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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 21

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, April 15, 2015

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Ms. DEANA WEAVER, of Dillsburg Area Freethinkers, Dillsburg, offered the following prayer:

Good morning. Thank you for welcoming something different to your day. It is an honor to be given a voice in this governing body. In recent months, religious beliefs have been at the forefront of national debate. We are fortunate to live in a country founded and formed to recognize the importance of the individual, where no one shall be made to hide nor justify his personal beliefs, and where no government shall impose a singular religion on its citizenry. Where there is misunderstanding, we may engage in conscientious and respectful dialogue to assuage fear. I am humbled to represent a portion of your diverse constituency, and that may raise the question, do atheists pray? A prayer is meditative, seeking inner strength to face difficulty and challenge. A prayer is solicitous, seeking to bring a benefit or relief to one's self, a loved one, or even to strangers. A prayer can be a direct appeal to a higher power.

So, let us pray that we may use our power to lead with compassion and understanding, that we remain tolerant of others regardless of differences in religious belief, gender, race, sexual, or political orientation, and that we treat one another as we wish to be treated. Let us pray for open minds and for the strength to overcome preconceived judgment. Let us learn daily and consider wisely. Let us be mindful of our one diverse human family with common values and needs. Let us work toward clean air, clear water, safe neighborhoods, strong schools, and a viable economy with sustained employment opportunity for all. Let us provide for well-trained and equipped firefighters, emergency responders, police, and military, and may we never forget their sacrifice.

As we forge ahead toward the common good of community, may we all benefit from the enduring power of diversity. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Ms. Weaver, who is the guest today of Senator Vance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILL INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

April 15, 2015

Senators WARD, SCAVELLO, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH and COSTA presented to the Chair **SB 581**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, providing for the payment of death benefits.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, April 15, 2015.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bills:

SB 22 (Pr. No. 7)

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, further providing for dog purchaser protection.

SB 305 (Pr. No. 751) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy Act, further providing for the authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations.

Senator EICHELBERGER, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following bills:

SB 386 (Pr. No. 299)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in corporate net income tax, further providing for definitions.

SB 580 (Pr. No. 585)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in inheritance tax, further providing for definitions and for transfers not subject to tax.

SB 623 (Pr. No. 619)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for the definition of "child with a disability"; and further providing for inheritance tax.

Senator WAGNER, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bills:

SB 330 (Pr. No. 750) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crime and Offenses) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, repealing the offense of municipal housing code avoidance; and, in neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization, providing for failure to comply with a code requirement.

SB 482 (Pr. No. 748) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of July 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, further providing for the title of the act; and, in sale of property, providing for Optional County Demolition and Rehabilitation Fund.

SB 486 (Pr. No. 749) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 8, 1982 (P.L.310, No.87), referred to as the Recorder of Deeds Fee Law, authorizing an additional fee to be imposed and used for demolition of dilapidated buildings on blighted property; and making an editorial change.

SB 566 (Pr. No. 539)

An Act amending the act of December 3, 1959 (P.L.1688, No.621), known as the Housing Finance Agency Law, further providing for the Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Hughes and Senator Tartaglione, and a legislative leave for Senator Leach.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Hughes and Senator Tartaglione, and a legislative leave for Senator Leach. Without objection, the leaves are granted.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of February 3, 2015, and February 4, 2015, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of February 3, 2015, and February 4, 2015.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Rafferty	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Scarnati	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scavello	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Schwank	Wiley
Boscola	Haywood	Smith	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarrigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUEST OF SENATOR RICHARD L. ALLOWAY
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Alloway.

Senator ALLOWAY. Mr. President, good morning. Today is a big day in the Senate for Senator Alloway and staff. We have a celebration today, somewhat bittersweet, for my chief of staff, Sally Kohr. Many of you have known Sally through the years. The interesting thing about Sally is, and I am not sure that I should share this fact, she started here when she was 17 years old. Did we not have laws back in those days? Sally started here June 16, 1979, in the House of Representatives with a newly elected Representative from Waynesboro in Franklin County named Terry Punt. Sally worked for Terry Punt in the House for 10 years and then in 1988, Senator Punt ran for the Senate and came over here and brought Sally along as his chief of staff and she worked for him for 20 years. In 2008, when he retired, yours truly ran and was successful and, of course, I had to keep Sally on because she actually used to be my boss when I worked for Senator Punt years ago. So, we always joked, kind of, that she has always been the boss and she is still the boss.

So, today she is still the boss and we are celebrating her 36 years of service to this body. She has served extremely well to all of us, always defended the institution, always did the things that needed to be done and, believe me, she knows where all of the bodies are buried in this entire Capitol complex. We just love her to death. She is ready to go, get out and do things, and start a new chapter in her life. She likes going to the beach, sitting on the beach and having drinks, so I think that is where we will be getting a lot of Facebook pictures from her as the summer goes on and we are around here debating, feverishly, the budget. Sally will be sitting on a beach somewhere, giggling at us, and sending us Facebook pictures. So Sally, thank you for everything you have done. You have been everything. Thank you. We are going to miss you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the Senator for his remarks. Sally, would you please stand so we can give you the warm welcome that you so richly deserve.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Sally, we thank you so much for all of your service, particularly in working for this gentleman in the

Senate. It must have been very difficult. No, he is one of the good ones, but you made him look really excellent. So, we are very thankful. All of us know that we cannot do our job without dedicated people like yourself. So, I hope you have a great retirement and we look forward to seeing you again.

GUEST OF SENATOR RANDY VULAKOVICH PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, today I rise to welcome a very special young lady, Catherine Zhang. She resides in Wexford and is a senior at North Allegheny High School in my 38th Senatorial District. She recently won the award of Distinguished Young Woman of Pennsylvania and will be representing our Commonwealth at the National Distinguished Young Women National Finals held in Mobile, Alabama.

Catherine is an outstanding student and role model for young women in Pennsylvania. She has been accepted to attend Harvard University in the fall. Here is a list of some of her accomplishments: National Honor Society president; Carnegie Mellon University Music Prep School; president of Interact Club; co-captain of the State champion varsity tennis team; vice president of speech and debate team; board member of Hospital's Youth Advisory Group; co-founder of Students Empowering Others; class council treasurer; third place, Harvard Speech and Debate; Pittsburgh Concert Society; solo pianist at Carnegie Hall; four-time medalist in the World Piano Competition; young artist winner; second place in Pennsylvania High School Speech League. As can you see, Catherine is a very distinguished young woman. We wish her well as she represents Pennsylvania in the Distinguished Young Women Annual Competition. I know that Catherine would like to say a few words to us. So with that, I ask the Senate to give Catherine its usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Vulakovich please stand and join us to speak.

(Applause.)

Ms. ZHANG. Thank you, Senator Vulakovich, for that warm introduction.

