

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

SESSION OF 2016 200TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 57

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, November 16, 2016

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rabbi ELISHA FRIEDMAN, of Keshet Israel, Harrisburg, offered the following prayer:

Honored Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack, President pro tempore, and distinguished Senators of the Pennsylvania State Senate:

(In Hebrew:)

Father in Heaven, the needs of this nation are great, but our wisdom is limited. May it be Your will that You provide livelihood for every person and sustenance for every human.

This beautiful and succinct prayer was proscribed by the Talmud for those who due to time limitations cannot recite their full prayers. Instead, they recite this brief text which highlights the paradox of the depth of our needs and the limits of our humanity.

We are gathered here at the final Session of the 2016 Pennsylvania State Senate. Time is limited, and so let us pray together using this ancient and insightful prayer:

(In Hebrew:)

Father in heaven, the needs of this nation are great, but our wisdom is limited. We pray that this Senate will be given the wisdom to choose policies and legislation that will benefit the people of our Commonwealth. We pray that our Senators will be given the guidance to lead their constituencies in the direction of peace and blessing.

(In Hebrew:)

Father in Heaven, provide a livelihood for every person and sustenance for every human. We pray that this period marks the dawn of a new era for our State and our country, one in which healing will replace bitter acrimony, and the seeds of unity will overcome those of divisiveness. Help our elected officials and distinguished lawmakers to hear the pain of those who call out for their assistance. Help us all to hear their cries and to respond. Allow those who feel unheard by society to feel the great care for them in this room and throughout our government. Grant us peace and healing from Your infinite mercy. Bless this Assembly with Your presence today, and shine upon their deliberations the countenance of Your everlasting and eternal peace. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Rabbi Friedman, who is the guest today of Senator Teplitz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

November 10, 2016

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Mary K. Topper, Esq., 223 Pine Street, Apt. 3A, Harrisburg 17101, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2018, vice The Honorable Lillian Harris, Ransom, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

CORRECTION TO NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

November 15, 2016

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

Please note that the letter dated June 28, 2016, for the nomination of Neil Weaver, 1080 Elliott Lane, York 17403, York County, Twentieth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until his suc-

cessor is appointed and qualified, vice James Kifer, Rimersburg, whose term expired, should be corrected to read:

Neil Weaver, 1080 Elliott Lane, York 17403, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jeffrey Szumigale, Erie, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

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:

November 16, 2016

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1404**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, establishing the Nurses Health Program; and making an allocation.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, November 16, 2016.

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1405**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 28, 1984 (P.L.150, No.28), known as the Automobile Lemon Law, further providing for manufacturer's duty for refund or replacement.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, November 16, 2016.

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1406**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the Telemarketer Registration Act, further providing for definitions and for unwanted telephone solicitation calls.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, November 16, 2016.

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1407**, entitled:

An Act providing for the establishment, implementation and administration of a comprehensive retiree welfare-to-work mentoring program for certain individuals; and imposing additional powers and duties on the Department of Aging.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGING AND YOUTH, November 16, 2016.

Senator McILHINNEY presented to the Chair **SB 1408**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 9 (Burial Grounds) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for notice of burial benefits; and imposing a penalty.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, November 16, 2016.

Senators BROWNE, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, MENSCH, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, YUDICHAK, COSTA, BREWSTER, FOLMER, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, STEFANO, VULAKOVICH, KILLION and WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1409**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy Act, further defining unlawful acts concerning emergency prescriptions.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, November 16, 2016.

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1410**, entitled:

An Act providing for use of volunteer time by health care professionals in meeting continuing education requirements and for reports by the Department of State.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, November 16, 2016.

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1411**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for drug nuisances; providing for drug nuisance abatement and for duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs; prescribing penalties; and establishing the Treatment for Displaced Residents Fund.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, November 16, 2016.

Senators VULAKOVICH, FONTANA, COSTA, RAFFERTY, WOZNIAC and BREWSTER presented to the Chair **SB 1412**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in operation of vehicles, providing for automated and connected vehicles.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, November 16, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Ward, Senator Yaw, and Senator Killion.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Leach, Senator Kitchen, and Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests legislative leaves for Senator Ward, Senator Yaw, and Senator Killion.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Leach, Senator Kitchen, and Senator Tartaglione.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator CORMAN asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator GREENLEAF and Senator SMUCKER, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of October 17, 2016; October 18, 2016; October 19, 2016; October 24, 2016; October 25, 2016; October 26, 2016; and November 9, 2016, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of October 17, 2016; October 18, 2016; October 19, 2016; October 24, 2016; October 25, 2016; October 26, 2016; and November 9, 2016.

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Yaw has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ELECTION OF INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The next order of business will be the election of an interim President pro tempore, as required by Article II, Section 9, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which requires, in part, the Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each Regular Session, elect one of its Members as President pro tempore.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 21, I am giving the Senators notice that a photographer from the Senate Republican Caucus has been granted permission to take still photographs on the floor of the Senate during the election of the interim President pro tempore.

Before taking up nominations for the office of interim President pro tempore, the Chair would, again, like to suggest that if there is no objection, in the event there is only one candidate for the office, the Chair will dispense with the calling of the roll and ask for a voice vote on the nomination.

The Chair hears no objection.

The Chair will now accept nominations for the office of interim President pro tempore and recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, it is my honor to place into nomination for the position of interim President pro tempore the Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati. The President pro tempore position is not the President of the Majority party or the Minority party, it is the President of the Senate, and it is elected by the entire body. It is important for the President pro tempore to make sure that all 50 Members have access to equal resources to be able do their job, have access to equal opportunity to perform their duties here through debate and voting, and to make sure that the Senate is run in a way that is fair for all 50 Senators.

