

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2007

SESSION OF 2007 191ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 13

SENATE

MONDAY, February 12, 2007

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. DONALD MEYER, President of Valley Forge Christian College, Phoenixville, offered the following prayer:

Shall we pray.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You today for all of Your gracious blessings to each one in this room. We are grateful for health and strength, for Your daily provisions of Your personal care. We also thank You for the leaders in this place and the awesome responsibilities You have given them.

Our prayer today is simple: Help them. Help them. Help them. Help them to have wisdom beyond their natural abilities or personal experiences for the tasks which are before them. Help them to think clearly, to see objectively, to care deeply, and to legislate decisively. Help them to carry out their fiduciary responsibilities with Your sacred enablement.

We not only pray for their leadership here, we would also pray for them and their families, as their responsibilities here can often remove them from home and family. Give them undivided hearts which will serve with equal fervency all of their constituents, including their loved ones. Bless their families today and help each family member to realize the noble service demonstrated by a mom or dad, a wife or husband.

May today, February 12, 2007, be a great day in our great State, from Erie to Philadelphia and from Greene County to the Poconos, because of what takes place in the Senate of Pennsylvania.

In the name of our Lord we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Meyer, who is the guest today of Senator Dinniman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following Senate Bills numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

February 8, 2007

Senators ERICKSON, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, PIPPY, COSTA, RAFFERTY, WONDERLING, ORIE, KITCHEN, ARMSTRONG, MADIGAN, MUSTO, BRUBAKER, WASHINGTON, WOZNIAK, REGOLA, BROWNE, BAKER and PILEGGI presented to the Chair **SB 56**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for drug-free zones.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 8, 2007.

Senators ERICKSON, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, WASHINGTON, GREENLEAF, KITCHEN, COSTA, WONDERLING, CORMAN, MADIGAN, D. WHITE, O'PAKE, WOZNIAK, LOGAN, TOMLINSON and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 57**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for general regulations relating to dissemination of criminal history record information and for information relating to prospective child-care personnel.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 8, 2007.

Senators ERICKSON, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, PIPPY, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, WONDERLING, ORIE, WASHINGTON, BRUBAKER, WOZNIAK, TOMLINSON, BROWNE and BAKER presented to the Chair **SB 58**, entitled:

An Act providing for a program for the purchase of certain types of environmental liability insurance and for subsidies for the costs of premiums.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, February 8, 2007.

Senators ERICKSON, KASUNIC, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, PIPPY, GREENLEAF, COSTA, RAFFERTY, KITCHEN, WASHINGTON, O'PAKE, WOZNIAK, LOGAN, PILEGGI and STACK presented to the Chair **SB 59**, entitled:

An Act relating to crane operator licensure; establishing the State Board of Crane Operators; conferring powers and imposing duties; making an appropriation; and imposing penalties.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, February 8, 2007.

Senators WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, ORIE, WASHINGTON, ERICKSON, LOGAN, BROWNE, RHOADES, MELLOW, STACK, EARLL and FERLO presented to the Chair **SB 60**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing, in disabled veterans' real estate tax exemption, for duties of State Veterans' Commission.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, February 8, 2007.

Senators WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, D. WHITE, ERICKSON, LOGAN, BROWNE and RHOADES presented to the Chair **SB 61**, entitled:

An Act providing owners of surface property the right of first refusal to purchase mineral rights under their surface property; and voiding interests in mineral rights that have been conveyed without providing the right to owners of surface property.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, February 8, 2007.

Senators WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, KITCHEN, ERICKSON, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, ORIE, C. WILLIAMS, D. WHITE, WASHINGTON, BROWNE, RHOADES, STACK and FUMO presented to the Chair **SB 62**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing for exclusions from the sales and use tax.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, February 8, 2007.

Senators WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, BRUBAKER, EARLL and STACK presented to the Chair **SB 63**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, further providing for rights of municipalities preserved.

Which was committed to the Committee on LAW AND JUSTICE, February 8, 2007.

Senators WOZNIAK and FONTANA presented to the Chair **SB 64**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, reenacted and amended November 24, 1976 (P.L.1166, No.260), further defining "unfair methods of competition" and "unfair or deceptive acts or practices."

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, February 8, 2007.

Senators WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, D. WHITE, LOGAN, BROWNE and STACK presented to the Chair **SB 65**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 6, 1998 (P.L.705, No.92), known as the Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone and Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act, further providing for keystone opportunity zones, for keystone opportunity expansion zones, for application, for tax credit determination and for expiration of act.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, February 8, 2007.

February 9, 2007

Senators WOZNIAK, TARTAGLIONE, KASUNIC, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, D. WHITE, WASHINGTON, LOGAN and EARLL presented to the Chair **SB 66**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for billing procedures; and imposing requirements for public utility call centers.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, February 9, 2007.

Senators ERICKSON, PUNT, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, COSTA, STOUT, WAUGH, ORIE, KITCHEN, O'PAKE, D. WHITE, CORMAN, RHOADES, GREENLEAF, FERLO, REGOLA, BROWNE, PIPPY, MELLOW, STACK, LOGAN, FUMO and WOZNIAK presented to the Chair **SB 67**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 2006 (P.L.67, No.22), known as the Merchant Marine World War II Veterans Bonus Act, further defining "Merchant Marine veteran who served during World War II"; and further providing for application for bonus, for United States Merchant Marine World War II Veterans' Fund and for expiration of act.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, February 9, 2007.

Senators O'PAKE, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, PIPPY, EARLL, KASUNIC, ORIE, RAFFERTY, C. WILLIAMS, LAVALLE, BROWNE and LOGAN presented to the Chair **SB 68**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, February 9, 2007.

Senators O'PAKE, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, KASUNIC, C. WILLIAMS, LAVALLE, BROWNE, STACK and LOGAN presented to the Chair **SB 69**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, February 9, 2007.

Senators GREENLEAF, COSTA, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, KITCHEN, M. WHITE, ERICKSON, O'PAKE, TOMLINSON, WASHINGTON, WOZNAK, GORDNER, BROWNE, BAKER, FERLO, PILEGGI and FUMO presented to the Chair **SB 73**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and codifying Title 61 (Penal and Correctional Institutions) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for temporary release from county correctional institutions, for parole without board supervision, for judicial power to release inmates and for transfers of inmates needing medical care; further providing for State intermediate punishment; providing for other criminal provisions; amending the heading of Title 61; adding definitions, provisions relating to general administration of correctional institutions, State correctional institutions, county correctional institutions, the Philadelphia County Prison, house of detention for untried inmates and witnesses, inmate labor, medical services, visitation, motivational boot camp, execution procedure and method, miscellaneous matters relating thereto, probation and parole generally, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training, and correctional institution interstate compacts; and making repeals relating to codification.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 9, 2007.

