here. I talk about it, and you say, well, why does he care about the Capitol Police? I am going to get to that. So we had our ID badge and I open up the door out here to get into the anteroom, and what I did not know was you could not get onto the House floor. That door was locked. Then you cannot get out. So I am with my 6-year-old son in a dark room, in the anteroom, no phone – and remember, now, I am going to change the world the next day – and I really have no idea what I am going to do. Tim from the Capitol Police – I had this vision that I was going to get sworn in in my shorts and sweatshirt and unshaven – but Tim came

and let us out. The next day I eventually was sworn in. That was the first day.

The second day we are sworn in, and there is that famous picture of Denny and John Perzel in the back. What the picture did not quite show was right behind that my mom was yelling at them because they were both blocking her view of me being sworn in. I go home that night and my mom says, I almost blew the whole thing because they were negotiating – you know, we all know what that day was like. So that was day two.

Day three, Britte in my Harrisburg office gets a phone call and she says PCN (Pennsylvania Cable Network) wants you to go on tonight; Representatives Shapiro and Gerber have backed out. I knew enough to know that you always go on with another Republican so it is a Democrat and a Republican for the equal time. I said, oh, just curious, who is the Republican I am on with? And she goes, it is Representative John Maher. So I go to the back of session that day, and I said, hey, John, looks like you and I are on PCN tonight. He looks at me and he goes, oh, I thought it was going to be Josh or Mike? I said, I do not know, they said they could not make it. He looks at me and he goes, they are chicken. So I did not quite know what that meant. So I come down and I talk to Mike Gerber about this. Mike, as you know, never sits in his chair. He is always walking around. So I said, Mike, yeah, you know, John said you were chicken – I said it as a joke. He goes, no, I am chicken. He goes, have you done that show with John? I want to start off by saying this: Having done what we just did for the last 12, 13, 14, 15 months, I can tell you that not only is he one of the smartest people in Pennsylvania, one of the toughest people in Pennsylvania, but one of the best public servants in Pennsylvania. John, I salute you for what we just went through.

When you know there is at least a 50-50 shot you are going to be giving this talk, and you put 93,000 miles on the car and you are telling people you want to be a tough, fair, independent watchdog, it does give you time to reminisce, in a sense, of what have you accomplished while you were here. The stuff that I truly am thankful for what we did was always bipartisan, the Alternative Energy Investment Act. And you find out when you are doing something that big and that complicated how it is not just the members but the staff on both sides of the aisle, you know, directly on my peripheral view on the left is Karen Coates, but it is so many people. Dave Thomas is around somewhere and Tony and the tremendous work on the Republican side, the Democratic side, the tremendous work that staff and the members put into that.

I know I was a little bit of a pain on the texting-while-driving bill, but I am so proud that we got that done. You know, it happened, I started it with a Democratic majority and a Democratic Governor, and it was signed into law with a Republican Governor and a Republican majority. I will be willing to bet there is not one parent that does not have to go to a funeral that could care less what name was on the top of that bill. It is something that we all accomplished together. Thank you, each of you, for your work on that.

I want to thank the 95th District citizens. I did not know this at the time when I ran, but nobody that was of Italian descent had ever been elected to State office in the history of York County. They took a chance on a guy from Pittsburgh with a funny last name. There were always sort of these moments when I would be knocking on doors and they would say, "I cannot pronounce it, but I know it is you." But I want to

thank them for that, because I was probably not your traditional State House candidate from York County, but I did the best I could, proud of having served the citizens of that district, the constituents of that district, but also all the lessons I learned from them as well. So I thank them.

The York delegation; I used to always joke that I was the blue dot in the sea of red. But when it came to York County, we were York County, and we always stuck together on York County issues. I will tell you, if you have never done this, sneak into Denny's for the delegation meetings that we have. If you think it is Republican against Democrat, you have never seen Ron tear into Stan, or vice versa, on an issue. It really is something to see. No matter what happens – I know Seth is around somewhere – you cannot break the bond. Seth Grove is, he and I are the black and gold band, the Steeler Caucus of the York delegation. Will Tallman, Will, thank you for always caring about the kids of the York City School District. It maybe did not ever get you three votes in your legislative district, but I always appreciated you caring about that. Keith Gillespie, Keith, I always say this to you: Not a finer person has ever walked into this legislature. Thank you. Scott Perry, who is on his way to Congress, Scott and I were – we always used to say this: There is not a lot we agree on, but we both agree everybody should do their best every single day. And that is what Scott does every single day. He will be one of the hardest working members in the entire United States Congress.