I have known Senator Scarnati since he joined the Senate -- actually, I knew him a little bit before that. He joined the Senate in 2000, was elected President pro tempore in the year 2006, and he has done a spectacular job of really moving the Senate in a real positive direction over the last decade. Senator Scarnati has been the leader on many reform issues, again, to make sure the Senate operates in a way that is in the light of day, in which the public can have confidence, and that we can perform our duties in a way that is in the right spirit of a healthy debate.

So with that, Mr. President, obviously next month, January, when we swear in the new Members, it will be a more ceremonial day, and we will swear in Senator Scarnati again on that day, but I want to put on the record that I think in the last decade, in his job as President pro tempore, he has really moved the Senate in a tremendously positive direction. It is my honor to place his name into nomination for the position of interim President pro tempore for another month and a half.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the gentleman for his words and nomination.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege today to second the nomination of Senator Joseph Scarnati to serve as interim President pro tempore for the Pennsylvania State Senate. Mr. President, 2 years ago I stood at this podium and reminded folks of the strength of Senator Scarnati as President pro tempore. I called attention to his leadership style, his personal characteristics, which are so valued, and why we should support him to serve in that capacity. I said that Senator Scarnati had the kind of leadership skills that we, as a body, need. He has been fair and balanced, not heavy handed, and always willing to work with our Members, and Members across both sides of this aisle, to find common ground. What I said 2 years ago, Mr. President, still holds true today.

Let us face it, we are in a time of upheaval and uncertainty in government, at all levels of government, and we need a steady hand and secure leadership. Our Commonwealth is a large State with many people and divergent interests, and we do not always agree. We disagree quite often, I think. Each of us, though, represents a slice of our Commonwealth. We serve those who elect us. It is our responsibility to put that extra effort and use all resources at our disposal to insure that the men and women who send us here to serve, that they know, as we do, that we are working together, and that we are in a position to be able to provide an understanding that the things we do are appropriate and fair. That is what we have before us now, a gentleman who has

been able to do that. It is truly my honor to second the nomination to have our current President pro tempore continue to serve as the interim President pro tempore of the Senate through this period of time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

The PRESIDENT. Are there any other seconds for nominations at this time? The Chair hears none and declares the nominations closed.

The candidate for the office of interim President pro tempore is the Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati III of Jefferson County. All those in favor of Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III for the office of interim President pro tempore will please say "aye"; those opposed, "nay."

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

The PRESIDENT. I hear no "nays." I hear many, many "ayes." The Chair takes pleasure in declaring Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III unanimously elected interim President pro tempore of the Senate.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE-ELECT TO THE ROSTRUM

The PRESIDENT. The Chair takes pleasure in naming as the committee to escort the President pro tempore-elect to the rostrum: the gentleman from Allegheny County, Senator Reschenthaler, as Chair; the gentleman from Lancaster County, Senator Aument; and the gentlewoman from Berks County, Senator Schwank. The committee will proceed to escort Senator Scarnati to the rostrum.

(Whereupon, the President pro tempore-elect was escorted to the rostrum of the Senate.)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE-ELECT

The PRESIDENT. It is an honor and privilege to have with us The Honorable Thomas G. Saylor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Chief Justice Saylor has kindly consented to be with us today to administer the oath of office to Senator Scarnati.

Please rise.

Justice SAYLOR. Good afternoon. Senator, please place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me:

I, Joseph B. Scarnati III, do solemnly swear that I will support, 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.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

GAVEL PRESENTED TO INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to thank our good friend, the very esteemed Chief Justice Saylor.

It is now my privilege to present the President pro tempore of the Senate of Pennsylvania, and my friend, the Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati III.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

REMARKS BY INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you very much, Governor, and certainly I thank Chief Justice Saylor for not only taking the time to be here but, certainly, his service to the Commonwealth. Let us give the Chief Justice a round of applause, please.

(Applause.)

Senator Corman, thank you for your remarks. They could have been a little bit better, but they were fine. Senator Costa, you always knock it out of the park. Thank you very much for your remarks.

Look, I thank all of the Members here in this Chamber, and certainly the new Senators, for the unanimous support for me for President pro tempore. Certainly, these remarks will be brief and I reserve the right to have much longer remarks on January 3. But I am humbled by your support and humbled by the opportunity to be able to serve in this capacity and the trust that you place in me. As you know, our Commonwealth faces many, many challenges, and those challenges can only be met by all of us coming together in order to achieve real results. So I look forward to working to make Pennsylvania a better, stronger Commonwealth, and with your help we can do that. Thank you very much, and God bless.

(Applause.)

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN R. GORDNER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, we are going to be talking about a number of retirements of Members, but I have my chief of staff, who many of you know is retiring next month, so I want to take 2 minutes to recognize Todd Roup upon his pending retirement in December.

Todd came to the Senate in 1988, working for Senator Edward Helfrick during his campaign. He started in the Shamokin Dam district office in 1988 and came to Harrisburg in 1992. I want to mention a couple of the staffers Todd roomed with down in the basement of the Senate, and those staffers were Phil English; Greg Jordan, who I think is still around; Kirk Wilson; and Dan Hassel. Those five shared a suite in the basement and got to know each other really well before they all went in different directions. In 1992, he became executive director of the Committee on Game and Fisheries, and worked on a number of issues with Senator Helfrick and Senator Kasunic, if I recall, dealing with law enforcement reform, license fee adjustments, and boating under the influence updates.