Good morning, distinguished Members of the Senate and guests. My name is Catherine Zhang, and I am extremely honored to be here today speaking to you as the 2015 Distinguished Young Woman of Pennsylvania. This has been one program that has catalyzed my personal growth, and my journey thus far has really been incredible. This organization, dedicated to empowering young women all around the country, recognizes scholarship, leadership, and talent, but more importantly, teaches confidence, humility, and poise. In June, I will travel down to Mobile, Alabama, for 2 weeks to participate in the National Distinguished Young Women Competition, as well as getting involved in the surrounding community, for giving back is very important to me. This love for helping others has opened up so many opportunities in my life that I am so incredibly grateful for. Just last month, I had the opportunity to spend a week in Washington, D.C., as one of two delegates from Pennsylvania and the United States Senate Youth Program. There, I listened to speakers from all aspects of government, including NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden; President of the World Bank, Dr. Jim Yong Kim; Associate Su-

preme Court Justice Stephen Breyer; and President Barack Obama. I have never been more inspired in my life; inspired to use my voice, inspired to follow my passions, and inspired to create a change. It is with this mindset of striving to create positive change that guides me as the Distinguished Young Woman of Pennsylvania.

So, before I conclude, I just want to say a few thank you's. First, thank you to my wonderful family and the Distinguished Young Woman of Pennsylvania co-chairs Kevin Fondelier, and Fred Smith, who is here today along with his lovely wife, Shirley Smith. Thank you all for your continued support of this amazing program. It has made a huge impact in my life. I hope to be a role model and inspiration to all of those around me.

Finally, thank you all for dedicating your lives to public service, because your work truly makes a difference within our communities. I am humbled to be serving the community alongside you, and I am very excited for what the future has in store. Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Catherine, and we know you will make all of Pennsylvania very proud.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK AND SENATOR RICHARD L. ALLOWAY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank, who has a couple of sets of guests.

Senator SCHWANK. That is right, Mr. President, I have a twofer today, very important people, both.

Let me start first with our Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education students, because I know all of my colleagues here have students who are represented among this group. I, along with Senator Alloway, as governors for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, am very pleased to welcome and introduce students from all 14 of the State's universities. Our guests are spending several hours in the State Capitol today, meeting with legislators to talk about their college experiences and how important the education that they are receiving is to them, to their families, and to the future of the Commonwealth. They are joined by an additional 125 university participants, including the presidents, administrators, trustees, and alumni. Additionally, they are showcasing their universities and hosting tables in the East Wing Rotunda. I hope some of you stopped down and took a look. We encourage our fellow legislators to stop by and meet with those students.

I, along again with Senator Alloway, am going to list some students who are here today: Justine Albright, Bloomsburg University; Claudia Pehowic, California University; India Cross, Cheyney University; Darren Young, Clarion University; Atiba Khan, East Stroudsburg University; Elijah Rosenthal, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Joe Scoboria, Kutztown University; Holly Saraka, Lock Haven University; Mackenzie Hafer, Mansfield University; Justin Pierre, Millersville University; Nicholas Johnson, Shippensburg University; Cody Moody, Slippery Rock University; Julianna Mann, West Chester University; and William Galt, Edinboro University. Would you join me, Mr. President, in welcoming our guests today.

The PRESIDENT. Would the great college students from Pennsylvania who are guests of Senator Schwank and Senator Alloway please rise so that we can give you a warm Senate welcome.

(Applause.)

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I also have the pleasure today of introducing a group of young men and women from my district who are visiting the Capitol as part of my second annual Model Senate Program. My colleagues would probably be interested to know that throughout the year these model senators have inherited your districts, and they also have been inheriting your committees and passing bills for you, by the way. In fact, today they will be doing that and even signing them. In a few minutes, these senators are going to take part in their final session, where seven of their surviving bills will be debated and voted on, after which our model governor will veto or sign the bills into law. My staff and I have been continually impressed at the caliber of work these high school students have produced this year. They are a great group of young people and we can all be proud of them, and I am certainly proud to say that this is the future of Berks County, Pennsylvania. Please join me in welcoming my guests.

The PRESIDENT. Will Senator Schwank's model Senators please rise so that we can give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN EICHELBERGER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Eichelberger.

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues today to join me in welcoming Miranda Goodman and her mother, Anita, who are here with us from Tyrone, Pennsylvania. Miranda is a sixth-grade student at Tyrone Middle School, and she expressed an interest in coming to the Capitol and experiencing the Senate in Session today. So we have her here. She is interested in a tour and getting around to see this beautiful building and meeting some of the people who work within it. So I ask for the Senate's usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Will the guests of Senator Eichelberger please rise so that we can welcome you.

(Applause.)

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 43 (Pr. No. 24) — The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in proprietary and official rights, further providing for wearing of uniforms and insignia.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, it is indeed an honor to be here today to fight for the countless veterans across Pennsylvania who have either provided service and unfortunately sometimes lost their lives, or returned to this country only to see that there has been a pattern across this country of people actually stealing their recognition. In this particular case, I thank Matthew Ott and his father, John Ott, for being here from York, Pennsylvania. His mother was a veteran. He brought to my attention, and others, the fact that he had done something that he thought was most fair and appropriate - raised money for veterans. He did it the all-American way where he used a lemonade stand and raised pennies for those who are most vulnerable and returning to America. That experience, unfortunately, turned into him turning over that money to someone who was pretending to be a veteran.

So, the Stolen Valor Bill, which we have been working on for the last couple of years, has found its opportunity to be presented before you today. I cannot imagine there is anyone in this Chamber who would not find common ground, that we will not establish unanimity and consensus that we, too, collectively want to support the true valor of veterans and the true commitment and sacrifice that they sometimes and frequently, unfortunately, have to make. We recognize that when they return to this land that we honor those who have truly provided for all of our protection, and, most importantly, we punish those who would steal that valor. So, today I ask you for your collective support for Senate Bill No. 43.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Wagner.

Senator WAGNER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator Williams, and also the sponsors of Senate Bill No. 43 for recognizing John Ott and his son, Matthew. They are constituents in my district. So I appreciate the summary of Matthew and John's efforts and the introduction. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Rafferty	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Scarnati	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scavello	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Schwank	Wiley
Boscola	Haywood	Smith	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

NAY-0

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

HB 152 — Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 178 (Pr. No. 1213) — The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating the interchange of State Route 43 at the Mon-Fayette Expressway Interchange with State Route 88, known as Exit 28, in Washington County as the Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty Memorial Interchange; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1013, known as Knupp Road, over the Hypocrite Creek, Fairfield Township, Westmoreland County, as the PFC LeRoy D. "Whitey" Schaller Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 711 in New Florence Borough through St. Clair Township, Westmoreland County, as the Veterans Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 88 over Muddy Creek, Cumberland Township, Greene County, as the Army Corporal Richard W. Kowalewski, Jr., Memorial Bridge; and designating the bridge carrying U.S. Route 322 over the east branch of the Brandywine Creek in West Bradford and East Caln Townships, Chester County, as the Robbie and Ryan Miller Memorial Bridge; designating the bridge located on State Route 34 that connects the banks of the Juniata River in Newport, Perry County, as the Paul Reider bridge; and designating a portion of State Route 2029 and 2049, also known as Bath Road, in Bristol Township, Bucks County, as the Sergeant George Stuckey Memorial Road.