Senators COSTA, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, ORIE, KITCHEN, STOUT, EARLL, MUSTO, O'PAKE, C. WILLIAMS, WASHINGTON, WOZNAK, LAVALLE, BROWNE, MELLOW, FERLO and LOGAN presented to the Chair **SB 116**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for selection of prospective jurors.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 9, 2007.

Senators GREENLEAF, COSTA, ORIE, STOUT, O'PAKE, STACK, BOSCOLA, RAFFERTY, KITCHEN, PUNT, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, RHOADES, ERICKSON, FOLMER, BRUBAKER, WONDERLING, WASHINGTON, BROWNE, REGOLA, MELLOW, PILEGGI, LOGAN and VANCE presented to the Chair **SB 150**, entitled:

An Act relating to the protection of victims of sexual violence.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 9, 2007.

Senators GREENLEAF, COSTA, EARLL, O'PAKE, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, PUNT, TARTAGLIONE, RHOADES, KITCHEN, ARMSTRONG, ERICKSON, C. WILLIAMS, WASHINGTON, WOZNAK, TOMLINSON, GORDNER, BROWNE, BAKER and FUMO presented to the Chair **SB 151**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for weapons or implements for escape and for contraband; and making a conforming amendment.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 9, 2007.

Senators REGOLA, ORIE, RAFFERTY, O'PAKE, ROBBINS, ERICKSON, WASHINGTON and D. WHITE presented to the Chair **SB 397**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, imposing a central or regional booking fee on criminal convictions to fund the start-up, operation or maintenance of a central or regional booking center; and providing for a countywide booking center plan.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 9, 2007.

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Senators O'PAKE, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, KASUNIC, C. WILLIAMS, ORIE, RAFFERTY, EARLL, MUSTO, BRUBAKER, LAVALLE and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 70**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the Telemarketer Registration Act, adding a definition of "political purpose" and further providing for definitions of "telemarketing" and "telephone solicitation call"; prohibiting residential or wireless telephone calls of a political purpose to those persons on a do-not-call list; and providing for penalties.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, February 12, 2007.

Senators GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, TOMLINSON, ERICKSON, COSTA, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, ORIE, EARLL, VANCE, O'PAKE, WOZNAK, BROWNE, BAKER, PILEGGI and STACK presented to the Chair **SB 72**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.893, No.141), known as the Volunteer Health Services Act, further providing for license renewal, continuing education requirements and disciplinary and corrective measures.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 12, 2007.

Senators GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, BOSCOLA, STOUT, RAFFERTY, WONDERLING, WOZNAK, RHOADES, ORIE, O'PAKE and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 74**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for contempt for noncompliance with visitation or partial custody order and for child custody; and making conforming amendments.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, February 12, 2007.

Senator STACK presented to the Chair **SB 75**, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the concurrence of the Department of Environmental Protection, to lease to Philadelphia Waterfront Partners, LLC, land within the bed of the Delaware River within the City of Philadelphia.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, February 12, 2007.

Senators TOMLINSON, GREENLEAF, STOUT, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, ORIE, FERLO, PIPPY, BROWNE, MUSTO, STACK, LOGAN and FUMO presented to the Chair **SB 76**, entitled:

An Act providing for home energy assistance to certain persons through payment of matching funds to the hardship funds of certain home energy providers and for powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, February 12, 2007.

Senators TOMLINSON, CORMAN, RAFFERTY, PIPPY, BROWNE, STOUT, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, BRUBAKER, TARTAGLIONE, O'PAKE and REGOLA presented to the Chair **SB 77**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for special education services for nonpublic school students.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, February 12, 2007.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolutions numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

February 9, 2007

Senators REGOLA, ARMSTRONG, BOSCOLA, BRUBAKER, COSTA, ERICKSON, FERLO, FOLMER, FONTANA, FUMO, GREENLEAF, KASUNIC, MUSTO, O'PAKE, ORIE, PIPPY, RAFFERTY, RHOADES, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON and WOZNIAK presented to the Chair **SR 25** entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of March 18 through 24, 2007, as "Land Surveyors Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 9, 2007.

February 12, 2007

Senators McILHINNEY, BOSCOLA, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, STACK, KITCHEN, MUSTO, GORDNER, RAFFERTY, LAVALLE, ORIE, COSTA, GREENLEAF, O'PAKE, FONTANA, ERICKSON, FUMO, PILEGGI, LOGAN, C. WILLIAMS, BROWNE, TOMLINSON, KASUNIC, PIPPY, FERLO, BRUBAKER, EARLL, RHOADES, DINNIMAN and ARMSTRONG presented to the Chair **SR 29**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of March 2007 as "Professional Social Work Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 12, 2007.

Senators WONDERLING, TARTAGLIONE, BOSCOLA, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY, PICCOLA, FERLO, EARLL and FUMO presented to the Chair **SR 31**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation as a Pennsylvania Public Health Institute.

Which was committed to the Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, February 12, 2007.

Senators RAFFERTY, ORIE, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, O'PAKE, COSTA, C. WILLIAMS, STOUT, KASUNIC, TOMLINSON, WONDERLING, BRUBAKER and REGOLA presented to the Chair **SR 32**, entitled:

A Resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to enter into a contract with the Fels Institute of Government of the University of Pennsylvania to study the size of the General Assembly relative to other states and to make recommendations concerning the number of members of the General Assembly.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, February 12, 2007.

Senators WONDERLING, BAKER, LAVALLE, TARTAGLIONE, BOSCOLA, FERLO, KITCHEN, PUNT, LOGAN, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, BRUBAKER, ERICKSON, COSTA, ORIE, GREENLEAF, FOLMER, RHOADES, C. WILLIAMS, REGOLA, WOZNIAK, O'PAKE, TOMLINSON, KASUNIC, McILHINNEY, D. WHITE and ARMSTRONG presented to the Chair **SR 33**, entitled:

A Resolution designating March 6, 2007, as "Lymphedema D-Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 12, 2007.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROPERTY REQUEST No. 1 OF 2007

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

STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Office of the Chancellor
Dixon University Center
2986 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

February 5, 2007

Mr. Mark R. Corrigan
Secretary of the Senate
462 Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Corrigan:

Please accept this request for a resolution authorizing Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to dispose of property they accepted as a gift as identified in the enclosed description.