Senator Helfrick was very strong on pro-life issues and very strong on anti-death penalty issues. If there was a pro-life issue

or an attempt to eliminate the death penalty, Senator Helfrick was involved with those, and Todd was involved with each of those as well. Todd would end up becoming chief of staff for Senator Helfrick and managing not only the Harrisburg office, but the district offices as well.

In 2003, I was elected, and some Senators picked their staff and some staff picked their Senators, and Todd willingly picked me as his Senator to be chief of staff for, and I appreciated that for 13 years. In 2006, when I took over the Committee on Labor and Industry, Todd also became executive director of the committee, and we dealt with a number of big and serious issues dealing with unemployment compensation reform, workers compensation, and Todd became an expert on the building codes, which is an issue in and of itself, and Chairman Baker is very well aware of those issues now.

So, for 28 years Todd has served the Senate working for really two bosses, Senator Helfrick and myself. I thank him for the way he has conducted himself as chief of staff, the way he has worked with other staff, and the way he has worked with members of staff of the other party. Chairman Tartaglione is not here, but we had a wonderful working relationship with Chairman Tartaglione and Kathy Benton and her staff when we had the Committee on Labor and Industry. Todd is joined today by his wife, Peggy Chamberlain Roup. Peggy Roup is the Democratic County Commissioner of Snyder County, and a very active and very well-respected commissioner in Snyder County. So please join me in recognizing Todd and Peggy Roup on his retirement.

The PRESIDENT. Will Todd and Peggy Roup, the guests of Senator Gordner and the great staffer whom we will say nicer things about even later, please rise so that we may thank you for all you do. You make us all look good.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Another mixed marriage, it sounds like, Senator.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Ward has returned, and her legislative leave is cancelled.

GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT F. TEPLITZ PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, I have two guests today. First, I welcome our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Elisha Friedman from Keshet Israel Congregation located here in Harrisburg. Rabbi Friedman is a graduate of Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and he is completing a doctorate in modern Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies.

Although he has only been the spiritual leader at Keshet Israel for 3 months, he and his wife, Yamit, are excited to be involved in the Harrisburg community. At Keshet Israel, Rabbi Friedman delivers regular lectures and classes on topics of interest and brings Jewish ideas to bear on the contemporary world. Together with a team of volunteers, he maintains the kashrut of some of our local kosher establishments and the community eruv, and is involved in other communal institutions.

I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming our guest Chaplain to the Senate today, Rabbi Elisha Friedman.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Will the guest of Senator Teplitz, today's guest Chaplain, Rabbi Elisha Friedman, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania State Senate. Thank you for your great prayer, Rabbi.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. For the introduction of a second guest, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Teplitz.

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, I welcome another special guest from my district to the Senate today. Alexandra Rapp, who is up in the gallery, is a ninth-grader at Hershey High School and the winner of my 2016 "There Ought To Be A Law" essay contest. She is here with her parents, Dr. Mark and Erin Rapp.

This is my fourth annual essay contest, which is open to high school students in the 15th Senatorial District. Students were asked to submit an essay on their proposed legislation. Alexandra's proposal calls for educating all public school-attending students on medically accurate and modern sex education. In her essay, Alexandra writes, it has been proven time after time that education is a crucial key to people's safety against sexually transmitted diseases. She continues, if schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania begin to include all students in a structured sex-education curriculum, there would be a monumental positive change in the overall health and mental states of students. Alexandra's proposal is very similar to a bill I introduced this year, Senate Bill No. 1338, the Pennsylvania Healthy Youth Act. I am very impressed with this young lady's proposal. It is not only a commonsense measure, but one that is already going through the legislative process.

I thank Senator Schwank for cosponsoring this legislation, and I hope that it is reintroduced next year. So, Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Alexandra Rapp on winning my "There Ought To Be A Law" essay contest, and welcoming her and her parents to the Senate today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Will the guests of Senator Teplitz, Alexandra Rapp and her parents, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania State Senate.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR PATRICIA H. VANCE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Cumberland, Senator Vance.

Senator VANCE. Mr. President, I want to introduce my entire staff, who are wonderful and talented. I could not have asked for any more than I received from them. First is chief of staff, Amy Bolze. Smile, Amy. It is okay, you can stand up. Then Kit Davis, Tracy Polovick, Tracy Evens, Li Kohr, Joe Marsicano, and Chris Ramsey. They are fabulous. I hope when you are looking for staff you grab them, because they are wonderful. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Vance and her great staff here.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Senator Vance, you have been a great Senator and you would be the first to say that your staff makes you

the great Senator that you are. So once again, all of us recognize how hard all of you work and appreciate everything, no one more than Senator Vance. The only people probably more than Senator Vance are the people of Pennsylvania, so thank you so much.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS FAREWELL TO MEMBERS

The PRESIDENT. We will honor our distinguished colleagues. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman, who will first address the farewell of our friend, Senator Smucker.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, these days after an election day are always bittersweet because, obviously, we elect new Members and we are all excited to have new Members join the family of the State Senate, but we also say goodbye to Members, Members with whom we have had the opportunity to serve a long time and have become friends, close friends, because over time we share a lot of experiences here. This is a unique position. No prior position really trains you to join the legislative body. You bring certain experiences with you, but I do not know that there is any real training. You just sort of get here and pick it up as you go.