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-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Rafferty	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Scarnati	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scavello	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Schwank	Wiley
Boscola	Haywood	Smith	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarrigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 427 (Pr. No. 368) — The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 24, 1984 (P.L.92, No.17), referred to as the Precious Metal Sale Regulation Law, further providing for dealer's retention of precious metal and availability for inspection.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 427 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 427, Printer's No. 368, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 485 (Pr. No. 425) — The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in falsification and intimidation, further providing for the offense of impersonating a notary public or a holder of a professional or occupational license.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Rafferty	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Scarnati	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scavello	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Schwank	Wiley
Boscola	Haywood	Smith	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarrigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

NAY-0

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 489 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 89 (Pr. No. 79) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in discipline, removal and retirement of judicial officers, further providing for automatic retirement on age.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

HB 89 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 89, Printer's No. 79, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 90 (Pr. No. 251) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for compensation and retirement of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

HB 90 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 90, Printer's No. 251, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 157, HB 159, SB 163, HB 192, SB 202 and HB 221 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 285 (Pr. No. 163) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 385 (Pr. No. 738) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 8, 2004 (P.L.1801, No.238), known as the Transit Revitalization Investment District Act, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in TRID creation and location, further providing for criteria for proposed TRID, for TRID designation, for implementing authority, for TRID planning study factors, for roles and responsibilities of public transportation agencies and municipalities and for amendments to TRID planning study; in land development powers of public transportation agencies, further providing for development or redevelopment of property; in value capture approaches, further providing for creation of value capture area and for dedication of tax revenues; providing for capture of TRID tax revenue; and, in community involvement, further providing for public meeting to explain TRID and alternative implementation approaches.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 442 (Pr. No. 391) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act requiring notification in advertising.

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

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 487 (Pr. No. 427) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, providing for limits on copayments for insured medical services provided by a physical therapist, chiropractor and occupational therapist.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

SB 494 (Pr. No. 442) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 11, 1996 (2nd Sp.Sess., P.L.1879, No.10), known as the Flood Insurance Education and Information Act, further providing for flood insurance education and information.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 501 and **SB 533** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 562 (Pr. No. 731) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions, for proposed regulations and procedures for review, for final-form regulations and final-omitted regulations and procedures for review and for procedures for subsequent review of disapproved final-form or final-omitted regulations by the commission.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

SB 622 (Pr. No. 644) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for elimination of certain reporting duties of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 683 and **SB 699** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators TEPLITZ, DINNIMAN, LEACH, SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, SCARNATI, BREWSTER, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, PILEGGI, WILLIAMS, COSTA, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, HUTCHINSON, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY, BAKER, SMITH, YUDICHAK, WARD, AUMENT, VULAKOVICH, KITCHEN, BOSCOLA and FARNESE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 77**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of April 13 through 19, 2015, as "Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Teplitz.

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to make sure to recognize my colleagues Senator Dinniman, Senator Schwank, and Senator Leach as co-prime sponsors of this resolution, and also recognize that this had been a resolution that you were very involved with in previous Sessions. We continue to thank you for your interest in the issue.

The resolution recognizes the week of April 13 through 19, 2015, as "Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust" in Pennsylvania. The Holocaust represents one of the darkest periods in modern times. More than 6 million Jewish men, women, and children across Europe were systematically murdered under the Nazi regime. This past January marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, the largest camp established by the Nazis. More than a million people were murdered there. Decades later, it is still difficult to imagine the widespread horrors of the Holocaust, but we must never forget.

On Front Street here in Harrisburg, in my senatorial district, the Holocaust Memorial for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serves as a permanent memorial to the victims of that terrible, terrible crime. The Holocaust serves as a reminder of the evils of hatred and bigotry and teaches us important lessons: to stand up to discrimination, to respect one another, and to work to prevent this from happening again.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join us in recognizing the week of April 13 through April 19, 2015, as Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair agrees that we must never forget. The Chair thanks the Senator for his good work, as well as the cosponsors of the resolution.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I, too, rise to endorse the words of Senator Teplitz and ask that we, as a body, continue to remember the 6 million Jews who were murdered during the Nazi Holocaust. April 13 through April 19 should be Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust because there are too many examples of what happens when we forget about the atrocities and innocent lives lost. As Simon Wiesenthal once said, "For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing."

Pennsylvanians and other American soldiers eventually came to the aid of the population that was still being held in concentration camps, but it took too long for that to happen. Good men did nothing until they did all they could to help stop the evil. Once we learned about Hitler's final solution, we acted, along with 11 other allied governments, to stop that madness. We must remember the world's role in the Holocaust, and we must never forget the reasons it happened and the reasons it ended. Even today, Mr. President, as we watch as bigotry, as genocide, and as incidents of anti-Semitism continue to flourish around the world, the meaning of this week is even more important. As our resolution says, "the people of this Commonwealth should remain eternally vigilant against all tyranny and recognize that bigotry provides a breeding ground for tyranny to flourish."

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Schwank for her work on this.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I rise here, not only as a person who is Jewish in this Commonwealth, but as a citizen of Pennsylvania and a proud citizen who understands the importance of diversity and religious liberty. Remember, it was Wil-

liam Penn, in the very paintings in this room, murals by Violet Oakley, that remind us that we need to be tolerant and we need to reach out to all peoples. We need to prevent future genocides from taking place. Pennsylvania was founded on those ideals of tolerance and understanding, because it is prejudice and bigotry that ultimately will lead, if not contained, to genocide and the killing of so many people.

So the principles of this resolution are principles that we in Pennsylvania clearly understand and our Commonwealth itself is based on. As those who went through the Holocaust and who survived die of old age, and as those who liberated the camps, our soldiers, American soldiers also die as the World War II generation becomes less and less in our communities, it is incumbent that such resolutions as this be passed and continue to be passed by legislative bodies and other bodies throughout our nation and throughout the world to remind us of our obligation, indeed our responsibility, as good human beings, as people of all faith traditions, to protect liberty and to make sure genocide does not occur again.

As I stand here today, I want to also urge the Members of this Senate to understand that genocide continues to take place in the Middle East against Christians in Iraq and Syria, and other places. Just as we needed to defend the Jewish community in World War II, so today, we as a body, all of us, need to stand up for the Christian community who is going through and has acts of genocide being committed against them in a number of places throughout the world. The purpose, the aim of this resolution is to say in the clearest language that never again, never again will people of any faith be killed, be imprisoned, or go to gas chambers because of their faith and because of who they are. It has happened in the past, it is happening right now, and it will happen in the future unless we, as good and decent people of all faiths, stand up and say, never again.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues on this important resolution, and I think that we have to be drawing attention to what we did last Session. Certainly, I know a number of my colleagues were very helpful, including Senator Pileggi and Senator Corman, when he was chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, working with me on wanting to toughen the Holocaust education legislation. I was getting a lot of ideas from my friend and colleague, Senator Dinniman, on the language. I want to give a specific shout-out to two people who are sometimes overlooked in this, it was actually Dr. Bob Sklaroff who approached me on tightening and strengthening the language in the bill, and Rhonda Fink-Whitman, who used to be a KYW traffic reporter, who also joined in and asked if we would tighten the language in the bill. With Senator Corman's help in the Committee on Appropriations we did so, and with Senator Pileggi's help here on the floor, we were able to work out the language that then the House would pass the legislation with much stronger language to educate our school students on the Holocaust and on genocide in general.

