

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

SESSION OF 2003 187TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 59

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2003

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Rabbi SOLOMON ISAACSON, of Congregation Beth Solomon, Philadelphia, offered the following prayer:

Jewish law has us read a portion of the Scriptures every week, so that within a year's time we finish reading the five books of Moses. The portion this week is called nitzaveem in Hebrew, and nitzaveem stands for the word "standing." And it starts off that we are now standing before the Almighty God, and we ask for His help and protection. The sentence in the Bible speaks of its leaders, its elders, those who have to set an example, those who have to lead, and those who have to help others, and this is to whom the Bible speaks.

And it says you are all standing before the Almighty together, and I think that is the secret of what we ask the Almighty today. We ask that the Almighty unite this government, this Senate, to work together for the welfare of the people of our great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We ask the Almighty to provide to these leaders the wisdom, the know-how, the courage to withstand temptations, to withstand personal desires, and work for the welfare of the entire Commonwealth and its peoples. And we hope and pray that the Almighty will grant these wishes. Amen.

He who grants salvation to kings and dominion to rulers, whose kingdom is a kingdom spanning all eternities, who releases David, his servant, from the evil sword, who places a road in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, may He bless, safeguard, preserve, help, exalt, make great, extol, and raise high the Senators and all the officials of this Commonwealth. The King who reigns over kings in His mercy, may He sustain them and protect them from every trouble, woe, and injury. May He rescue them. May He gather peoples under their sway and cause their enemies to fall before them. Wherever they turn, may they succeed. The King who reigns over kings in His mercy, may He put into their heart and into the heart of all their counselors and officials compassion to do good with us and all the people in our great Commonwealth. In their days and in ours, may the Almighty be with us at all times, and so may it be His will. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Rabbi Isaacson, who is the guest today of Senator Stack.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of the preceding Session of September 16, 2003.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF NURSING**

September 16, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, K. Stephen Anderson, CRNA, 1442 Biebel Avenue, Erie 16509, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve for a term of six years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE  
STATE PLANNING BOARD**

September 16, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Richard Urbano, 604 Elliot Drive, McKees Rocks 15136, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Planning Board, to

serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Richard W. Hayden, Philadelphia, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY  
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

September 16, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Bradley G. Olson, Sr., (Democrat), 411 E. Hillcrest Avenue, New Castle 16105, Lawrence County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Lawrence County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2005, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, add to complement.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator WAUGH, from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, reported the following bills:

**SB 834 (Pr. No. 1014)**

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1974 (P.L.973, No.319), known as the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974, further providing for roll-back taxes and special circumstances.

**SB 912 (Pr. No. 1161)**

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for crop insurance premium payments and for a report by the Department of Agriculture; and making a repeal.

**HB 318 (Pr. No. 364)**

An Act repealing the act of March 27, 1903 (P.L.100.No.80), entitled "An act to prevent the spread of the disease known as rabies, or hydrophobia; and to authorize the quarantine, restraint, confinement, or muzzling of dogs, during outbreaks of this disease; and to empower the State Live Stock Sanitary Board to enforce the provisions of this act."

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I ask for legislative leaves for Senator Mowery, Senator Robbins, and Senator Mary Jo White.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill has requested legislative leaves for Senator Mowery, Senator Robbins, and Senator Mary Jo White. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

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

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I would like to request a legislative leave for Senator Ferlo.

The PRESIDENT. Senator O'Pake has requested a legislative leave for Senator Ferlo. Without objection, that leave is granted.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

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

Senator PIPPY remains on military leave pursuant to Senate Rule XXI(3).

**EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Senator PICCOLA,

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

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

**NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

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

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF ACCOUNTANCY

July 7, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Reverend Albert Davis, Jr., (Public Member), 224 Lippincott Avenue, Ardmore 19003, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Accountancy, to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

July 1, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Diane Dalto, 1810 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 19103, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, to serve until July 1, 2004, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Ann Benzel, Hollidaysburg, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF  
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

July 24, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Regina M. Donato, 115 Crockett Road, King of Prussia 19406, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until graduated, separated or failure to maintain good academic standards, vice Kara Wealand, Middletown, graduated.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

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

July 16, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rhonda R. Cohen, 7 West Sunset Avenue, Philadelphia 19118, Philadelphia County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Leroy Patrick, Pittsburgh, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY**

July 21, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Noel Eisenstat, 6708 McCallum Street, Philadelphia 19119, Philadelphia County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, to serve until July 20, 2009, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Victoria Page-Wooten, Bryn Mawr, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MINORITY  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

June 25, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Mary V. Lawton, 7167 Ogontz Avenue, Philadelphia 19138, Philadelphia County, Fourth Senatorial Dis-

trict, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority, to serve until June 2, 2008, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Mary Ellen Griffin, Whitehall, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

August 6, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Gregory R. Jaques, 1125 Knob Hill Drive, Fayetteville 17222, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jack Albert, Allison Park, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

August 14, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Alfred J. Poggi, D.O., LTD., 277 Neilan Road, Somerset 15501, Somerset County, Thirty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice William Henwood, D.O., Sharon, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VEHICLE  
MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND SALESPERSONS**