Senator Smucker, who is not with us today, unfortunately, was someone who came from the private sector. I think he had very little government experience. I do not know if he served any local government, but he did not serve in the House and was not a county commissioner, but he saw the legislative body, with a retirement in his district, that he wanted to contribute to. He thought he had something to offer, and he did. As someone who came in maybe a hair naive to the process, he was a quick learner. Senator Smucker was someone who did not speak a lot necessarily—I hate that he is not here because I feel like I am speaking of him posthumously—but he is doing very, very well. For those who do not know, Senator Smucker ran for Congress. Why someone would want to be a Congressman instead of a State Senator is beyond me, but he did run for Congress and was victorious. So, his term in the Senate will end in a couple of weeks, but Senator Smucker, again, was someone who did not necessarily speak a lot, but when he did, he did it very profoundly, in a way that people would listen. He was not one who spoke loudly and he did not have to yell to get his point across. He was someone who did it in a way that got his point across because of what he had to say, not how he had to say it.

For the last few years he chaired the Committee on Education and really led the charge on education reform. I know that was a very big issue to Senator Smucker. He really tried to wrestle with that charter school reform issue, which, unfortunately, we did not get to the finish line, but he was always courageous enough to take on the big issues. I can remember many times in caucus Senator Smucker saying that we need to vote on these big issues, even if we do not have agreement with the other side or the House or the Governor, we need to stand up for what we believe is right. He started out with the transportation issue a few years ago, transportation infrastructure. He was a big proponent of taking a stand on pension reform. So, it was that kind of courage from a lot of new Members we have gotten over the years, and some of us who are more seasoned, that allowed us to take on the big issues of the day. Senator Smucker was a great voice in our Caucus. He was a tremendous Member and someone who

will be dearly missed. We will replace him with a great new Member, but at the same time he was a member of the family. Anytime a member of the family moves on, we cheer them on and say congratulations. We are excited for your future, and thank you for your contribution to our Caucus in the Senate of Pennsylvania.

So, hopefully, he will take his experiences here and straighten things out down in Congress, which will be a tall task, but he certainly made a positive impact here in the Commonwealth. He has been a great friend and we will miss him and wish him well in his next endeavor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, it is a privilege to rise and echo the sentiments already expressed by the Majority Leader. It has been a real privilege for me to serve not only here in the Senate for the last 2 years with Senator Smucker, but the previous 4 years as I was a Member of the House of Representatives. Senator Smucker has been a mentor, and certainly on behalf of all the residents of not just the 36th Senatorial District but those whom he represents in the 13th Senatorial District, all of the residents of Lancaster County, we are extremely grateful for the service that he provided here. He has been a champion of economic opportunity, education quality, he has been thoughtful, engaged on the most important issues that have come here before this body, and we wish him well as he moves on to Washington, D.C., and represents us as a Member of Congress.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks my friend from Lancaster for the kind words about a great Senator, Senator Smucker, and we all wish him well in the luxurious place that is the United States Congress.

Farewell to our friend Senator Smucker.

(Applause.)

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise to certainly lend my congratulations to Senator Smucker on his advancement to serve in the United States Congress. It has been a true pleasure. I know he, in the last several years, and our Democratic chair, Senator Dinniman, worked closely together on a number of issues, and more often than not they agreed on and advanced issues through this General Assembly. So, I certainly wish him well.

I continue to be proud of the fact that this Chamber has been sort of the feeder system to the U.S. Congress. Senator Smucker joins a long list of our colleagues with whom we have served over the years who have left the Senate and have gone down to Washington, D.C., to serve with distinction in the United States House of Representatives. I have no doubt that Senator Smucker will join that class of individuals and represent all of us, not only his district, but represent his Senators and fellow colleagues in the same manner that he has done here and that has been done very, very well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, we do have another Member of our Caucus who has decided to retire, not move on to another position, but retire. There is no one who deserves a more

happy and fulfilled retirement than the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Vance. She served a long career in the House before she came to the Senate. She is someone who, when she came to the Senate, hit the ground running and did not need any help from the rest of us to learn how to do things here in Harrisburg. The thing that I think I followed and watched the most is that she has been the chair of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare. I was chair of that committee and I know how hard it is, and she did a heck of a lot better job than I ever did. Those are the toughest issues. They are issues that are very emotional, issues that deal with the most vulnerable people, and she was such a great champion of that committee, and ran significant pieces of legislation. I think the biosimilar bill that she was able to accomplish this year was a significant accomplishment that she spent a great deal of time on. It was very controversial, but when it got to the end point, it got an almost-unanimous vote because of her great work to work through the issues that people were concerned about and get it to a point where there was general consensus.

One other tremendous attribute she had that we will definitely need to replace soon, and we saw it a couple of weeks ago, is that Senator Vance has a nursing background. In her career in the Senate, there have been at least a half-dozen times where someone has dropped over here on the Senate floor. Each time, it was Senator Vance running to the rescue to assist them in their significant time of need. And it was bipartisan. I can remember a Senator from Philadelphia, a couple years back, falling over, and a few of ours as well, and obviously staff as well. So, if someone was in need, Senator Vance was quick to jump to their rescue and help us get through some of those moments. They all came through with flying colors. We did not lose anybody, so her background, obviously, was extremely helpful.

For the most part, I think Senator Vance is known for her integrity. What I said earlier about Senator Smucker - it was not necessarily how he said it, it was what he said - well, Senator Vance did not speak very loudly to people, but when she did, you knew it was strong, you knew it was firm. She was unwavering. As someone who tried to get her vote from time to time on things she did not want to vote for, I was not very successful because when she made up her mind, and she was representing her district, she stuck with it, no matter political pressure. I do not think she ever calculated political pressure or special interests. She calculated in her mind what was right and what was wrong. We differed on a few things, and that is the way the process is, and she was always respectful to come back on the next issue. So, that is something I think we can all learn from. Senator Vance has been a great role model for many during her career in the Senate.