I often tell the story, when I was in 10th grade, one day the teacher decided to show us a film strip on what is called the Nuremberg Trials. They showed Hermann Goering and Ribbentrop and Keitel and all of the Nazis we had read about in the books. We saw the black-and-white photo that was shown of

the liberation of the Nazi death camps, and that particularly moved me in 10th grade to become much more cognizant of what has happened throughout history with the Holocaust and with genocides. We are seeing today that genocide knows no creed and knows no racial barrier. Genocide is happening throughout the world, and we have to, and I thank Senator Dinniman for mentioning it, be cognizant of the fact that there are Christian populations being slaughtered over in the Middle East and Africa only because they are Christians. We all have to stand together - Christians, Jews, Protestants, Catholics, and Muslims, who are being persecuted because of their faith - to make sure that we keep in front of people the importance of respecting religious tolerance. Those antagonists, those ultra-religious people on whatever side they are, who are killing people only because they are not under the same belief, are evil, and the worst thing we can do is not address that and let evil continue to reign.

As the brilliant Lutheran Bishop Niemoller said during World War II: (*Reading*)

First they came for the Communists and I did not care because I was not a Communist, then they came for the Catholics and I did not care because I was not a Catholic, then they came for the Jews and I did not care because I was not a Jew, then they came for the labor force and I did not care because I was not a union laborer, then they came for me.

Soon all of us are going to have to face this type of situation, and we need to stand united to make sure that we learned the lessons from the Holocaust, we learned the lessons of what happened to the Irish in Ireland, and we make sure that we stand united to impede and stamp out genocide. I offer my support for this, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks all of the Senators for speaking against intolerance.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Tartaglione and Senator Hughes have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 152 (Pr. No. 1181) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, further providing for the payment of death benefits and for definitions.

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 PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Ward.

Senator WARD. Mr. President, I want to first say what a positive thing we are doing today in the Senate by passing House Bill No. 152, which was sponsored by Representative Tallman in the House. Some of my colleagues here in the Senate, Senator Rafferty and Senator Costa, had worked on an earlier bill that helped families get benefits for officers killed in the line of duty, and they are looking at this as an extension, and I appreciate their support on this.

This bill will amend the current law, which gives financial benefits to families of our emergency and law enforcement personnel killed in the line of duty. It extends the time by which an application for benefits must be filed from 90 days to 4 years. As many of us who have experienced the death of a loved one know, 3 months is not really adequate for many survivors to reconcile and grieve for the loss that they have experienced, especially one that is sudden, such as a death in the line of duty of an officer. The administrator of this program has even stated to a lot of the staff members working on this bill that they have had to deny a number of applications because they were not filed within the 3 months. This new deadline will give survivors ample opportunity to access the benefits intended for them, and fairly so in recognition for the dangerous job that their loved one had performed for our health, safety, and welfare. House Bill No. 152 also clarifies that any eligible survivor, or someone authorized to act on their behalf, may apply for the benefits under this program. As it stands now, most families of law enforcement, firefighters, ambulance, and rescue personnel must rely on local political subdivisions to make that application for the benefits to the Commonwealth. House Bill No. 152 enables the employers or the survivors to apply to the program, thereby helping to insure that someone will ultimately begin the process by which the Commonwealth supports these families.

Lastly, this bill insures that families of campus police officers like Vincent Waller, the well-respected chief campus police officer of Greater Allegheny campus of Penn State, are eligible for line of duty death benefits. Chief Waller, who died at the age of 53, was not only a constituent of mine, he also served as a local police officer in West Newton before working for Penn State. His sudden and unexpected death left behind a wife and children whom this bill will help, along with other campus police officers who are certified F.O.P. police officers who also serve, many times, as municipal officers.

Mr. President, I would also like to thank Senator Vulakovich, who really worked hard on this bill with me. He provided great leadership as the committee chairman and has been a wonderful advocate to help make this bill better for the families it aims to support as we pass it here today. Thank you, and I ask for your support.

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I rise to offer comment and to acclaim Senator Ward on her action in this regard and

Senator Vulakovich on his action. This is rightfully an extension of Senate Bill No. 369, worked on by Senator Logan, myself, and Senator Costa. The intention is to protect those to insure that we have something there in place to protect those who protect us. I commend Senator Ward for this. We all know of campus police in dangerous areas and the dangerous jobs that they have and we know that some of the biggest police departments in Pennsylvania are maintained by the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and some of the other colleges here. So I want to commend Senator Ward, once again, for her actions and join with her in asking for passage of this bill. If any of our colleagues across the way have any questions, Senator Costa and I are available to answer them in regard to the extension of Senate Bill No. 369.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Rafferty	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Scarnati	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scavello	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Schwank	Wiley
Boscola	Haywood	Smith	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarrigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators BOSCOLA, TEPLITZ, COSTA, FONTANA, FARNESE, MENSCH, ALLOWAY, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, HAYWOOD, KITCHEN, SCHWANK, SMITH, WOZNIAK, AUMENT, BROOKS, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, WHITE, VULAKOVICH and YUDICHAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 78**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of April 2015 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Teplitz and me, I am going to submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator BOSCOLA, and the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator TEPLITZ.)

Mr. President, Parkinson's is a devastating disease that nearly 1 million people nationwide are stricken by. Each year, over 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's. The average age of onset is 60 years old, yet some people are diagnosed at 40 years old or even younger. Parkinson's can happen to anyone. It targets no specific race, ethnicity, gender, or other category of individuals. It is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that impairs motor skills and speech.

Many describe it as the opposite of Alzheimer's disease, because while Alzheimer's destroys the mind and leaves the body functioning, Parkinson's disease spares the person's mind but takes hold of their body.

Mr. President, many of us in this Chamber might know of somebody personally, or we might not, but we all have heard of some famous individuals such as Muhammad Ali, Michael J. Fox, or Janet Reno, who suffer from Parkinson's disease.

It is imperative that we continue our efforts to educate the public and raise awareness about this debilitating disease. We must also continue to support research efforts, especially since the exact cause of Parkinson's is still unknown. While much has been done to improve treatment and detection, only more research and testing will enable us to pinpoint the cause of this terrible disease and find its cure. Mr. President, medications are available to combat the symptoms, but these medications are only effective for a limited number of years. So I applaud all of those from the medical and research communities who have dedicated their lives to studying this disease and finding a cure.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing April 2015 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. 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 DINNIMAN, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 79**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the 170th anniversary of the 1845 novel *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, Written by Himself.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, Frederick Douglass is one of the great figures in American history. Mr. Douglass reminds us all of the importance of freedom. As we talked about the Holocaust and as we talk about slavery, these are precisely evil institutions. Frederick Douglass was enslaved. He escaped and made his way to freedom. When you read his novel, it reinforces the importance of each of us to stand up for the dignity and the freedom of every human being.