Act 188 of 1982 requires that a resolution be drafted and placed on the calendar for consideration by the General Assembly to dispose of this property. Questions concerning this request should be addressed to

Mr. Steven R. Dupes, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, at 717-720-4118.

Sincerely,

JUDY G. HAMPLE
Chancellor

The PRESIDENT. This will appear on the Calendar as State System of Higher Education Property Request No. 1 of 2007.

APPOINTMENT BY MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Senator Andrew E. Dinniman to serve in his stead on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Consent has been given for the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to add Senate Resolutions No. 29 and 33 to its agenda for the off-the-floor meeting today.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator ARMSTRONG, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bills:

SB 71 (Pr. No. 18) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for Office for Safe Schools; and requiring the establishment of policies relating to bullying.

SB 154 (Pr. No. 52) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for continuing professional development and for program of continuing professional education.

SB 155 (Pr. No. 20) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, authorizing intermediate units to establish a pool of educational advisors for certain school districts.

SB 157 (Pr. No. 53) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for powers and duties of the intermediate unit board of directors; and providing for academic improvement programs.

SB 158 (Pr. No. 22) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing parent involvement programs and policies in school districts.

SB 219 (Pr. No. 54) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for background checks of prospective employees and for disqualifications relating to teacher's certificate.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator MADIGAN, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following resolution:

SR 14 (Pr. No. 15)

A Concurrent Resolution resolving that it is the intent of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to appropriate no additional funds for the construction of the North Shore Connector, the twin tunnels which are slated to be built under the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator McIlhinney.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator McIlhinney.

Without objection, the leave will be granted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WEEKLY RECESS

Senator PILEGGI offered the following resolution, which was read as follows:

In the Senate, February 12, 2007

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, March 12, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses the week of March 6th, it reconvene on Monday, March 12, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

YEA-50

Armstrong	Fontana	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Baker	Fumo	Orie	Tomlinson
Boscola	Gordner	Piccola	Vance
Browne	Greenleaf	Pileggi	Washington
Brubaker	Hughes	Pippy	Waugh
Corman	Kasunic	Punt	White, Donald
Costa	Kitchen	Rafferty	White, Mary Jo
Dinniman	LaValle	Regola	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Logan	Rhoades	Williams, Constance
Eichelberger	Madigan	Robbins	Wonderling
Erickson	McIlhinney	Scarnati	Wozniak
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	
Folmer	Musto	Stout	

NAY-0

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

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

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
GUESTS OF SENATOR ANDREW E.
DINNIMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Madam President, I wanted to extend greetings of the Senate to our Chaplain today, who is president of the Valley Forge Christian College. This year is the 30th anniversary of that college at the site of the former Valley Forge Hospital, which some of you are familiar with that in the Phoenixville area. It is the 68th anniversary of the founding of this college. It is a college of around 1,000 students, and the college does something very special. Every spring the students go into the borough of West Chester and clean the streets and the sidewalks, and let me tell you, that act of service, that act of love to the community, has made a tremendous difference in the relationship of that college to the people it serves. I wanted to welcome Dr. Meyer here and thank him for understanding what community service is all about, and I know that my colleague, Senator Rafferty, would also like to make some remarks.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Madam President, I thank Senator Dinniman for bringing Reverend Meyer here today. I am very well acquainted with Valley Forge Christian College. Not only are they active in the community, but many of the young men and women who attend the college work in a number of local businesses throughout Chester and Montgomery Counties. I am especially honored to welcome the Reverend since he is the uncle of Mark Meyer, my chief of staff, and I am pleased to have him here today and to tell him that Mark is doing a very fine job. I thank the Reverend, and join with Senator Dinniman in asking that the Senate give its traditional warm welcome to our guest Chaplain, Reverend Meyer.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. Would Reverend Donald Meyer please rise so we can give you a nice warm welcome.

(Applause.)

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Eichelberger, who will give us the Lincoln Day Address.

Senator EICHELBERGER. Madam President, I rise today on the 146th birthday of Abraham Lincoln to continue the Senate's fine tradition each year of honoring on this special day America's 16th President. You know, this should be an easy assignment. We found over 3 million results on a quick Google search of Lincoln's name. There are thousands of books claiming to be the defining Lincoln biography. Paintings like the one that towers over us at the front of this very Chamber are found in public buildings all across America. We have pennies in our pockets with that famous Lincoln profile, and Gettysburg, just a few miles from here, is a town made famous from the battle fought on its farm fields and woodlands and from the lines of the immortal address authored and spoken by President Lincoln. Cities, schools, monuments, and even cars bear the Lincoln name. Lincoln is everywhere.

Like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, or perhaps Benjamin Franklin, Mr. Lincoln's life's work has made a mortal man into an eternal presence, a symbol of leadership, tenacity, vision, and strength; in short, a symbol of America as we know it today. He is the greatest reason why 50 stars are stitched on the blue field of every American flag, and he is the reason why the birthright to be free can be claimed by every American. But, Madam President, mere legends are hard to learn from, and many of the images of public servants we hoist to the top of granite pedestals are destined to be toppled.

In 21st America, when we find most of our leaders with clay feet, moral imperfections, and occasional bad judgment, the focus groups and pollsters turn quickly to find the next short-term hero who says and does politically correct things until at least the next election cycle. Abraham Lincoln's legacy and reputation stand the test of time, because what we found when we searched to uncover the real Lincoln, what we found from his private and public record, is a life filled with heartache, disappointment, and many defeats, but a life of uncompromising character and unshakeable integrity.

I think it is worth speculating that if Abraham Lincoln were a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania today in 2007, would there be any doubt of his interest in pleading with us in the hallways and caucus rooms of this Capitol to mend the broken trust between our legislature and a disillusioned citizenry, to open the books, to shed light and make transparent our legislative process, to end a culture of privilege so disconnected from the lives of the people we serve, to treat public service as a temporary trust, not a way of life? There is little doubt he would, and I think he would be pleased with the steps we have taken in the past few weeks, changing the way business is being conducted with laws and rules that protect the reputation of this institution and help to safeguard the hard-earned money of the taxpayers.

Senator Lincoln would be somewhat encouraged. He knew, as the Founders did, that power corrupts; that without checks and balances on a flawed and fallen human nature, the mistakes of the

past would inevitably repeat again and again and again. He also knew that no matter how many ethics laws we pass or bans on trips or cars or gifts, that it would still be up to us to self-govern. It would be up to us to decide whether our conduct enhances or detracts from this elected body. It would be up to us to ignore our own political advisors when their recommendations contradict conscience and principle, and it would be up to us as Members that when the cameras are off and the reporters stop writing about reform, to continue to do the right thing.