Probably my favorite thing is when her phone rings, it is the Penn State fight song. She actually may be a bigger Penn State fan than I am.

There are others who want to make remarks, but as Leader, I just want to say I wish people well when they retire. I do not know of anyone who has retired from this place and regretted it. We always think we want to be here forever, but there is life after this place, and there is a very fulfilling life after this place. As I said, most people who have left do not miss us much. So, I am sure Senator Vance will not miss us, but we will definitely miss her. We wish her the best in her future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Also to speak on the retirement of Senator Vance, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, as our Majority Leader said, Pat Vance was a tireless fighter for the people, not only her constituents, but the people of Pennsylvania. She has had a lot of great accomplishments from her committee, but she fought hard to include the expanding Commonwealth prescription drug program for low-income seniors, protecting women and children and adults with disabilities from abuse and neglect, and provided additional protections and resources for those with drug and alcohol addictions. She was a tireless fighter. I never did want to disagree with her, and we probably did not disagree that much, Senator Vance, but when we did, it was a pretty heated discussion.

I guess I have to say that Pat and I came in together to the General Assembly in 1990 under the leadership of Matt Ryan, a wonderful Leader, and we have seen a great succession of Leaders since then, right now down to Jake Corman and Joe Scarnati on our side. We have seen five different governors. We came in under Governor Casey, we worked under Governor Ridge, Governor Schweiker, Governor Rendell, Governor Corbett, and Governor Wolf. Five different governors Pat and I have worked with and a succession of great Leaders here on the House side and on the Senate side. I actually feel, at times, that I had a great partner in Pat. We had several things that we fought hard together on, a couple of things we did not agree with, but nobody fought harder for her constituents, and nobody fought harder for the people of Pennsylvania.

As Senator Corman mentioned--my mother was a nurse, my sister was a nurse, and my daughter is a nurse. Nobody looks at healthcare like a nurse. Nobody fights for the patient like a nurse. No one fights for the people in the community like a nurse. Pat, first of all, you are a Senator, you were a House Member, a mother, wife, but you are a nurse. There is something special about a nurse in the way they respond and reflect in their neighborhoods, in their communities, and their families. I was here when you saved Jim Cawley, too, when Jim Cawley went off the dais as Lieutenant Governor.

So, Pat, thank you very much. It has been a great honor to serve with you. I am not going to mention the 26 years that we have served together, but it has been 26 years, and it has been a great honor to serve with you. You are a great Senator, you did a great job, and I am very proud to have served with you. God bless you, Pat. Good luck in your retirement.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, it is not easy for me to say goodbye to Pat Vance today here on the Senate floor. She is more than a distinguished colleague, she is a dear, special friend. She is a mentor, and I would use the term a sterling example of how to serve in the public interest. Hers has been a demonstration of leading by word and deed, strength of character, seriousness of commitment, and steeliness of conviction, as Senator Tomlinson just mentioned. She showed us ways to act responsibly and to solve problems constructively. This was the basis for her solid reputation and her sustained influence over the last 26 years. Her contributions during consequential debates over healthcare have been invaluable. She has the sort of expertise that we can never have too much of.

No matter the issue, people knew that they could count on her to be hardworking, thorough, perceptive, and decisive. Pat got a lot done because she was not consumed by chasing power or looking for prestige. She truly wanted the problems and issues tackled and solved in a sensible and workable way. She was as good as anybody at unmasking political nonsense. Right, Pat? She brought to public office the sort of attributes that people in her district appreciated: practical life experience, a clear set of principals, and consistent community engagement. She has been doing that her entire time. And as Senator Corman mentioned, on several occasions, her nursing skills, her calm demeanor, and those caring, compassionate hands have assisted Members and staff in a time of need.

In these times when we have been somewhat dismayed by too many examples of unethical behavior, Pat stands in sharp contrast: strong willed, and incorruptible. Holding public office brought out her serious side, but in private, I must say she is refreshingly engaging and lots of fun to be around. She has a wide range of interests, and while we have often referred to her as the Senator of champions, Pat, you are the super fan for every one of your sporting teams, but we know that the Cumberland Valley Girls' Basketball Team will always hold a special place in your heart.

So we are fortunate and grateful she gave 12 productive years on the Senate side with her qualities and skills. There are many other places she could have been. The community she served and Pennsylvania as a whole benefitted because she chose to keep contributing. Pat may be stepping away from elective office, but she is not walking away from community issues or concerns. Her views will always matter and her counsel will always be sought. So we wish Pat good health, and most of all, I wish you a lower handicap in retirement. Warm congratulations, special friend. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I know we are not supposed to direct conversation right to Members, but I have to say, Senator Vance, you look especially well today. Perhaps it is the lifting of some of the responsibilities of this position, but you do look great today. In all seriousness, I want to remark on what I have learned from you, Senator Vance. You served with grace, dignity, intelligence, and professionalism. You have been a voice of reason. I often sit in my chair and listen to you as you speak. I have watched you as you served as the Chair of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare with my good friend and colleague, Senator Shirley Kitchen. Watching the two of you working on tough issues, working together, you truly were both a model of what we can accomplish in a bipartisan way. I know that is just simply the way that you are. That is just part of your character, which I must tell you, I truly admire. Senator Corman said that you are a role model, and I would have to echo those words.