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave was written in 1845. We now are 170 years later. Frederick Douglass had a direct relationship to this Commonwealth and, in particular, to my Senate district, because 50 years after he wrote the book, in 1895, he gave his last public address before he passed away 6 weeks later. That address was at what is now West Chester University. At the time, it was West Chester Normal School. Mr. Douglass came into our county often. He came in as part of the Abolitionist Movement, the movement before the Civil War to get rid of and to end slavery. Among the places that Mr. Douglass spoke was the facility that is now the Chester County Historical Society. He also spoke at what is now Lincoln University, in particular, the Hosanna Chapel, a historic site which is adjacent to the site.

Understand that southern Chester County, parts of my district were only 4 or 5 miles away from the Mason-Dixon line where slavery existed, and any number of slaves would escape across that line into Pennsylvania. In fact, my current Senate office was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and if you go there today you can see where people hid as they went on to the next stop on their way to freedom. Frederick Douglass, along with Harriet Tubman and a host of other people, both white and black, understood and stood up against slavery and helped people escape and take this path to freedom.

I also want to make sure we understand that Mr. Douglass was a voice of reform throughout the 19th century. In fact, after the Civil War, he gave talks against the increasing segregation within society. His last speech at West Chester was a talk against the increase of lynching. Just like in the Holocaust, when there is prejudice and you do not stop the prejudice, and in fact you allow the prejudice to be institutionalized - the Holocaust was legal in Nazi Germany, segregation was legal in the United States - and violence becomes part of the way you maintain the antihuman laws and the evils that exist. So Douglass came here to West Chester, came here to the Commonwealth, where we stood for tolerance and freedom, and gave his last speech. Perhaps everything that Douglas represented, by the way, because he spoke also for women's rights, and I want you to know that at that same Chester County Historical Society, that building that exists today, not only was it a symbol of the abolitionist movement, but to this day it is a symbol of the women's movement because Douglass and those who fought abolitionists and fought for the end of slavery stood hand in hand together.

There is a poem that perhaps explains all of this, and I think this poem or a portion of this poem is perhaps the most appropriate way to honor the memory of Frederick Douglass, to honor the 170th anniversary of this great American, someone who wrote three books, and this is one of the three autobiographies; the man who helped us understand the horrors of slavery and how we have to stand up and continue to stand up for fundamental human rights and equity, all of us, black, white, of every race, and of every ethnic derivation. The poem is by Robert Hayden, an African American poet, who at one time 40 years ago was poet laureate for the Library of Congress. It goes this way:

...this man shall be remembered. Oh, not with statues' rhetoric, not with legends and poems and wreaths of bronze alone, but with the lives grown out of his life, the lives fleshing his dream of the beautiful, needful thing.

The beautiful, my friends, is what this nation is all about. The beautiful, my friends, is what William Penn came here to create. The beautiful, my friends, is what the Violet Oakley portraits and murals that surround us is what they are all about. As we did the Holocaust resolution and as we remember the great contributions of Frederick Douglass, these resolutions are saying that we, in this Senate, are calling upon our Commonwealth and upon this nation to remember Frederick Douglass, who taught us the meaning of the beautiful, who taught us the meaning of what it means to be a good human being, to be a person of faith, to be a person who stands up for fundamental human rights, stands up for equity, and when we think about America the beautiful, we mean a nation in William Penn's tradition, a nation that understands equity and freedom and the rights for each and every human being.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the Senator for a very thoughtful resolution.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator COSTA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 80**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of April 2015 as "Autism Awareness Month" and April 2, 2015, as "World Autism Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the home of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, we are certainly proud of our Penguins and Pirates, and we certainly wish our Phillies well on this upcoming baseball season, and the Chase Utley look-alike, Senator John Rafferty.

Mr. President, I am honored today to offer a resolution recognizing April 2015 as "Autism Awareness Month," and April 2, 2015, as "World Autism Day" here in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, I know this is a resolution that in years past you have participated in, and I want to thank you for doing that, and I want to build upon the comments and remarks you have made in the past along those lines.

Mr. President, I want to take a moment, as I said, to talk about autism. This month, as I am sure everyone knows, is Autism Awareness Month and also host to World Autism Day here in Pennsylvania. I am honored and privileged to talk about such an important issue. Unfortunately, as we know, and we can see the statistics in the resolution itself, that the number of children living with autism continues to grow, not only in Pennsylvania but across this country. This motivates me to focus my remarks not about the numbers and the individuals themselves or the statistics, but to really have a conversation with individuals and families about the issue and how they deal with this condition.

Mr. President, talking about the statistics and recognizing the work that is done to find answers and treatments is critically

important to the conversation. Far too often, we do not take enough time in this Chamber to talk directly with those individuals living and those families supporting individuals who are suffering from autism. Here in the Senate we always recognize sports teams, we recognize academic achievements, heroic acts, and we learn a lot about history, and we reflect upon our history, as we did today, in a variety of ways. While each of those recognitions are worthy of our conversation and praise, when was the last time, Mr. President, when we stopped to recognize the everyday heroes supporting individuals or someone living with a disability, specifically autism? How often have we slowed down enough to walk a day in their lives to understand what is really important to help those families, more importantly, those children, to help them achieve success? Some of them are dealing with the most difficult circumstances. Oftentimes, we simply do not take the time to reflect and look at that, and to me, that is what awareness is about.

Today, I want to focus on the number of children and adults living with autism, because as we know, the numbers grow. Today, I would like my colleagues to join me in recognizing each individual family and each individual child, because that is truly what autism awareness is, and that is what it is all about. Most importantly, Mr. President, I intend to recommit myself, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in pledging to continue to listen to the families and individuals and offer them support in any way we can through the Commonwealth programs, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. To all of the families loving and supporting someone with autism, I want to say thank you. Thank you for always being present and being a part of their individual lives. I also want to say thank you for making sure that your collective voices are heard here in the Capitol building and for your advocacy. We learn so much from your advocacy, and we look forward to working with all of you to continue our work, to continue our true awareness with respect to what takes place every day.

Mr. President, I am very, very honored and very proud today to submit this resolution recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month, and specifically April 2, 2015, as World Autism Day. I thank you for the opportunity to make remarks on this particular issue and this resolution. I thank my colleagues for joining me along those lines.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Costa, and I commend you for doing great work on a very important issue. I concur in all of your thoughts.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators RAFFERTY, SCARNATI, YAW, DINNIMAN, ARGALL, HAYWOOD, BAKER, GORDNER, FONTANA, WHITE, WARD, HUTCHINSON, AUMENT, HUGHES, MENSCH, BROOKS, GREENLEAF, SMITH, BOSCOLA, TARTAGLIONE, ALLOWAY, YUDICHAK, BROWNE, VULAKOVICH, McILHINNEY and WILEY, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 81**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing 2015 as the "Year of the Law Enforcement Officer" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, next week, Tuesday, we hope to have a big rally for 2015, as I like to say, the year of the cop. I know many of my colleagues here, both Senator Corman and Senator Costa, will be there saying a few words as well. You, Mr. President, when you were still a Senator, your name was on this resolution honoring our law enforcement community. In the year 2015, at a time when we are seeing the law enforcement community being attacked and seeing people target the law enforcement community, I draw to people's short memory the two State Troopers, the one who was killed and the one who was severely wounded in northeast Pennsylvania, followed by the two police officers in New York City who were sitting in their car eating, having a lunch break, and they were targeted and assassinated as well. We now have radical forces from the Middle East saying, over in America, get the law enforcement community, get the military.