To the leaders, I am going to start off, you know, even though it is not my majority in a sense as a Republican majority and I am a Democrat, but I believe and I firmly believe this, I said this when Todd Eachus was the majority leader: The toughest job in Harrisburg, the toughest job is majority leader. And, Mike, you did that with honesty and integrity throughout these last 2 years. I salute you for that, and not only just for that. When my grandfather retired from the Pittsburgh City Council, and he was known as one of the more conservative Democrats on that city council – and again, it is the Pittsburgh City Council, so they are all Democrats. One of the more liberal members said on his retirement, one thing I can never say about Jeep – for those of you who do not know, my grandfather's nickname was Jeep. Eugene the Jeep. It was Popeye's invisible dog in the old Popeye cartoons – is that he never lied to me. Mike, the same thing I can tell you. We might have been on different sides of the issues sometimes, although we sometimes agreed too, but you never lied to me. You always told me what you felt and you fought for what you believed in, and I salute you for that.

Stan, I do not know if anyone from York County has ever become the majority whip, but we started out with not a lot of say in things and now we do. So you persevered through a lot to get there and I salute you for that. And also, for when it came to York County issues, and there are times where we are going to have philosophical disagreements, but on York County issues, we were always on the same page and I salute you for that.

Frank Dermody, Frank, you have been— You know, if anybody ever gets mad at Frank, it is on you, not on Frank. There were a couple times where I would get upset, and Frank would go, what did you get mad at me about? And I would realize it was on me, not on you. I say that because Frank is the perfect type of leader in a sense – always calm, always reassuring, but always knowing the issues, and being also something that you have been from my first minute here in this legislature, and that is a mentor. So thank you for that.

And Mike Hanna, again, the same thing I said about Keith Gillespie. If there is a finer person that has walked in this chamber, I have not met them. Thank you for being not only a great leader but also a great human being. Thank you, Mike.

To the staff that are here that have served – when I say served me, they really have not served me; they served the constituents of our district, and by extension, the people of our State. First of all, Cynthia and Brit who worked in my Harrisburg office, God bless you. I do not know how you did it. I would not have put up with me for that long. So Cynthia and Britte, if you could please stand up – or not stand up. There you go, stand up.

Shawn, who is my district office leader and chief of staff. Hannah and Ann, please stand up. I do not know if anybody ever really appreciates this when you first run, but the amount of help that you can do for people in their daily lives in our district offices, whether it be helping them with something simple like a PENNDOT issue, to making sure that they are getting their prescription drugs which may save their life. That is what our district office staff does every day, making little miracles happen, and I thank them for that. One of the prouder things that we have done – I have two interns here, Bronley and Camila, but I have had a whole slew of interns. If you could please stand up. We have had a whole slew of them, not paid a lot or sometimes nothing at all, but we have had a lot of tremendous interns. They have gone on to do great work in other areas, and I thank you for the sacrifices you made and also the great work you did.

There it is maybe a recurring theme that we have here about working together. There were, you know, a couple things, a couple members – and you do not want to pick anyone out specifically – but the times that you may cherish or when you work together to get something done, you know, like when Dave Reed and I worked together on the Delaware loophole bill, but there are also those other times. Scott Petri sits right behind me, and those late budget times – and his son was a little bit older; my son is in the Little League baseball – just talking about making sure you are not doing anything stupid by your kid to get them injured. We both played college sports and you are able to, you know, if they are talented enough and want to do the work, that they can do that down the line. Always will remember that. Scott Boyd, we did the Breast Cancer Home Run Derby. I found out how competitive Scott is. See, Scott is not much of an athlete, so I figured we were just going to smoke him in the home run derby, but I did not know he was going to get three kids from Millersville's baseball team, so I went into this thinking, well, I will just smoke him. Well, I did – Scott, I mean. I hit six off the wall because I could hit a little bit when I was younger, but he had three kids from the Millersville baseball team, so it did not matter that he did not hit a single ball out of the infield. Those other kids smoked me. So the next year I recruited three kids from York baseball, and then it was a York College team, but it was for a good cause because breast cancer has touched so many of our lives in so many ways.