I have watched you, I have watched your leadership, and I want to tell you, I have truly learned from you what true leadership is all about. Thank you, Senator Vance. Thank you for your service. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you as well as Senator Kitchen and to see what we could accomplish on that committee. You will be missed. Best wishes to you.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pile on, because I have great respect for Senator Vance. As I said several weeks ago from this podium, and I echo what everyone else has said in this Chamber, but I also want to talk about something in terms of how we need to manage and work together as committee chairs. I can tell you that Senator Vance and Senator Kitchen, about whom Senator Schwank spoke briefly, truly demonstrated the manner in which we can get things done and get things done properly here. The two of them had such great respect for one another, and I can tell you, in our Caucus, when we had discussions on matters pertinent to the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, Senator Kitchen always talked about Senator Vance and where she was at and what she thought was appropriate, and that she was working with Senator Vance, and that we needed to be with Senator Kitchen and Senator Vance on a particular issue. So I tell you that there is great respect in our Caucus from our Members on many, many matters, particularly the ones related to the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, but the model that you established with Senator Kitchen in how to establish and run a committee that was both fair and recognized the importance of the role that we all play in this General Assembly and the committee structure, I thank you for that.

God bless you, and we are going to miss you. Thank you, Senator.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Vance, thank you for all your great service.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Wozniak. I cannot wait to hear.

Senator WOZNIAK. Thank you, Mr. President, and neither can my wife.

(Laughter.)

My staff and family are here. You might as well turn your chairs around so you can face me.

Lieutenant Governor Stack, President pro tempore Scarnati, Republican Leader Corman, Democratic Leader Costa, colleagues, staff, guests, friends, and family, first, I would like to say, thank God I was not on the ballot this election cycle.

(Laughter.)

It is difficult to put into an hour and a half 36 years of public service, but I will attempt to do it in about 20 minutes.

First, I acknowledge my wife, Vanessa. We have been married for 32 years. I love her dearly. It is sort of interesting, although we have been married 32-plus years, that is in real time. In Senate time, because of the commitment that this job takes, it is really 20 years in Senate time. People do not realize the time and the commitment that it takes to do this job. She is trying to train me now and domesticate me: Take your shoes off when you come in the house; the coffee cups and dishes go in the dishwasher, which is right next to the sink; take the crumbs off the table and wipe it with a rag when you are done; and I will try to improve that. There is one thing I do want to tell you, I am going to build that workroom underneath the deck.

To my son, Michael, and his wife, Jessica, who cannot be here, he is out of town, but when he was a young man, he wanted to be a weatherman. Then when he was in high school, he wanted to be a band director. He settled on being an aerospace engineer and now he works for Lockheed in Texas, so he will be back for Christmas. I am very proud of him.

My daughter, Rachel, who does not want to admit the fact that she is a lot like her father, but she has a great sense of humor, a great wit, and she chose her friends very well. I am very proud of her.

To my sister, Helen, I do not have any stories to tell about her, but if she were up here, she could tell a few about me. I did follow her into retirement, so I look forward to spending some hours doing Trivial Pursuit.

I am trying to stick on script here. Staff: I will tell you what, I exist because they exist. They exist because I exist. A greater group of people, you could never meet. Alanna Wilson, the smiling face you see when you enter the Johnstown office, soon to receive a master's degree and off to see the world. Sharon Turkovich, my outspoken keeper of my southern outpost in Bedford. Thank you for all you do. And a special shout-out to John Eichelberger, because that is whom she used to work for, and I kept his office there also. Senator-elect Wayne Langerholc, I wish him congratulations and best wishes. He might be interested in having a conversation with Sharon and keeping the office in Bedford.

Jackie Kendrick could not be here, but she was my soft-spoken northern outpost of Clearfield County, and did a great job making sure that my needs were kept up there. Tom Trkula is the face you see when you walk into my Johnstown office. He is a man with a great keen sense of political analysis in the winds. Tommy Simmons, another gentleman whom Senator-elect Langerholc might want to have a conversation with, because he is my guru-ship, the guru of grant-manship, loans, and how the savoir faire of statecraft works. I do not think there is anybody out there who understands the labyrinth of the bureaucracy better than Tom Simmons, and I was very lucky to have him.

Josh Myers, executive director of the Committee on Transportation, has been with me since he was in high school. I have watched him grow to be a fine young man and an expert in the transportation issues out there. Gary Martin, a special shout-out for him: he was my master of propaganda. He kept me in the media, and I will tell you what, he was a good friend of mine, but he could be annoying. Jill Leeper, she has been with me since the early 1980s, and I have to tell you, she has been my chief of staff and has been able to keep this group together for all those years. So we were truly a team and we have done great things together.

To all the Democratic staff, I thank you for all you do. Mark Mekilo, do not forget that issue we discussed.

Hugh Baird, I am doing this talk all on my own just to show you that I can write a speech and deliver it.

Tony Lepore, the things I do for you. Who takes care of you? Do you not know you are my favorite Senator? It took me a while, but you tell every single one of us the same thing.

To Senator Wiley, Senator Teplitz, Senator Vance, Senator Kitchen, and Senator Smucker, enjoy your retirements and your ventures in the future. It was truly an honor and a pleasure to serve with you.

Regrets? Only one: I never served in the military. My wife knows how much that bothers me. But other regrets? Nah, too few to even think of. It has been an honor and it has been with humility that I have served. I do not think there is any greater honor than being chosen by your peers to represent them and to govern.