So, this is a year to show our support for our law enforcement community, our first line of defense here, thanking them for continually putting their lives on the line protecting us and our person and protecting our property, living up to their oath of office that they, as law enforcement officials, will do everything they can to protect the citizens of this Commonwealth and this country. So, we are choosing 2015 as the year of the cop. I ask for an affirmative vote. I thank you, Mr. President, for the time and I thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this resolution and for those for their vote today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Rafferty, and I hope to be with you there and continue to stand up for our brave men and women in blue.

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 Cooley Matthews by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dustin James Carbaugh, Lynn M. Elko, Amanda L. Woodring and to Lewistown Grange No. 1639 by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Anna Lynch and to Joseph F. Burke by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Frances I. Gensler, Thomas G. Smith, Maria Gemma Ross, Gavin Teasdale, Betty Brodmerkel, Chris Tarr, Travis Thomas, Michael Ferrari, Daniel Alderson, Bobby Patnesky, Michael Vernillo, Nikki Gasti, Norris Vactor and to California University of Pennsylvania Women's Basketball Team by Senator Bartolotta.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to David A. Shorten, Jr., by Senator Blake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the citizens of the Borough of Fountain Hill by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Richard A. Hrivnak, Toni G. Verstandig, William A. Lind, Renee DiMichiei Farrow and to Richard F. Kelly by Senator Brewster.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cody R. Gould by Senator Brooks.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lena J. Ringer by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Denim Kurtzhals, Jarvis Berry, Crystal Lowery, Jordan Crans, Ken Allen, Wayne Vincent, Laurie Szoke, Lindsay Brinton, Carl Smith, Milton Searles, Emily L. Kantner, Brittany Maupin, Kimberly A. Bemiller, Rachel E. Branson, Sue Boninu, Bridget S. Burnett, Margaretta C. R. Mitchell, Laura M. Elliot, Cassidy R. England, Justin William Hoffman and to Downingtown Area Senior Center by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to E. Martin Shane and to West Chester Area Senior Center by Senators Dinniman and Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Therese H. Woodman by Senators Dinniman and Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Blair County Library System by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael P. Gasbarre by Senator Eichelberger and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Diane Carter, Edward Buzniak and the American Kidney Fund by Senator Farnese.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Senior Master Sergeant David S. Hawkins, Randi Lynn Ishman, Jocelyn Nava, Kaitlyn Graf, David Benjamin Fetrow, Brooke N. Sheaffer, Hope E. Snyder, Christin Cesari and to Megan Hoffmaster by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joshua Chast and to Ryan Michael Grey by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Robert Milkvy by Senators Greenleaf and Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lilia Kazansky by Senator Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sarah L. Rote by Senator McGarrigle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. James T. Harris III, Charles Anthony Blake and to Mary E. Smith by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Preston C. Reno by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. George Guaglianone, Dr. Wayne Brinda, Dr. Stephen F. Robar, Julie Mader, Todd Deluccia, Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Elk Expo and the Keystone Elk Country Visitor Center, Umbrella Rocks, TomBob Outdoors, River 98.9 WQKY-FM and to Apple Tractor by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to First Quality by Senators Scarnati, Corman, and Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kirby G. Upright and to Todd Martin by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Edwin C. Bearrs by Senator Schwank.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nicholas Marquette by Senator Smucker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jamie St. Clair Davis, Kate Crawford and to THON Team from Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus by Senator Stefano.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Deborah Beck and to Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to David Moffitt, Daniel Martin Mandolesi, Neshaminy High School Boys' Bowling Team and to SYKES Enterprises by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Grissinger and to Scott R. Bertolette by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jason Gardner and to Tyler Roman by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Timothy Phillips by Senator Ward.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald A. DiNicola, Nick Scott, Jr., and to William F. McCarthy by Senator Wiley.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Derek Thomas by Senator Wozniak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Sister Eileen Chlebowski by Senator Fontana.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Alford Terry, Sr., by Senator Kitchen.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Dr. Bernard F. Rafferty by Senators McIlhinney and Greenleaf.

POSTHUMOUS CITATIONS

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

Posthumous citations honoring the late Dr. Charles K. Ream and to the late Richard Devore were extended to the families by Senator Bartolotta.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Frank Haas was extended to the family by Senator Dinniman.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Matthew Kolb was extended to the family by Senator Scavello.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Captain Brian Faunce was extended to the family by Senator Tomlinson.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 22, SB 305, SB 330, SB 386, SB 482, SB 486, SB 566, SB 580 and SB 623.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

12:30 P.M.	JUDICIARY and MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE (joint public hearing on the State Pet Protection Law)	Gettysburg Rec. Ctr. Charlie Sterner Bldg.
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TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

9:30 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (confirmation hearing to consider the nominations of Leslie Richards for Secretary of Transportation and William Lieberman for Commissioner of the Turnpike Commission; and committee meeting to consider Senate Bills No. 284 and 398; and House Bill No. 150)	Room 8E-B East Wing
10:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (to consider the nomination of Pedro Rivera II for Secretary of Education; and to consider Senate Bills No. 104, 329, 590 and 678)	Room 8E-A East Wing
11:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 264, 524 and 594)	Room 8E-B East Wing
12:00 P.M.	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 7, 70 and 401)	Room 461 Main Capitol
12:15 P.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 3 and 695)	Room 8E-B East Wing

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015

9:30 A.M.	PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE (to consider the nomination of Theodore Dallas as the Secretary of Human Services)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
10:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 643, 644 and 645)	Room 461 Main Capitol

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

10:00 A.M.	BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING COMMISSION (basic education funding issues)	Assembly Room Univ. of Pitt.
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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015

10:30 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider the nomination of Curtis Topper as Secretary of General Services)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

10:00 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider the nomination of Eileen McNulty as Secretary of Revenue)	Room 8E-A East Wing
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I rise today with an actual sense of sadness because I was hoping and thought that Governor Wolf was going to be committed to openness, transparency, and accountability in State government. I have long supported openness, transparency, and accountability in government, which is why as chair of the Senate Committee on State Government, I joined the Senate Committee on Appropriations for the budget hearing on the Office of the Budget. As chair of the Committee on State Government, I want to know that the General Assembly has the best information on hand when we deliberate what will appear to be a very challenging 2015-16 State budget.