Lincoln's value to our lives today is not just for second grade battlefield school trips or annual celebrations or tributes like this. Abraham Lincoln's importance to the work of this legislative body and our role as citizens is a hallmark against which we measure our commitment to what we believe. Slavery has been removed from our law books, and 50 independent States form a united country. These remarkable truths are a portion of his public record, his legacy to all Americans. Does his spirit of uncompromised truth live today in this Chamber, or will the people of this great State be ashamed of our actions? It is incumbent upon us to remember Lincoln often, and pray for the wisdom and the character of this great leader.

Thank you, Madam President, and I thank the Members of the Senate for this privilege.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Eichelberger, for your tribute to President Lincoln.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus. I estimate it will not last more than an hour.

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

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I ask the Democrats to report to our caucus room immediately.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, for purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses, the Senate will stand in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator McIlhinney has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Piccola.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests a legislative leave for Senator Piccola.

Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL AMENDED

SB 10 (Pr. No. 28) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 31, 2003 (P.L.73, No.17), known as the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Act, extending the time for award of grants and for expiration of authority; and repealing an obsolete act.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator REGOLA offered the following amendment No. A00052:

Amend Title, page 1, lines 4 and 5, by striking out all of said lines and inserting: funding," further providing for guidelines and procedures, for award of grants and for expiration of authority; providing for publication and notice, for special provisions and for a Legislative Budget and Finance Committee performance review; and repealing an obsolete act.

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 8 through 17; page 2, lines 1 through 30; page 3, line 1, by striking out all of said lines on said pages and inserting:

Section 1. Section 302 of the act of July 31, 2003 (P.L.73, No.17), known as the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Act, is repealed:

[Section 302. Guidelines and procedures.

The agency shall develop guidelines, procedures and all applications necessary to implement the grant program. The agency shall submit the guidelines, procedures and applications to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Code and Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of this act.]

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 302.1. Publication and notice.

The agency shall publish notice of the grant program availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of this section for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and no later than August 8 of each year thereafter.

Section 3. Section 303 of the act, amended February 21, 2006 (P.L.38, No.13), is amended to read:

Section 303. Award of grants.

(a) Authorization.—The agency is hereby authorized to make a grant award to each eligible volunteer fire company for the following:

(1) Construction and/or renovation of the fire company's facility and purchase or repair of fixtures and furnishings necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the company to provide fire, ambulance and rescue services.

(2) Repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue equipment or purchase thereof.

(3) Debt reduction associated with paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) Training and certification of members.

(b) Limits.—

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), grants shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$15,000 per volunteer fire company.

(2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose.

(3) In a municipality where there are two or more volunteer fire companies and if two or more fire companies consolidated their use of equipment, firefighters and services [after July 1, 1998, each entity from which the consolidated entity was created will be

eligible for a grant as though it had not consolidated.] within five years preceding the date of the current year application submission deadline, the consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for which the individual companies would have been eligible had they not consolidated.

(c) Time for filing application and department action.—

[(1) The agency shall provide written instructions and guidelines for grants under this act to the fire chief and president of every volunteer fire company in this Commonwealth on or before February 28, 2006.

(2) Volunteer fire companies seeking grants under this act shall submit completed applications to the agency on or before April 30, 2006. The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application by June 30, 2006. Applications which have not been approved or disapproved by the agency by June 30, 2006, shall be deemed approved.]

(1.1) The agency shall provide written instructions for grants under this act to the fire chief and president of every volunteer fire company in this Commonwealth within 30 days of the effective date of this paragraph for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006, and no later than September 1 for each year thereafter.

(2.1) The agency shall provide applications to the fire chief and president of every volunteer fire company within 60 days of the effective date of this paragraph for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006, and no later than September 8 for each year thereafter. Volunteer fire companies seeking grants under this act shall submit completed applications to the agency on or before May 15, 2007, for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and the application period shall remain open for 45 days for each year thereafter. The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application within 60 days of the application submission deadline. Applications which have not been approved or disapproved by the agency within 60 days of the application submission deadline shall be deemed approved.

(d) Eligibility.—To receive grant funds under this act, a volunteer fire company shall have actively responded to one or more fire or rescue emergencies [since July 1, 2005,] during the previous calendar year and must [sign] have signed and be under an agreement to actively participate in the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting System which is administered by the agency.

Section 4. Section 502 of the act is repealed:

[Section 502. Guidelines and procedures.

The agency shall develop guidelines, procedures and all applications necessary to implement the grant program. The agency shall submit the guidelines, procedures and applications to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Code and Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of this act.]

Section 5. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 502.1. Publication and notice.

The agency shall publish notice of the grant program availability through the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin within 30 days of the effective date of this section for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and no later than August 8 of each year thereafter.

Section 6. Section 503 of the act, amended February 21, 2006 (P.L.38, No.13), is amended to read:

Section 503. Award of grants.

(a) Authorization.—The agency is hereby authorized to make a grant award to each eligible volunteer ambulance service for the following:

(1) Construction and/or renovation of the volunteer ambulance service's facility and purchase or repair of fixtures, furnishings, office equipment and support services necessary to maintain or improve the capability of the ambulance service to provide ambulance, emergency medical, basic life support and advanced life support services.

(2) Repair of ambulance equipment or purchase thereof.

(3) Debt reduction associated with paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) Training and certification of members.

(b) Limits.—

(1) Grants shall be not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$10,000 per volunteer ambulance service.

(2) Grants may be awarded on a pro rata basis if the total dollar amount of approved applications exceeds the amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose.

(3) If two or more volunteer ambulance services consolidated their use of equipment, personnel and services [after July 1, 1998, each entity from which the consolidated entity was created will be eligible for a grant as though it had not consolidated.] within five years preceding the date of the current year application submission deadline, the consolidated entity shall be deemed eligible to receive a grant not to exceed the amount of the combined total for which the individual companies would have been eligible had they not consolidated.

(c) Time for filing application and department action.—

[(1) The agency shall provide written instructions and guidelines for grants under this act to the president of every volunteer ambulance service in this Commonwealth on or before February 28, 2006.

(2) Volunteer ambulance services seeking grants under this chapter shall submit completed applications to the agency on or before April 30, 2006. The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application by June 30, 2006. Applications which have not been approved or disapproved by the agency by June 30, 2006, shall be deemed approved.]