August 14, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Gary M. Barbera, 1415 Wesleys Run Road, Gladwyne 19035, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons, to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Frederick C. Laurenzo, Lebanon, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

August 12, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Robert H. Graver, (Republican), 5 North Spruce Street, Summit Hill 18250, Carbon County, Fourteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Carbon County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2004, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Edward H. Vermillion, Lehighon, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor

MEMBER OF THE CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

August 12, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Stephen Redash, (Republican), 138 East Walter Street, Summit Hill 18250, Carbon County, Fourteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Carbon County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2005, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, add to complement.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor

MEMBER OF THE CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

July 14, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Suzanne F. Foust, (Democrat), 11 Mike's Peak, Lock Haven 17745, Clinton County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Clinton County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2005, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, add to complement.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor

MEMBER OF THE CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

June 23, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, George Gedon, (Republican), 121 West Main Street, Lock Haven 17745, Clinton County, Thirty-fifth

Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Clinton County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2004, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Gurney F. Wagner, Sr., Lock Haven, deceased.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor

MEMBER OF THE CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

June 23, 2003

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Paul Walison, (Republican), 8 Riverview Street, Woodward Township 17745, Clinton County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Clinton County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2004, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice William L. Englert, Lock Haven, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL Governor

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I ask to withdraw the legislative leave for Senator Mary Jo White. She is present on the floor.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill withdraws the leave for Senator Mary Jo White. She is now present.

And the question recurring, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations?

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

YEA-46

Table with 4 columns of names: Armstrong, Hughes, Orie, Tomlinson; Boscola, Jubelirer, Piccola, Wagner; Brightbill, Kitchen, Pileggi, Waugh; Conti, Kukovich, Punt, Wenger; Corman, LaValle, Rafferty, White, Donald; Costa, Lemmond, Rhoades, White, Mary Jo; Dent, Logan, Robbins, Williams, Anthony H.; Earl, Madigan, Scarnati, Williams, Constance; Erickson, Mellow, Schwartz, Wonderling; Ferlo, Mowery, Stack, Wozniak; Fumo, Musto, Stout; Greenleaf, O'Pake, Thompson.

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES**

Senator PICCOLA. Madam President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUESTS OF SENATOR CONSTANCE H. WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Constance Williams.

Senator C. WILLIAMS. Madam President, I am delighted to introduce to the Senate today four representatives of Eastern College who are up in the gallery, Tom Ridington, Josey Banner, John Munro, and Joe McGraw. They are in Harrisburg today because they are representing Eastern University, which is being honored as a recipient of the 2003 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in the categories of Education, Outreach, and Watershed Stewardship, and they will be receiving this honor this afternoon at the Farm Show grounds.

This is a wonderful program. I have been over there to see what they have been doing. They have a sustainable peace initiative which promotes a new type of peace through trade centered on sustainable and environmental justice. SPI established several programs which include the Rush to Recycle Campaign, the SPEAK Fair Trade/Organic Shade Grown Coffee Campaign, Educational Forums, Eastern's Wind Energy Campaign, Keep the Lights on for the Children, and the Rural Malawi Project. They are wonderful projects that the students of Eastern University are getting involved with now, and we know that they will become very energetic members of our community and of society from their experience in college, so I am delighted and I ask the Senate to welcome the members of the delegation from Eastern University.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Connie Williams from Eastern University please rise so that the Senate can give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

### **CALENDAR**

#### **BILL WHICH HOUSE HAS NONCONCURRED IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 8** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

#### **BILL WHICH HOUSE HAS NONCONCURRED IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 564** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

### **THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

#### **NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 1374, HB 1375, HB 1376, HB 1377, HB 1378, HB 1379, HB 1380, HB 1381, HB 1382, HB 1383, HB 1384, HB 1385, HB 1386, HB 1387, HB 1388, HB 1389, HB 1390, HB 1391, HB 1392, HB 1393, HB 1394, HB 1395, HB 1396, HB 1397, HB 1398, HB 1399, HB 1401, HB 1402, HB 1403, HB 1404 and HB 1405** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

#### **BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 77 and HB 1018** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

### **SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

#### **BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 59** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

#### **BILL REREFERRED**

**SB 297 (Pr. No. 312)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the licensure of individuals providing sign language interpreting and transliterating services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and imposing duties on the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Department of Labor and Industry.