To my Democratic colleagues, keep the faith. A 24-year-old boy with glasses about this big, hair down below his ears in 1980 beat a sitting Republican incumbent in the Reagan landslide. So hope springs eternal. You do know who that 24-year-old boy was? It was me. So you can find champions in the future, and after all, opportunity comes every 2 years for us.

Senator Corman, wherever he is at, Jake, you are an excellent Republican Leader. You have the Majority, you could have bulldozed us over, had your way, but you had the courtesy, the decency, and the respect to allow us to sit at the table and negotiate. That takes a true man, and I thank you very much. Your father, Doyle, with whom I served in this Chamber, should be very proud of you.

Senator Costa, I cannot say enough about Jay. He is not just my Leader but my friend. He has the patience of a sphinx, and he has worked very diligently to try to make relevant the Minority party, the Democratic Party here in the State Senate. He is doing a job well, great, and I congratulate him on his re-election in leadership today.

Senator Rafferty, my friend. A little story here. He and I went to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown together and were in the same fraternity. For the brothers out there, it is Delta Chi. He, along with myself and many other people too numerous to mention, worked on Act 89, which was the most significant transportation infrastructure bill ever passed in the last century or in this century. We have put tens of thousands of people to work. We are building roads, bridges, and infrastructure all over this State. If you want to stimulate an economy, that is how you do it. Senator Rafferty was at the helm as the Republican Chair of the Committee on Transportation, and I by his side. So I give a shout-out there because I think if there was anything we did, long after we are gone, that bill will still provide roads, bridges, and employment in Pennsylvania.

I am getting there.

All right. Recommendations. Everybody is very fond about what we should be doing here, and I cannot leave without saying a few things. One, all of the Members who have third-class cities in their districts: Third-class cities, unite. There are 50 third-class cities in this State. You can be a very strong, vocal, and powerful voting bloc when it comes to budgetary matters. Where goes our third-class cities goes regional economies. It is incumbent upon us to take a serious look at how we can strengthen those center business cores, get rid of blight, and reestablish them as the economic and cultural centers. You would do that with a little bit of money, but the dividends will be great.

Senator Yaw, who has challenged, championed, and took the Center for Rural Pennsylvania on a journey to understand the who, what, where, and why of the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. We need--and if it was not for his leadership, and I want to acknowledge that, we really garnered a lot of information. I watched in the last election Congressmen, State Senators, State Representatives, Presidents, everybody wants to ride the opioid bandwagon to election, but the truth is, the challenge is real. We need to educate our children, we need to begin rehabilitation at the first infraction of the law, because the sooner you get an addict into help, the better the prognosis, and the no-goodnicks, the dealers, you put them in jail for a very long time. You make them more afraid of our laws than they are of their bosses'.

Education. It is all nice about going and getting a college degree, but I see a lot of people with a master's of history out there

parking cars, washing dishes, and waiting tables. We need to connect the people who are the job creators with the people and the skills necessary to fulfill those needs. We need to develop our trades, we need the schools for plumbers, pipe-fitters, carpenters, and welders. They can read War and Peace just as well as anybody else, but it is nice when you have a paycheck to do it.

I do not have a lot of other things to talk about, because I am going to be on my 20th page of this document, but it has been great. It has been fun. I have enjoyed every person here, and I will tell you what, hope does spring eternal. Abraham Lincoln had a divided nation and a defeated army, but he persevered, and the Union still stands. Dr. Jonas Salk from Pittsburgh worked against time and invented a vaccine that saved the lives of millions of children, and now polio is eradicated from the face of the Earth because he persevered. The brightest thunderbolts flash in the darkest of skies, and you have a budget confronting you next year that might confound a lot of people, but you also have opportunity if you can collaborate, cooperate, and communicate. You can deal with issues of reducing property taxes. You can address the issue of the pension, and, Senator Rafferty, we can address the funding of the State Police and stop usurping those dollars from our transportation bill. It can be done by both the Majority and the Minority.

I will leave you with this, because I have watched the elections. You cannot tax your way into prosperity. You cannot cut your way into prosperity either, and neither side has a corner on fiscal responsibility. Both the Democrats and the Republicans have been miserable at it. We need to look at the budget not from a year-to-year basis, but look at 3, 4 years down the road so that we know the condition of the decisions we make. I will not be here, I will be watching it on TV -- probably not.

I once again thank everybody here. Senator Brewster, my brother I never had, I love him dearly. Very entertaining people. Dr. Dinniman, you talk about everybody being a little eccentric, well, some are a little more eccentric than others.

Mr. President, I have spoken long enough, although it was not quite an hour and a half. It is challenging. I am going to be off to different things. Some I am not privy to speak about right now, but one I will tell you about is that I am going to be doing a video for the *Survivor* TV series. I figure that if I can survive the slings and arrows in the political pond of Pennsylvania, I can give it a shot on some reality TV shows.

God bless this State, God bless the United States, and let me leave you with this one thought: The American flag flies highest, the Pennsylvania flag flies below it. Our party flags should always fly below that Pennsylvania flag. Let us never juxtapose those flags.

God bless you all, thank you very much, and God bless the United States.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Also to speak on behalf of the much-regretted retirement of Senator Wozniak, your co-chair on the Committee on Transportation, the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I will be brief because I want to run down to my office and read the bill that Senator Wozniak is leaving me on how to handle the State Police funding.