(1.1) The agency shall provide written instructions for grants under this act to the president of every volunteer ambulance service in this Commonwealth within 30 days of the effective date of this paragraph for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006, and no later than September 1 for each year thereafter.

(2.1) The agency shall provide applications to volunteer ambulance services within 60 days of the effective date of this paragraph for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006, and no later than September 8 for each year thereafter. Volunteer ambulance services seeking grants under this chapter shall submit completed applications to the agency on or before May 15, 2007, for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and the application period shall remain open for 45 days for each year thereafter. The agency shall act to approve or disapprove the application within 60 days of the application submission deadline. Applications which have not been approved or disapproved by the agency within 60 days of the application submission deadline shall be deemed approved.

Section 7. Section 901 of the act is amended to read:

Section 901. Expiration of authority.

The authority of the agency to award grants under Chapters 3 and 5 shall expire June 30, [2007] 2011.

Section 8. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 901.1. Special provisions.

(a) Claim.—An applicant for a grant under this act who failed to return a signed agreement for the preceding year shall not be permitted to apply for a grant in the current year, unless the applicant has provided the commissioner with a reasonable written explanation as to why it did not claim its grant.

(b) Delinquency.—An applicant for a grant under this act who is delinquent in loan payments to the Pennsylvania Volunteer Loan Assistance Program established under the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act, shall agree to use its grant funds to pay any arrears to the Commonwealth or it will not be qualified to receive a grant. Any organization agreeing to this arrangement who fails to make the payment to the Commonwealth shall be disqualified from applying to the grant program for a period of three years.

(c) Demonstration.—An applicant for a grant under this act must demonstrate that it complied with all terms of its grant agreement in the previous year regarding the use of the grant money it received in previous years or it shall not be eligible to receive a grant in the current year.

(d) Approval.—An applicant shall not be approved for a grant to be used for purposes other than those stated in section 303(a) or 503(a).

Section 9. The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall conduct a performance review of the program authorized by this act and shall submit its evaluation of and recommendations regarding the program to the General Assembly no later than February 28, 2011.

Amend Sec. 2, page 3, line 2, by striking out "2" and inserting : 10

Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 7 and 8:
 Section 11. Section 901.1(a) of the act shall apply to grants for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007, and for each fiscal year thereafter.
 Amend Sec. 3, page 3, line 8, by striking out "3" and inserting: 12

On the question,
 Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
 It was agreed to.

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

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
 AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 218 (Pr. No. 39) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act, providing for local services taxes; repealing provisions relating to emergency and municipal services taxes and to continuation of occupational privilege taxes; and making editorial changes.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
 And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
 Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Armstrong	Folmer	Musto	Stout
Baker	Fontana	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Boscola	Fumo	Orie	Tomlinson
Browne	Gordner	Piccola	Vance
Brubaker	Hughes	Pileggi	Washington
Corman	Kasunic	Pippy	Waugh
Costa	Kitchen	Punt	White, Donald
Dinniman	LaValle	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Earl	Logan	Rhoades	Williams, Anthony H.
Eichelberger	Madigan	Robbins	Williams, Constance
Erickson	McIlhinney	Scarnati	Wozniak
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	

NAY-3

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

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 246 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I ask that the Senate now recess for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations in the Rules room.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations in the Rules room at the rear of the Chamber, the Senate will stand in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR
 REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES
 AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

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

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

February 1, 2007

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 8, 2007, for the appointment of Nina Tinari, (Public Member), 6401 Church Road, Philadelphia 19151, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve for a term of six years or until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Dennis McManus, Pittsburgh, whose term expired.

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

EDWARD G. RENDELL
 Governor

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

February 1, 2007

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 18, 2006, for the appointment of Nora Peterman (Public Member), 4634 Larchwood Avenue, Philadelphia 19143, Philadelphia County, Eighth Senatorial District, as a member of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, to serve for a term of four years or until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Esther Richwine, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

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

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

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

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

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

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

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

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

January 10, 2007

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, Giorgio E. Fieo, 220 Leon Avenue, Norwood 19074, Delaware County, Eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member to 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 ARCHITECTS LICENSURE BOARD

January 10, 2007

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, Harry Rutledge, FAIA, RIBA, 1633 Rainbow Circle, York 17408, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Architects Licensure Board, to serve until September 30, 2007, or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Fredrick Harle, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS

January 10, 2007

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, Michael J. DeRiggi, 106 Robinhood Drive, Cranberry Township 16066, Butler County, Fortieth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, to serve for a term of three years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Carl Stillo, Kulpmont, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF DANVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

January 17, 2007

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, Betty Ann Moyer, 438 Mill Street, Danville 17821, Montour County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Danville State Hospital, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SCRANTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

January 10, 2007

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, Mahmoud H. Fahmy, Ph.D., 441-3 Valley View Drive, Shrine Acres, Dallas 18612, Luzerne County, Twentieth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Scranton State School for the Deaf, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2011, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESTORATION CENTER

January 17, 2007

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, M. Lee Hartzok, 270 Overhill Drive, Chambersburg 17201, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of South Mountain Restoration Center, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2011, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Diane M. Cole, Ortanna, [sic] resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESTORATION CENTER

January 17, 2007

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, William H. Shank, III, 357 Glen Street, Chambersburg 17201, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of South Mountain Restoration Center, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator ROBBINS,

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

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

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

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF ACCOUNTANCY

January 10, 2007

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, Giorgio E. Fieo, 220 Leon Avenue, Norwood 19074, Delaware County, Eighth 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 ARCHITECTS LICENSURE BOARD

January 10, 2007

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, Harry Rutledge, FAIA, RIBA, 1633 Rainbow Circle, York 17408, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Architects Licensure Board, to serve until September 30, 2007, or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Fredrick Harle, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF
BARBER EXAMINERS

January 10, 2007

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, Michael J. DeRiggi, 106 Robinhood Drive, Cranberry Township 16066, Butler County, Fortieth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, to serve for a term of three years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Carl Stillo, Kulpmont, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF DANVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

January 17, 2007

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, Betty Ann Moyer, 438 Mill Street, Danville 17821, Montour County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Danville State Hospital, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF SCRANTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

January 10, 2007

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, Mahmoud H. Fahmy, Ph.D., 441-3 Valley View Drive, Shrine Acres, Dallas 18612, Luzerne County, Twentieth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Scranton State School for the Deaf, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2011, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESTORATION CENTER