I look at Jenn Mann and her ability to bridge partisan divides in being a Democrat that finds a way to work with Republicans in the business community to get stuff done. Chairman George, you know, sometimes we laugh because of Bud and his passion, but his passions really stem from the idea that he comes from an area of the State that is so economically hard hit and he just feels deeply in his bones that somebody somewhere has to fight

for them, and they could not have had a better champion over these years than Bud.

Some people have often laughed about, you know, was the reason that I decided to run for another office because of my time on the State Government Committee? I want to just say for Babette and Daryl, no, that is not the reason. But the point on this is that there are times when you see the other side of both Daryl and Babette. I have cousins that live in Butler County, and they have been where Daryl has done the Boy Scout ceremony, and how charming and gracious he has been to my nephews and cousins as they went through the Boy Scouts at their award ceremonies. And Babette literally gushing, literally gushing, when Sam Rohrer ran for Governor. Nobody gave Sam a chance, but there Sam was talking to five liberal constituents in Babette's district. Babette sat in the back and just watched it. She would tell us this story. She goes, say what you want about Sam, but he cared about what he did and he fought. He tried to convince those five people that would not vote for him as long as it mattered, but he believed in what he did. That is a side of Babette maybe that not everybody saw.

I have had the honor of working under three different Speakers here – all of them, all of them top-notch human beings. Started with Denny; Keith, who I have immense fondness for; and Sam. My first run-in with Sam was when we were doing the Alternative Energy Investment Act, and I would say that it was something in the neighborhood of a 5-hour grilling – it might have been 4:45 – and it was interesting. I am not going to say it was always fun. Representative Micozzie comes up about halfway through, gives me a kiss on the cheek the way only an older Italian could, and says, "God bless you," goes and sits back down. But you were doing what you had to do, and we actually I think found a compromise on that bill that was better. But your time here as Speaker, I want to salute you as well because you have represented this institution the way I believe Benjamin Franklin would have designed the Speaker to be. Sam, thank you for that.

The final thank-you is to my family. You know, you have seen, for some of you, my kids in the commercials. You start off, and there is no way to get around this, but no matter how long you serve here, you— Oh, by the way, Edquina and Tanisha, they are former district office staffers. I have this note here. I wanted to make sure I did not forget them. Edquina and Tanisha, before I start getting emotional on the family side of it, because I was going to; that train was going downhill fast. Tanisha and Edquina, please stand up. Thank you for your former service for the office.

There is no way to get around thinking about how long you have been here, whether it is a year, 2 years, 6, 20, 30. Some of you maybe look a little different in the mirror than when you came here, and how different your kids look. Tracey does not look any different, but you do reminisce about that. So part of it is, you know, my kids were, my son, my oldest was 6 when I entered, now my youngest is 9. So life can move pretty fast, as Ferris Bueller said, so if you do not stop and look around once in a while, you might miss it.

So it is going to be an interesting transition into this new phase, but the person that put together my TV ad warned – because, you know, Ben has really been the star of the first two – he said by the next ad, Ben will be a full-fledged teenager and will thus hate you by then and will be doing commercials for your opponent. So Sarah is going to have to be the one that stars

in the next commercial. So hopefully that does not happen, but I am bracing for it just in case it does.

There are things that you do regret. They are reality sometimes being here. The true genius in our family is my wife, Tracey. See, I have a master's degree from Pitt; she has a master's degree from Penn, just to let you know who has the higher brainpower in the family. She has made two questionable decisions in her life – I do not say wrong; I say questionable. One is, she said yes. You have to wonder that. The second is, we decided to pick a wedding date of June 27, so those of you who serve in the legislature know what that means. I have missed every single anniversary since I have been here. I will say that next year that streak will be officially over. Tracey, please stand up.