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

#### **BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 1580** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS DISCHARGE PETITION**

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

September 17, 2003

#### **A PETITION**

To place before the Senate the nomination of Honorable Thomas F. Goldsmith as a member of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby re-

quest that you place the nomination of the Honorable Thomas F. Goldsmith, Easton, Pennsylvania, as a member of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert C. Jubelirer  
David J. Brightbill  
Jeffrey E. Piccola  
Noah D. Wenger  
Robert D. Robbins

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

### CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

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

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Willard L. Eastman and to Mr. and Mrs. Wade F. Bender by Senator Armstrong.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to A. L. Bergstresser & Son General Store of Hellertown and to St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Memorial Church of Bethlehem by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Timothy A. Siegrist, James R. Doviak and to James M. McAteer by Senator Brightbill.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Shawley and to Barry Goodling by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to St. Maurice School of Pittsburgh by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Alton R. Smith by Senator Dent.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Judith Chase by Senators Dent and Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Decker by Senator Earll.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harps by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Helen Little by Senator Hughes.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. John Feathers and to Ralph Barkac by Senator Jubelirer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Charles H. Prince by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John Coll, Charles Skorski and to Temple University Small Business Development Center of Philadelphia by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Frick Hospital of Mount Pleasant and to the University of Pittsburgh of Greensburg by Senator Kukovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Eugene Smith, Jr., by Senator LaValle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Don Conger, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Smith, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Sparks, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Sohns, Jr., Jeffrey Arthur Morcom and to Keith William Morcom by Senator Lemmond.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Alan Pitsch by Senator Logan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kathleen L. Snauffer by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Reverend Dr. Scott R. Pilarz and to the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., by Senator Mellow.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Dolson, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Forrey, Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Dietz and to Helen E. Reuwer by Senator Mowery.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Holy Name of Jesus Jets Football program of Harrisburg by Senator Piccola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael R. Krajewski, Nicholas A. Buono and to Matthew D. Seigenfuse by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Peter S. Calenda, Lawrence Edward Cooper, Barry W. Williams, Meadville Medical Center, Munnell Run Farm Foundation, Inc., and to PPG Industries, Inc., Works No. 8, by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Kinzua Bridge Foundation, Inc., of Smethport by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Christopher M. Huber and to Jack Cohen by Senator Stack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Curtis McGaughey by Senator Stout.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Elinor Z. Taylor, Margaret Gusz, Judy L. DiFilippo and to Susan H. Casso by Senator Thompson and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael Remick and to the Neshaminy High School Girls' Softball Team of Langhorne by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Harold Lefcourt by Senators Tomlinson and Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McKee, George Wranich, John M. McMillen and to Winchester Industries of Saltsburg by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to David K. Mong, Autumn Leaf Festival Committee of Clarion and to the Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc., of Farrell by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to St. Louis Parish of Yeadon by Senator A.H. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Livian Dorney Dickert, Eastern Salisbury Ambulance Corps of Allentown and to St. Peter's United Church of Christ of Tatamy by Senator Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Pennridge Chamber of Commerce of Perkasio by Senators Wonderling and Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Calvin R. Peterson by Senator Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable J. Barry Stout and the Honorable Roger A. Madigan by the entire Senate Delegation.

### POSTHUMOUS CITATIONS

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

A posthumous citation honoring the late Honorable Roxanne H. Jones was extended to the family by Senator Kitchen.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Curtis D. Sowers was extended to the family by Senator Waugh.

### BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator RAFFERTY. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committee for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to.

The bills were as follows:

**SB 832, SB 912 and HB 318.**

And said bills having been considered for the first time,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

### PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, along with others, including our emergency service caucus co-chairs, Senator Waugh and Senator Logan, I am today introducing legislation to help address the critical issue of a continuing erosion in the ranks of our volunteer firefighters across Pennsylvania. While we have enacted the restoration of the State's \$25 million grant program to help our volunteer fire companies with the purchase of necessary equipment and facilities, Pennsylvania must and can do more in partnership with our local communities to bolster the ranks of our volunteer emergency service responders.

Across Pennsylvania, Madam President, our volunteer firefighters are, in many cases, our first line of defense anytime there is an emergency. With Hurricane Isabel bearing down and about to hit our State and others with whatever force it might muster, it is our volunteer firefighters and fire companies in communities throughout Pennsylvania that are already preparing to respond to whatever lies in its wake. We are fortunate, Madam President, to have some 2,462 fire companies in Pennsylvania, 90 percent of which are volunteer, but what we need to recognize is that we have to do more, in partnership with our local municipalities, to address the issue of a steady decline in the ranks of those dedicated volunteers who give so much and upon whom we depend so much during every emergency, every crisis, every day.

As both an incentive to retain the volunteer firefighters we already have and to attract the new recruits we need, my bill proposes a modest State income tax credit of up to \$250 each year for active volunteer firefighters in our communities. Active status for tax credit eligibility would be determined by a service point system established by the State Fire Commissioner. My bill, Madam President, follows the lead of several surrounding States, most notably Maryland and Delaware, that have already decided that a tax credit is the best way to encourage recruitment and retention by providing at least a small token of financial

appreciation for the critical public service these dedicated volunteers provide day in and day out, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without pay.

While I recognize that Pennsylvania faces many other critical budgetary issues at present, issues that need to be addressed posthaste, I have chosen this time to introduce this bill in advance of the first meeting of the bipartisan 25-member Special Emergency Services Commission we created pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 60 to deal with the issue of helping our emergency service responder community in a comprehensive and ongoing way well into the future. It would be my hope that my legislation will be a part of the discussion and consideration as this important task force commences its duties and reports back to the General Assembly with its findings in the months ahead.

My volunteer firefighter tax credit bill will remain on the desk for the remainder of today's Session, and I invite all Members, if you have not already done so, to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Thank you, Madam President.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, September 22, 2003, at 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 11:14 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.