January 17, 2007

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, M. Lee Hartzok, 270 Overhill Drive, Chambersburg 17201, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of South Mountain Restoration Center, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2011, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Diane M. Cole, Ortanna, [sic] resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESTORATION CENTER

January 17, 2007

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, William H. Shank, III, 357 Glen Street, Chambersburg 17201, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of South Mountain Restoration Center, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

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

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

YEA-50

Armstrong	Fontana	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Baker	Fumo	Orie	Tomlinson
Boscola	Gordner	Piccola	Vance
Browne	Greenleaf	Pileggi	Washington
Brubaker	Hughes	Pippy	Waugh
Corman	Kasunic	Punt	White, Donald
Costa	Kitchen	Rafferty	White, Mary Jo
Dinniman	LaValle	Regola	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Logan	Rhoades	Williams, Constance
Eichelberger	Madigan	Robbins	Wonderling
Erickson	McIlhinney	Scarnati	Wozniak
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	
Folmer	Musto	Stout	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.
Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS REPORTED
FROM COMMITTEE

Senator PILEGGI, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following resolutions:

SR 25 (Pr. No. 87)

A Resolution designating the week of March 18 through 24, 2007, as "Land Surveyors Week" in Pennsylvania.

SR 29 (Pr. No. 97)

A Resolution designating the month of March 2007 as "Professional Social Work Month" in Pennsylvania.

SR 33 (Pr. No. 100)

A Resolution designating March 6, 2007, as "Lymphedema D-Day" in Pennsylvania.

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

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators O'PAKE, BOSCOLA, TARTAGLIONE, MUSTO, ERICKSON, FONTANA, FERLO, COSTA, ROBBINS, ORIE, MELLOW, PIPPY, STOUT, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, RHOADES, C. WILLIAMS, HUGHES, TOMLINSON, WONDERLING, D. WHITE, KASUNIC, DINNIMAN, EARLL, PILEGGI, BROWNE, FOLMER, LOGAN and ARMSTRONG, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 34, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the Pennsylvania Amber Alert System on the occasion of its fifth anniversary on February 20, 2007.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, next Tuesday, February 20, marks the fifth anniversary of the Amber Alert system in Pennsylvania. It is an occasion with personal meaning for me, since I have been working to establish an enhanced Amber Alert program in Pennsylvania for over 2 years, when in January 2002, 13 students on a schoolbus in my district were kidnapped by their driver and taken to Washington, D.C.

A shotgun was found under the schoolbus driver's seat, and although the incident ended safely, thank God, but that something as big and noticeable as a schoolbus could go undetected for 6 hours on Pennsylvania and Maryland roads

removed all questions about the need for public involvement when abducted children are in danger. Perhaps thousands of drivers witnessed this kidnapping unfold without knowing it or without an effective way to report it.

Amber Alert programs established in Texas in the wake of the kidnapping and murder of 9-year old Amber Hagerman in 1996 have shown themselves to be the way to enlist that help from the public. Every State now has one, though they vary significantly from State to State. I am pleased to note that other States now look to Pennsylvania as a model.

Initially, the Pennsylvania Amber Alert system was a total voluntary system of State agencies and private media organizations, but in November 2004, the Senate and House of Representatives unanimously voted to incorporate it into State law, ensuring against changes in priorities from one administration to another, and reinforcing its vitality, viability, and value to the safe recovery of children in danger of injury or death from a kidnapping, but still relying on the voluntary involvement of the private media and the public. Since its beginning, Pennsylvania Amber Alerts have been issued on 39 occasions involving 61 children. They are credited with directly leading to the safe recovery of 21 children in Pennsylvania.

Today, when an Amber Alert is issued, it is heard on radios, seen on TVs, viewed on highway and turnpike electronic message boards, and directly received via e-mail or text message by more than a quarter million Pennsylvanians signed up to electronically receive these alerts. A recent agreement between the Internet site MySpace and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to forward Amber Alerts when they are issued will allow thousands more Pennsylvanians to be added to this list of recipients.

Madam President, the Pennsylvania Amber Alert system has grown over these 5 years, and is a valuable, well-established program to protect our children no matter where they live in this State, whether it be the city, the suburb, or rural homestead. It is truly a pleasure to recognize the Pennsylvania Amber Alert system on this milestone anniversary, and to help call attention to the role that it, and through it, every Pennsylvanian plays in protecting the welfare of our children. Twenty-four of my colleagues have cosponsored this resolution, and additional sponsors can sign on at the Secretary's desk.

I urge its unanimous adoption. Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators BRUBAKER, BOSCOLA, FERLO, TARTAGLIONE, WONDERLING, PUNT, ORIE, STOUT, FONTANA, REGOLA, TOMLINSON, LAVALLE, ROBBINS, RAFFERTY, PILEGGI, FOLMER, MADIGAN, ERICKSON, GORDNER, KASUNIC, COSTA, O'PAKE, EARLL, RHOADES, GREENLEAF, FUMO, WAUGH, PIPPY, BAKER, WOZNIAK, D. WHITE, McILHINNEY, BROWNE, DINNIMAN and ARMSTRONG, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 35**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of February 17 through 24, 2007, as "FFA Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Brubaker.

Senator BRUBAKER. Madam President, the National FFA organization, as it is known, has grown from a young farmer's organization into an institution with goals much broader, focusing on leadership, training, and community service. Across the country, nearly half a million FFA members, a 22-year record, from all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, are included.

In Pennsylvania, there are nearly 7,900 members, and we can boast the largest FFA chapter in the nation at the Walter Biddle Saul High School in Philadelphia in Senator Kitchen's district. Today, members are studying not only production agriculture, but also agribusiness, agriscience, food science, turf grass management, horticulture, veterinary science, and on and on.

Most of us have seen the young men and women in the traditional corduroy blue jackets, and today we have the opportunity to congratulate them on their accomplishments and contributions to our society. I ask for an affirmative vote on this resolution from my colleagues in the Senate.

Thank you.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator FONTANA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 36**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of February 5 through 9, 2007, as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator FONTANA. Madam President, the resolution that I am asking to be adopted was actually presented last week, designating February 5 through 9, 2007, as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week in Pennsylvania. My daughter, who is an advocate of these victims, sees on a daily basis the impact that domestic violence has on families from offenders on probation.