Not only can you not serve here without understanding the demands of what family members go through, but you certainly cannot do what I was able to do over the last 18 months – putting that 93,000 miles on the car and giving that stump speech about being a tough, fair, independent watchdog everywhere – without knowing that you won the lottery back at home. No, I do not play the lottery; it is because I won the lottery by Tracey agreeing to marry me.

I wanted to leave something, you know, people give a little quote or a quip at the end. What I wanted to leave everyone here with is the same thing Tracey and I gave each other on our wedding day, and that was I think something that if we each have a little bit more of this in our heart, you still are going to have disagreements, but the world will be a better place. It is from 1 Corinthians. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Tracey, I love you.

I have truly loved every single minute of serving with you. Thank you for the work you do every single day. May God bless this legislature. May God bless our Commonwealth. Thank you, and Godspeed.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. Gene, we really appreciate your remarks, though I have to tell you, 2 minutes into your comments the staff down here held up a sign that says, "Can we hear from the fireman now?"

Seriously, we do wish you well. We know we will be seeing you around as you are not going too far away, just across the street. We wish you the best in your new endeavors and that challenging position. God bless you. This is not the one you get to keep, necessarily, because it does not have your name on it yet, but we will get you the official commemorative gavel with your name on it to remind you of your days in the House. God bless you.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. BRENNAN

The SPEAKER. I would like to invite Representative Joe Brennan to the dais. Joe served the 133d District for the last 6 years. Welcome to the dais.

Mr. BRENNAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have been wondering over the past few months why House Speakers decide, at least in my last 6 years, to serve only two terms in that capacity. My question has finally been answered: It is like punishment to have to stand up here and look at this crowd all day.

Mr. Speaker, also I noticed as Eugene was finishing up his remarks, it almost looks like an Eagles game at the beginning of the third quarter: about three-quarters of the crowd is already gone.

Mr. Speaker, 18 years ago I began working for this House as a staff person. Let us look back to that time. Representative Cohen had just bought his first library book. Representative Metcalfe was a liberal Democrat and card-carrying member of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union). Representative Josephs was a Republican ward leader in Philadelphia. Representative Fabrizio was buying his suits at Goodwill shops. Representative Bud George was being sworn in to his 29th term in the State House. And Representative Harkins was a young trainee at UPS (United Parcel Service of America, Inc.). And also, some will be of interest, per diems were about \$60 a day.

Mr. Speaker, let us fast-forward to the present day. Mark Cohen's library is now the second largest in the country behind only the Library of Congress. Representatives Metcalfe and Josephs both believe they have come to their respective senses. All one needs to do is look at Flo Fabrizio taking his afternoon nap on the House floor, to see that he no longer purchases his suits at consignment shops. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge a good friend of mine, Mike Gerber, but as usual, he is not here on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006 I was fortunate to be bestowed the honor of representing the citizens of the 133d Legislative District. My very capable staff and I have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of our constituents. I could have not asked for a more dedicated staff and devoted staff in both my district offices and here in the Capitol. While they are not here to join us today because I generally do not give them time off, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank each of them. In my district office, Bob Donchez, Brenda Pagan, Cara Bowen, George Kratzer, and recently retired Mary Jane Falcone have day in and day out gone above the call of duty, and the same could be said for Maria Halkias, my assistant here in Harrisburg.

Mr. Speaker, I have been fortunate to serve under numerous committee chairs during my tenure in the House, and two of them actually stayed here to listen to my speech. Chairmen Caltagirone and Santoni, Chairmen Preston and Sturla, as well as Republican Chairmen Marsico, Taylor, and Godshall have always been extremely dedicated, fair, and I consider them all to be friends, and I wish them all good luck moving forward.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our leadership team, not only our current team – we are losing a few of them – but I would like to thank them for their service, not only to our caucus but to the citizens of the Commonwealth, as well as the able-bodied Republican leadership team. And I do want to point something out, Mr. Speaker: I disagree with soon-to-be General DePasquale. I think the hardest job is Speaker of the House. Leaders of the House generally keep running for reelection; Speakers do not always.