One of the major cost drivers of this annual State budget is going to be the personnel costs to pay State employees, cover their healthcare benefits, and their pension payments. This year, the administration will be negotiating 14 collective bargaining agreements, contracts with costs that currently exceed over \$3 billion and cover 44,584 State employees of the 72,176 under the Governor's jurisdiction, with another 4 contracts expiring in 2016 and 2017 that will be over an additional \$1.5 billion.

Mr. President, I know this information exists because at last week's meeting of the State System of Higher Education, the State System board received a presentation of the cost drivers the State System is facing. During that presentation, Mr. President, it was noted, and I quote, "2015-16 wage requirements are unknown at this time due to pending contract negotiations. Below are concepts on how potential base salary changes and the corresponding impact on benefits might increase the educational and general budget requirements." The analysis for the State System board went on to note, and I quote, "The revised budget estimates include changes in pay for employees represented by the International Union, Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America (SPFPA)...and excludes increases for non-represented employees." Mr. President, the State System projections show that a 1-percent general pay increase would cost the State System approximately \$7.2 million, which, combined with the other estimated changes, could possibly resolve in an overall total cost to the State system in an amount of \$23.3 million.

So, Mr. President, the State System of Higher Education is able to provide its board with cost estimates on how potential changes in employee contracts might impact their budget, yet neither the Governor nor his Budget Secretary are able to do the same for Members of the General Assembly and the public at large. Really? I mean, Mr. President, the General Assembly and the public at large need to know the costs of labor agreements and how they will impact the Commonwealth's ability to be fiscally responsible in passing a truly balanced budget. The information I am seeking from the Budget Secretary would provide this much-needed insight. That is why I asked the Budget Secretary for cost estimates. I do not want to know, nor do I care about, the details associated with the negotiations associated with those collective bargaining agreements. All I am looking for is the information the State System of Higher Education was able to provide, while the Governor's Office was not able to do so. I just think that is very sad.

I simply cannot imagine any administration not knowing the estimated cost impacts any change in these contracts would have

on the State budget, especially this year, when there are so many budget challenges facing this Commonwealth. During the hearings of the Committee on Appropriations, I asked the Secretary of the Budget about the anticipated costs of these contracts, and he replied that he could not comment because of ongoing negotiations. When I asked the Secretary about how much a 1-percent increase in the contracts would cost the Commonwealth, he replied it was not appropriate for him to give a hypothetical question. Mr. President, I was not asking a hypothetical question. I would just like to know how much a 1-percent increase in a collective bargaining agreement, what would the possible impact be to the Commonwealth?

The Senate Committee on Appropriations regularly prepares fiscal notes to determine the estimated cost impact of bills under consideration by the Senate. The House Committee on Appropriations does the same. These fiscal notes become the basis of many of the debates and deliberations of the General Assembly in considering those proposed bills. Yet, the Secretary of the Budget does not think the General Assembly should know the potential fiscal impacts that union contracts would have on the State budget. Surely the Governor, with his business background, understands the importance of having the best financial estimates on hand before making any decisions. Failure to do so would quickly put any business out of business. Yet, Mr. President, that is apparently what both the Governor and his Secretary of the Budget seem to think the General Assembly should do, ignore the cost of these contracts. I am not willing to do that, as I swore an oath to the Constitution which says to support and obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

Mr. President, the impacts of these agreements will be significantly affecting the 2015-16 State budget and future budgets, paying State employees, covering healthcare, and funding pensions. That is why I am planning to introduce legislation to help the General Assembly better prepare for these impacts by empowering the Independent Fiscal Office to provide cost analysis for the current and subsequent fiscal years of the impacts each proposed agreement will have prior to their execution. Like fiscal notes, the IFO analysis would assess the costs to govern employees' wages, benefits, pensions, and working conditions. The Governor would be required to give the IFO 2 weeks' notice of pending contracts so that the IFO has time to prepare these analyses prior to the execution of each collective bargaining agreement. In no way, Mr. President, am I looking to inject the General Assembly into the negotiating process. Let me repeat that. In no way am I trying to inject the General Assembly into the negotiation process. I respect the Governor's role, and that is what his role is to do. However, Mr. President, the General Assembly and the public at large need to know how the costs of labor agreements will impact the Commonwealth's ability to be fiscally responsible in passing a truly balanced budget, and the information I am seeking from the Secretary of the Budget would provide these much needed insights.

I requested this information twice from Budget Secretary Albright. The first time he refused to answer, and the second time he did not give me the courtesy of acknowledging that he got my letter, yet another poor business practice. Apparently, the Governor also ignored Senator Scarnati, Senator Corman, and Senator Browne when they were asking for the same informa-

tion. As a result, Mr. President, today I am making a public appeal, as both the Secretary of the Budget and the Governor himself have chosen to ignore the request for this important information. I guess, so much for openness and transparency.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Thank you, Senator -- excuse me, Mr. President. My apologies, Mr. President. We miss you on this side of the room and in that caucus room.

I was prepared to stand up on another matter, but I am compelled to some extent to respond to the previous comments. First and foremost, I was at the budget hearings when the Secretary of the Budget was asked the questions about providing some level of detail with respect to the contract negotiations that were ongoing with the Commonwealth and a number of our bargaining units, a number of our thousands of employees across the Commonwealth. The Secretary of the Budget did, in fact, respond that it is not necessarily appropriate to respond right now. They are in the middle of negotiations, and we still do not know at this point where things are going to wind up. However, I would suggest that, over time, there has been a courtesy provided to the legislative Leaders of all four Caucuses over the generations, not just over the last few years, but over the generations, that at the appropriate time in the context of contract negotiations, legislative Leaders would be provided some level of update or analysis of where things were as it got close to the end of those negotiations. Respecting the fiscal reality that exists in the Commonwealth at that given time, respecting the issues of where negotiations were at that given time over the years, over the decades, Leaders were informed at the appropriate time of how things were progressing, so that we could be appropriately prepared fiscally, and with respect to the State, still continue to move forward.

So I am anticipating that at the appropriate time we, as legislative Leaders, will be given the same opportunity to be appropriately updated with respect to how the contract negotiations are going with our State employees, our hardworking State employees, our State employees who are trying to keep this State going forward--not trying, but keeping the State going forward. We will know and factor those issues into the budget negotiations and to the work that has to be done, Mr. President, by the workforce in the Commonwealth. That workforce includes not only university and college professors, but it includes nurses, it includes childcare workers, it includes corrections officers, it includes numerous security personnel, it includes all kinds of individuals fixing our roads and bridges and highways, monitoring for the safety of our communities and doing all kinds of work across the Commonwealth. Those hardworking, hopefully well-respected individuals deserve an appropriate contract consistent with their effort and consistent with the fiscal reality that exists in the State. I have no fear at all that this administration will try to have those negotiations in some kind of backdoor environment and not at least allow the legislative Leaders to have a sense of what is going on at the appropriate time. I have no fear at all of that issue. We do need to know what is going on. We do need to know the fiscal impact, the workforce impact of any agreement that is achieved in the Commonwealth, but we do not need to interject ourselves into the details of any negotiation. That is the role and responsibility of the Governor, who was duly

elected. In this case, a Governor who was elected by a wide majority to negotiate those agreements and get a fair and appropriate settlement done that respects the work of the workforce but also respects the fiscal and financial realities that exist for the rest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