So why focus on teens? Teens today will be parents tomorrow and need to recognize a healthy relationship. The statistics are disheartening. One out of every four teenage girls who are involved in a dating relationship fears for her personal safety in that relationship. Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of domestic violence in the nation, three times the rate of all other women. One in three teens will

experience physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse in a dating relationship. Between 12 percent and 35 percent of teens have experienced some form of violence in a dating relationship, from pushing and shoving to hitting.

Most parents, teachers, health care providers, and other important youth service providers are unaware of the scope of the problem, and do not know how to prevent it from happening. Twenty-four percent of 14- to 17-year-olds know at least one student who has been the victim of dating violence, yet 81 percent of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit that they do not know it is an issue. Why do teens become victims? Because they want to be accepted and want to belong. Unfortunately, the pressure they encounter from their peers too often results in the form of abuse or violence.

Madam President, the news is improving, however. In recognizing the fact that few resources exist to help the significant number of teens who are experiencing teen dating violence, Liz Claiborne, Incorporated, is collaborating with the National Domestic Violence Hotline to initiate and fund the first national Teen Dating Violence Hotline. The hotline will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with teen peer advocates on the lines from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m., a time when many calls are expected. Young adult advocates, ages 18 to 24, will also provide overnight services and support to serve more college age youth.

The Teen Dating Violence Hotline will also use the Internet to provide a safe, confidential online resource that will house information on dating and relationship violence, as well as online message boards where teens can ask questions and share experiences, or just express their feelings. There will also be links to local, State, and national resources.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to lift public awareness of this serious issue with an affirmative vote.

Thank you.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators STACK, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA, LVALLE, KASUNIC, TARTAGLIONE, KITCHEN, STOUT, MUSTO, ORIE, GREENLEAF, FOLMER, O'PAKE, FONTANA, ERICKSON, McILHINNEY, LOGAN, C. WILLIAMS, D. WHITE, BROWNE, COSTA, PIPPY, FERLO, BRUBAKER, EARLL, RHOADES, MELLOW, REGOLA, DINNIMAN and ARMSTRONG, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 37**, entitled:

A Resolution declaring March 2007 as "Irish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator STACK. Madam President, I rise today with my

colleague, Senator Rafferty, to seek unanimous consent for a resolution proclaiming March 2007 as Irish American Heritage Month in Pennsylvania.

In every phase of our nation's history, Irish Americans have taken their place at the forefront in all aspects of society, including the political, economic, religious, social, and artistic fields. Irish Americans also have a long history in Pennsylvania.

In Philadelphia, we celebrate our Irish roots in many ways. Our Irish memorial, which is a national monument located at Penn's Landing, depicts the starvation, suffering, and death of a million Irish men, women, and children during The Great Hunger, as well as the struggle of Irish immigrants who traveled to America in search of a better life, and who rebuilt their lives here. The memorial represents hardship, determination, and spirit, qualities that define all Americans.

On March 11, 2007, Philadelphia will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our annual parade. The St. Patrick's Day parade has been a Philadelphia tradition since 1771, which is 5 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed. Every year around St. Patrick's Day, tens of thousands of people from all over the Delaware Valley proudly participate in this great event.

Since our nation's founding, Philadelphia Irish Americans defended our nation in battles, labored in Philadelphia factories to make our city an industrial leader, founded numerous neighborhoods, and built churches, schools, and other organizations that still contribute to Philadelphia's diverse communities today.

So, Madam President, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17, I hope we all follow this year's theme, "Saint Patrick, the teacher, bless our school communities and their families." With this resolution, we can honor and remember the sacrifices and contributions of Irish Americans all month.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Madam President, I am pleased and proud to cosponsor this resolution with my friend and colleague, Senator Stack.

Madam President, anytime I have the chance to reflect on the paintings found in the hall of the Senate or in the hall of the House of Representatives, I am always mindful of those of Irish ancestry who played such an important part in the development of this Commonwealth. George Washington was a member of the Society of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick. The commander for the Pennsylvania Long Rifles was a colonel from Ireland during the Revolutionary War. Of course, we are all aware of the history of the Irish Brigade and their heroic stance at the Battle of Gettysburg, and George Gordon Meade, the Major General in charge of the Union forces, was of Irish ancestry.

When we reflect on the mural in the House with the miners, the steel industry, and the railroads, the Irish were very instrumental in the development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as were many other nationalities. We celebrate our Irish ancestry during the month of March, and we are thankful for all that our ancestors did in helping to make the Commonwealth a great place to live, to learn, and to have business.

The Irish were well known, as well, Madam President, for staffing many of the religious organizations that helped build the

parochial school systems in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the police departments, and politicians, for many years, a majority of them are Irish.

Just like when the Irish came to America and they were assimilated in this society, other members have now taken their place as heads of organizations, as police officers, as doctors, as politicians, and as lawyers. Because of that, because of what we have all done, we are able to work together to continue to progress the Commonwealth, and I am proud of what the Irish have done.

I join with Senator Stack in saying, let us be mindful during the month of March of our ancestry and what they have done for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, of what all of us, Irish and all other nationalities, can do by pulling together for the future of the Commonwealth.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

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

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joanne Bush and to Alliance Bank of Upper Darby by Senator Erickson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Warren D. Koller, Christopher J. Tomaszewski, Leland H. Sparks, Jr., and to Ian T. McKenrick by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Nelvin L. Vos by Senator O'Pake and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Mount Hope United Methodist Church of Aston by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Drew Wagner, Susan Feehan, Martin Anglescy, Michael Lassnoff, Marianne Seborowski, Leroy VanToor, Ronald Reinert, James Thorpe, E. Ronald Doster and to Daniel Powell by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Emma C. Wentzel, Clyde McGearry, Paul R. Finkenbinder and to Jose Gonzalez, Jr., by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Daniel A. Brown by Senator Waugh.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator FUMO. Madam President, this week in the United States House of Representatives there is scheduled to be a debate on a resolution opposing George W. Bush's troop build-up plan for Iraq. Although the resolution is nonbinding, and although it will not cut funding for the war, it is designed to send a clear signal to the White House that Congress will demand a stronger voice in decisions about the war. That is important, in no small measure, because this Congress was elected last fall by an American majority that opposes the continuing of that conflict.

The resolution will also express support for our troops who are already there, even while it rejects Bush's proposal to send another 21,500 troops into that fight. This is healthy for the well-being of both our fighting men and women, and our country itself.

During the years since the Bush invasion, there are some in this nation who have argued that a debate about our presence in Iraq somehow equates to a failure to support our troops in the field, but just the opposite is true. The people who wear the uniform of the military, especially those in combat, deserve a vigorous and open debate about the wisdom of our policy.