Finally, all of us who are fortunate to hold public office understand the sacrifices that our families make in order for us to perform our duties. I would like to send my love and thanks to my mom, Helen Brennan. Incidentally, she is also probably one of five people in the Commonwealth watching PCN right now. Hello, Mom, and love you. I am also blessed with two wonderfully intelligent and loving sons, John and Patrick. Guys, I love you and thank you for all that you do.

Again, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. God bless and good luck to everyone here.

The SPEAKER. Joe, we want to wish you the best.

Joe was a frequent flyer up here on the days when we would have a debate, where there would be 20 or 30 names on the list waiting to be recognized. He was one of the frequent flyers up here going, "How many more? How many more?" Today he was up here looking at a string of names for these speeches doing the same thing, "How many more? How many more?"

So we are going to miss you and wish you the best as you go on in life. God bless you.

Mr. BRENNAN. Thank you, Speaker.

### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MR. WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER. Next we would like to invite Representative Gary Williams. Gary was elected earlier this year to represent the 197th Legislative District. Gary, welcome to the podium.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Most of you have already heard my tagline: "This has been the best temp job that I have ever had." This has been a phenomenal 7 months for me. I will never forget this special time in my life.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my family. Most of you know the burdens we put our families through when we choose this profession. So I would like to start again with thanking my wife, Vanessa Williams. Vanessa, stand up. And yes, before you ask, the Vanessa Williams as far as I am concerned. All right?

I would also like to thank my children, Lakisha and Tanisha, who were not able to be here tonight because they are both working, and the boss of our house, my grandson, Jevon, who is asleep on my wife's lap at the moment. So I would like to say thank you to my family, and I love you so much.

In the office I was blessed to be surrounded by strong, intelligent, and very patient women. I am referring to my district office staff of Miss Ruth Robinson, who is not here at the moment, and Miss – wait for it, wait for it – Elizabeth Taylor. Please stand up, Liz. I am surrounded by stars – Vanessa Williams, Elizabeth Taylor. Maybe that is what drew me to all of you stars.

My L.A. staff – my L.A. here in the Capitol, Miss Deb Bricker. I believe Miss Bricker had a twin sister: Deb had to learn to break in a rookie legislator, whom she literally had to walk from office to office until I found my way around this huge complex. While she was breaking in the rookie, she also had to work for another legislator and do what he had bidding. Matt, thank you for sharing her.

I have met so many wonderful people up here in Harrisburg on both sides of the aisle. The caucus staff – if you start calling names, you know you are going to forget someone, so I am not

going to call any names – but to all of the caucus staff, the Democratic Caucus staff, I have to tell you, you are the best. All I had to do was come up with a thought, make a phone call, and they would hash out my ideas, and the next thing I had was a bill already rolled out, more than what I expected to have, a resolution more than what I thought I could do, and it was just great and I thank them all.

I came to this august body on the verge of the budget, so I had to learn on the fly. I have to thank my colleagues, because they jumped in to assist me whatever the issue. It did not matter where I was or when it was, all I had to do was look to either side and there was somebody there to answer a question, you know, to give advice, or just sprout some encouragement, and to all of you, I say thank you.

The first thing I learned was to eat on the fly, after starving for the first 2 days. I learned to eat in between meetings that never stopped– you know? – and eventually to eat during the meetings or you just will not eat that day. I have learned so much in these past 7 months, but there is so much more to learn. I have left so much undone and I do not like leaving things undone. I believe I have more to contribute. I have just scratched the surface of what we can do for our constituents and the people of Pennsylvania.

Unlike most of my colleagues who would have been giving their farewell speeches after doing 10, 20, 30 years, I have just scratched the surface of what can be done. So do not cry for me. You have not seen the last of Gary Williams.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. I would say even the members who have been here 10- and 20-plus years also feel like they were only scratching the surface of what could be done as well. So with that, I want to present you with a commemorative gavel to remind you of your days here, and God bless you and good luck in your future endeavors.

### REMARKS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. I would announce for the information of the members that there will be no further votes, but apparently most people have already figured that part out.