So, knowing the individuals at play, knowing the commitment that they have to public service, and knowing the historical traditions that exist within this building, both on the Senate side and the House side, we will be informed. We will know what we need to know. We will have a chance to ask the appropriate questions, but we will not interject ourselves into the negotiations, which is not our role, not our responsibility. The Governor and his team were elected and appointed to do so. That is their job. They should be allowed to do their job. That is why they were duly elected, and in this case, in a landslide, to get done for the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Getting back to the original issue of why I rose to this microphone at this point, Mr. President, is to recognize an unfortunate anniversary in the history of the world we live in. It was over a year ago, on April 14, 2014, a year ago yesterday, in the town of Chibok in northeastern Nigeria, where over 200 schoolgirls were attacked and abducted out of school, Mr. President, out of the school that they were attending, these young schoolgirls, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 years of age, over 200 of them were abducted by the terrorist organization Boko Haram.

There was an immediate public outcry to have those girls returned immediately. That outcry was evidenced, at least by this body, by the unanimous passage of Senate Resolution No. 383, which was introduced and adopted on May 7, 2014. I thank this body for recognizing, in a relatively quick fashion, the tragedy that occurred in April 2014 and within a couple of weeks formally passing a resolution expressing its outrage and requesting that the administration do all that it could to have those schoolgirls returned.

That occurred over a year ago. Mr. President, I rise on this day to make sure, as was discussed in resolutions and conversations earlier, that we never forget the tragedies of this kind that occur, unfortunately, over the years, but in this case, the last year, that we never forget this kind of issue and that we make sure that our voices are still heard with respect to demanding the return of those over 200 young girls who were abducted out of their school.

I would like all of us to personalize that for a moment. I would like all of us to individualize this conversation for a moment. Some of us have daughters. Some of us have granddaughters. I have a granddaughter. She is 11 years old. I have been to her school. I have met her friends. I have met her teachers. I have watched her in school activities, sweetest thing I know. Imagine if your daughter, if your granddaughter left home in the morning, got on the school bus, went to school, and then while she was doing her work, while she was paying attention to the teacher or laughing or joking with one of her classmates or doing her schoolwork or trying to figure out her multiplication tables or her art project or something like that, armed gunmen burst into the school and snatched her and her friends and snatched them out of the school and took them away. Imagine your thoughts at this moment. Imagine the anger. Imagine the anxiety. Imagine what you would be thinking right now if that had happened to your daughter or your granddaughter.

Well, over a year ago, Mr. President, over 200 young girls like our own daughters, like our own granddaughters, on a day like today, were in school in a city, Chibok, in a country, Nigeria, one of the largest oil producers in the world, a country that has a historical relationship with the United States of America, a cultural partner, a trading partner, a partner in services and issues, imagine what it would be like if your daughter was taken away like that which occurred over a year ago in Chibok, Nigeria. Two hundred of them. The militants stormed the school, arriving in a convoy of trucks and buses, and engaged in a gun battle with school security guards. The Boko Haram militants forced the girls from their dormitories—we should not forget this, Mr. President—loaded them into trucks and drove them into the forest. Imagine, Mr. President, if your daughter or if your granddaughter, create this picture in front of you, Mr. President, we should not forget, imagine what you would think, what you would see, what it would be like for you if your daughter or your granddaughter was taken out of her school and put into a truck at gunpoint and taken and driven off into the community from which their school is located.

Most of the girls who were abducted over a year ago have never been seen since then, except in a photograph in which they sat on the ground in a semicircle fully clad in traditional Islamic dress. That is all we know about these girls. A few of them, 50 of the over 276 girls who were kidnapped, managed to escape, but we have no sense, no knowledge, and no understanding of what has happened to the rest of these girls. The fear is that they have been raped. The fear is that they have been brutalized. The fear is that they have been enslaved and forced against their will to convert to Islam. Forced, not by their own choice, but forced. The fear is that they may have been sold off as sexual slaves, who could appear in any nation around the world.

Now, the Boko Haram terrorist organization still controls swaths of northeastern Nigeria. According to the UNICEF organization, 800,000 children have been forced to flee their homes because of the conflict between the Nigerian military, civilian self-defense groups, and the Boko Haram terrorist organization. Amnesty International says women and children continue to be abducted, and it says Boko Haram continues to kill in large numbers. Beyond that, more than 200 schoolgirls who had gathered 1 year ago to take their science exam are still missing.

Mr. President, I rise on this day, a year from the day that over 200 young girls were kidnapped out of a school in Chibok, Nigeria, driven off into the forest, and driven off into the countryside, where only 50 of them have been found, have escaped, I rise to make sure that this body never forgets, Mr. President, those over 200 young girls. That we demand their return. That we do all that we can as a State, as a nation, as members of the international community to make sure that those girls and others similarly situated are returned back home. Think about it. Think about the school on this bright, beautiful Wednesday afternoon. Think about it. If your daughter was in school or your granddaughter was in school and terrorists stormed the school and abducted your child, your grandchild, your daughter, your granddaughter and took her off into the community and over a year later you have no idea where she is. All she was doing was doing what we ask our girls to do, which is go to school. All she was doing was doing what we want our girls to do, get an education. All she was doing was being the growing young lady that we all want to see for our young girls. Get an education, have friends, enjoy them-

selves, be responsible, and out of nowhere terrorists come in and abduct them. We cannot forget the plight of these young girls.

As a result of that abduction, things have changed in Nigeria. The Boko Haram organization has grown, not shrunk, they have grown in their terrorist activity. A new president was recently elected in Nigeria. Change has occurred in a number of places, but one thing that has not changed is that those 200 young girls have not been returned home to their school, to their community, to their families, and we cannot forget their plight and other girls similarly situated in that country or in countries all over the world who are at the hands of terrorists who only want the worst for them and not the best. It is our responsibility, Mr. President, to use whatever power that we have to do a number of things, to run this State. It is also our responsibility, Mr. President, to do what we need to do to remind folks who are in responsible positions greater than ours, who have the opportunity to force governments and terrorist organizations to do the right thing, to return those girls back home. A lack of action or the continued abduction of those girls represents the worst in us, represents the things that we do not stand for, represents the things that both Democrats and Republicans can agree are not the way we need to be operating. We need to make sure that we never forget those 200 young girls and make sure that they are returned home.

There will be another resolution provided, Mr. President. The circulation memo will go out shortly and hopefully, as we did over a year ago, quickly introduce and pass it next week, reminding us, again, that 200 young girls were taken against their will, abducted, kidnapped, and more than likely utilized and brutalized in ways that we cannot imagine. We will remind the world through the responsible way that we have in this body that we want those girls returned, we want them returned home, and we want an end to the brutalization of young girls like those 200 who a year ago were abducted and so many of them have not been found.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the Senator for his very important words on an issue that we should keep on the forefront of our minds.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, April 20, 2015, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 12:50 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.