That belief was supported last week by none other than General Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At a congressional hearing on February 7, General Pace was questioned by Representative John McHugh, a Republican from New York, concerning troop morale. Representative McHugh asked General Pace for his honest opinion about how resolutions opposing the proposed troop surge might be received by the soldiers in the field, and this is what General Pace had to say: "There is no doubt in my mind that the dialogue here in Washington strengthens our democracy. Period."

To be sure, there are many in Congress, in both political parties, who do not believe that a nonbinding resolution goes far enough. One of them is another accomplished military figure, former three-star Admiral Joseph Sestak, a newly elected Congressman from our own State of Pennsylvania, who introduced legislation last week calling for American troops to be withdrawn from Iraq by the end of this year and funding would be cut off on December 31. "The nonbinding resolution is a necessary step, but it is insufficient. But, even if it is a half-measure, I will take any measure that moves us further down that line," Congressman Sestak said.

I agree with Representative Sestak that Congress should demand the withdrawal of our troops in a reasonable period of time. They no longer have a realistic objective. We have not been able to prevent the civil war that now rages, and our very military presence inflames the sectarian tensions that have plunged Iraq into chaos.

Yet, I also agree with Representative Sestak that for now, even a nonbinding resolution opposing an increase in troop levels is an important first step for Congress to take. Therefore, on the eve of the debate in our nation's capital, I would like to state for the record that as I stand here on the floor of this Senate in the capital building of the fifth largest State in this country, that I support the resolution. I urge our elected Representatives in Washington to support it also.

I wish the U.S. Senate had voted on a similar resolution as well. There was bipartisan support to do so, but a week ago debate in the Senate was blocked. Since the Senate did not take up any of the several measures that had been introduced, I would like to take a moment to quote a few passages from one of the strongest resolutions. It was authored by Senator Chuck Hagel, a Republican from Nebraska. Senator Hagel is a Vietnam war veteran and one of the Senate's most consistent supporters of George W. Bush's policies on issues other than Iraq. He was joined by Democratic Senators Joseph Biden of Delaware and Carl Levin of Michigan.

When they introduced it in January, Hagel called it, quote, "a serious resolution put forth by serious people who care about our country," end of quote. I will not read the entire text, or even most of it, but I do wish to recite a few passages.

Their resolution said, in part: *(Reading)*

Whereas the situation in Iraq is damaging the standing, influence, and interests of the United States in Iraq, the Middle East, and around the world;

Whereas more than 137,000 United States military personnel are bravely and honorably serving in Iraq and deserve the support of all Americans;...

Whereas an open-ended commitment of United States forces in Iraq is unsustainable and a deterrent to the Iraqis making the political compromises and providing the personnel and resources that are needed for violence to end and for stability and security to be achieved in Iraq;...

Whereas the Iraq Study Group suggested a comprehensive strategy to "enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly" based on "new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region";

Whereas the United States Army and Marine Corps, including their Reserves and the Army National Guard, their personnel, and their families, are under enormous strain from multiple, extended deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the majority of nondeployed Army and Marine Corps units are no longer combat ready due to a lack of equipment and insufficient time to train; and whereas the United States strategy in Iraq must not compromise the ability of the United States to address other vital national security priorities, in particular global terror networks, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional stability in the Middle East, the nuclear program of Iran, the nuclear weapons of North Korea, and stability and security in Afghanistan.

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Senate...That it is the sense of Congress that-

(1) it is not in the national interest of the United States to deepen its military involvement in Iraq, particularly by escalating the United States military force presence in Iraq;...

There is more, but I believe the passages I just read capture the mood quite well. There was substantial bipartisan support for this resolution, and I only wish it could have been debated and brought forth for a vote.

Those of us who oppose the war are doing so because we believe that it is in the best interest of the country, and because we are trying to support our troops in the way we believe is most important, by bringing them home now.

As of Friday, 3,118 of our soldiers have been killed in Iraq, and 23,417 have been wounded.

Among the fatalities are two more Pennsylvania soldiers who died in the same incident on October 17 in Baghdad of injuries suffered when an IED detonated near their vehicle. They are Second Lieutenant Christopher E. Loudon, 23, of Brockport, and Corporal Russell G. Culbertson III, 22, of Amity. They were assigned to the First Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, First Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. I ask all to stand for a moment of silence for Second Lieutenant Christopher E. Loudon and Corporal Russell G. Culbertson III.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of Second Lieutenant CHRISTOPHER E. LOUDON and Corporal RUSSELL G. CULBERTSON III.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007

9:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on 22 PA Code, Chapter 49.2)	Room 8E-A East Wing
10:30 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (public hearing on Pennsylvania State Police's plan to consolidate barracks operations and close barracks)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
11:30 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 21)	Room 8E-A East Wing
12:00 Noon	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider the reappointment of Michael F. DiBerardinis as Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) P O S T P O N E D	Room 8E-B East Wing
12:30 P.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 73, 116, 150, 151 and 397; and Senate Resolutions No. 9 and 17)	Room 8E-A East Wing

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2007

10:00 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (listening sessions to gather input from Commonwealth citizens who are directly or indirectly affected by the actions taken by this Committee)	Four Seasons Produce Ephrata, PA
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007

9:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on Constitutional Convention)	Duquesne Univ. School of Law, Pgh., PA
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of General Services)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
10:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Attorney General)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:15 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Revenue)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State System of Higher Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007

9:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of State)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
10:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Auditor General)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:15 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Labor and Industry)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

2:45 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
State Related Universities) North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

9:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Conservation and North Off.
Natural Resources)

10:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Insurance Department) North Off.

1:15 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Liquor Control Board) North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Budget Secretary) North Off.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007

9:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Gaming Control Board) North Off.

10:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Health) North Off.

1:15 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Community Colleges) North Off.

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Military and Veterans North Off.
Affairs)

11:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Treasury Department) North Off.

1:15 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Education) North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007

9:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Transportation) North Off.

1:15 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Aging) North Off.

2:45 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Corrections) North Off.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

9:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Public Welfare) North Off.

1:15 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Community and Econo- North Off.
mic Development)

2:45 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
State Police) North Off.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

9:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Agriculture) North Off.

10:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Public Utilities Commission) North Off.

1:15 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Dept. of Environmental Protection) North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

11:30 A.M. JUDICIARY (to consider the nomination Room 8E-A
of the Hon. Jeffrey A. Beard, PhD., as East Wing
Secretary of Corrections)

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Orie.

Senator ORIE. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 3:35 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.