Seriously, as we conclude this session of the legislature, I want to thank everyone sincerely, as a new role in this job myself, as Speaker, it is a challenging position. There are things you learn in every job, but it has been a great honor and a great privilege to preside over this legislative body, and something that is truly enjoyable.

You know, you get to know some people better than others over your time in the legislature, and it always amazes me listening to farewell speeches from someone that you maybe did not work with just because you were not on the same committees or you just did not have a common issue that you happened to work with them. It is always amazing to me what you learn about people as they are leaving, and I often think, it is too bad we were not able to enjoy some of those kinds of personal comments earlier on. It is a challenging part of this job.

On swearing-in day, some of the comments that I had made talked about the many parts of this place. You know, you have leaders and you have freshmen and chiefs of staff and secretaries and pages and researchers – people of all walks of life that make this place work. And truly as you reflect on some of the farewell speeches, which I suppose there is some cynic out there saying that that is a waste of time or something that we should not participate in, I find it very revealing, very enlightening, and very uplifting, and I think it is something we should all reflect on a little bit, some of the parting words that we were able to enjoy these last few days.

All of us do make up the legislature – members, staff. It is a comprehensive body and none of us could get anything done without the work of others. Whether you are in the minority or the majority, I sometimes refer to it as the "collective wisdom," and it is the product that comes out of the end of the line that is pushed and pulled by all the voices. Many members that made remarks, they made remarks about the diversity of Pennsylvania. It is one of the things I talk to constituents about sometimes when they say, why can you guys not just do this? And it is something unique about Pennsylvania, I think, perhaps the size and the diversity of this State. It is something that makes this job very difficult, but it is something that makes it very rewarding.

Over the past 2 years, certainly we have had some great moments of joy. We have had great moments of disappointment. Yeah, even when you are in some of the leadership positions, you do not always get things done the way you want it done. You have joys and disappointments at all levels of this chamber. We have had some heated moments and we have had some lighthearted moments. And as we wind this session down, again, I just want to thank you all for your professionalism, for your courtesy, for your energy and your passion.

God bless you, and looking forward to coming back to another challenging session January 1st; reminder, swearing-in day is January 1st. Spend your New Year's Eve in Harrisburg. Be here at noon or do not get sworn in. So we will see many of you in between as our work continues, but reminder: January 1st.

And one other announcement, do not forget to get your new ID badge or you will not get in your office come December 1st.

So God bless you all, and looking forward to a new session and to new endeavors.

### REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Chester, Mr. Hennessey rise?

Mr. HENNESSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have some remarks I would like to submit to the record. I somehow missed any kind of remarks recognizing Don Grell's retirement after 35 years working for the House Republican Caucus and the Local Government Committee staff, and I did not want that to go unnoticed. So I will submit those remarks for the record.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman. Deliver them to the clerk and they will be noted in the record today.

Mr. HENNESSEY. And let me thank you for a very successful and productive session.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman as well.

Mr. HENNESSEY submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Mr. Speaker, as Don Grell prepares for retirement after 35 years of working for the Local Government Committee staff, I would like to thank Don Grell for his advice and assistance on local government issues. With 15 years of experience as township solicitor when I came here, I thought I had a solid grasp on municipal issues, but my experience paled in comparison to Don Grell's. Don kept me abreast of issues our Local Government Committee would take up and he also warned me – warned all of us – of the pitfalls and difficulties of opening some statutes because of the lightning rod it would become. Don shared wise counsel built on wealth of experience, but most of all, Don was a quality friend. We will miss him. I wish you well in your well-deserved retirement.

### **BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER**

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all remaining bills and resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The SPEAKER. This House stands adjourned to the call of the Chair.

\* \* \*

After the adjournment of the House, the following document was received and is herewith made a part of the House Journal:

### **REPORT SUBMITTED**

The Speaker acknowledged receipt of the House Select Committee on Property Tax Reform Final Report pursuant to HR 774.

(Copy of report is on file with the Chief Clerk.)

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The House of Representatives adjourned on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, subject to being reconvened at the call of the Speaker of the House. The House was not reconvened, and the session of the General Assembly expired on November 30, 2012, in accordance with Article II, section 2, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.