It is an honor to be here today to be able to salute John. With the exception of Mrs. Wozniak, I have probably known him lon-

ger than anyone else in this room, both of us being UPJ students and grads, and the two of us being Delta Chi brothers. I was asked to sign his card today. I said, I signed his black book so many times when he was pledging, I do not know if I need to sign his card, but I did. He has been a true friend and a true ally in the Senate, and when we did transportation, knowing that John had the backing of Senator Costa and Senator Hughes, it was easy to work with Senator Wozniak to make sure that we accomplished what really is a truly landmark piece of legislation, and it was bipartisan. I mean, the fact that it came out of this body 45-5, that itself is a telltale sign as to what could be accomplished by working together.

So, I wish Senator Wozniak well. He was known in the fraternity house as Woz, and I was known as Raff. We were very close back then, and we still are today, and I am very happy to have had the opportunity to serve with him in the Senate, and I wish him well in the future and know that he will not be forgotten. I know there are a lot of establishments here in town that are going to be very sorry to see him go, but he has been a true friend to many of us, and I thank him and wish him well. God bless you, John.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to stand up and provide a few remarks about my good friend, Senator Wozniak. I can tell you that John talked a lot about some of the things that I want to address, but I really think that there are a number of points that I really want to talk about because they were major issues. Probably most significant, when you serve the number of years that John has served here, serving in both the House and the Senate, with probably 100 Members in the House over the years and probably at least maybe 100 Senators who served here. As I think through the time he served here and I think of those Members, I can stand here and say, and I think everyone in this room would agree, that you will not find one person who would have a negative or bad thing to say about John Wozniak and his work ethic and intelligence as it relates to the issues we talked about. I believe that is truly a reflection on the character of the man and the person he is. That is saying something when you serve with people in this body and the body across the hall, whether contentious issues, that despite all of that, you still have the respect and admiration of the people you serve with. That is a major accomplishment.

A couple of things that John brought to us that he did not talk about, but I think that we experienced and we will not see as we go forward, and it is unfortunate, John was the guy, at this time of year or closer to Christmas, who would walk through the halls and floors of this building and play his saxophone and play Christmas songs. While it was holiday related, it was something that he did. I can remember the days when Senator Murphy would play his guitar at times, and Senator Holl would play the trumpet and Senator Scanlon would sing before I got here. Those were things that were done in this body that I thought were important to the Members that they were able to do those types of things because they brought us all together. They broke down the Republican and Democratic barriers, or Leadership and rank-and-file barriers. So, we are going to miss John playing the saxophone, and while he still should have practiced a little more, we recognize it as something as we go forward that we will miss.

The other thing John spoke to, this election, in my view, John spoke to this issue as well. John stood at the podium and microphone in the past and talked about John and Mary Pfuffna. They were people who, in this election, some contend that we had not been able to speak to, at least Democrats, and John always reminded us that is who we needed to speak to, the people who live in smalltown USA or third-class cities who have been struggling, who have been suffering, and have not been able to understand what it is that we do in Harrisburg and what is done in Washington. He was a constant reminder of John and Mary Pfuffna. Through them, he told us what we were not doing and what we needed to do. That is important for us and helped us to come back to where we needed to be along those lines. So, John, thank you for reminding us.

Senator Wozniak talked about Act 89. We cannot lose sight of what John talked about and what that meant. That meant a \$2.5 billion investment in highway funding and transportation plans. When we went through that process, we were talking about 25,000 jobs per \$1 billion of investment that was created. That is 62,000 jobs that are being created in this Commonwealth because of the investment that these gentlemen, Senator Rafferty and Senator Wozniak, led the effort on. So, I applaud them for doing it. John was doing it long before it became fashionable to do it around the time we did Act 89. He was constantly in our Caucus as a Member of the Committee on Transportation working to make sure that we recognized that we had to make investments, and there is value in the investments that we needed to make. That is the same conversation that he had with Senator Yaw and the work that those two gentlemen did, led by Senator Yaw's efforts, working in the fields and in the communities, conducting hearing after hearing, meeting after meeting, talking about the crisis that we were experiencing, not only in urban Pennsylvania, but rural Pennsylvania. Those gentlemen went out long before it was fashionable to be able to talk about an important issue, and I applaud them for doing that. John would bring those reports back to our Caucus and talk about it. It then manifested itself in the piece of legislation that we adopted in this Chamber, and across the hall, and the Governor signed. So, those were two things, I think, John--when we leave here, we want to make sure we leave our mark in a positive way. Clearly, I can look to the work that John has done helping to grow and create jobs in this Commonwealth and investments in the transportation system, but also the compassion to work with folks who needed help. There was an issue going on that he worked on to highlight with a good colleague on the other side of the aisle. Those are wonderful legacies that, I guess you would say, he will leave here with.

John has been a great part of our Caucus, entertaining at times, but also very thoughtful and his words were very meaningful. He is an intelligent person who led us for a number of years on financial matters as our chair of the Committee on Finance and worked again with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to fashion the appropriate taxing structure for Pennsylvania and some of the other things that needed to be done.

So, John, thank you for your service. To Vanessa, Rachel, and your family, thank you for allowing John to be so much a part of what we do here. Thirty-six years are a lot of years to be away from home. That is probably why you were married 32 years, because he was here. Nevertheless, I think it is important to say

thank you to the families as well, and thank you, John, for your service to this Commonwealth. Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Senator Wozniak, you have been great and you will be missed. God bless you.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise to provide some remarks on a colleague who was not able to join us today, and I think it was hard for her to come and spend time with us, and that is Senator Shirley Kitchen, who I spoke about earlier and the great working relationship that she had with our colleague, Senator Vance, working on the issues in the Committee on Public Health and Welfare. I have remarks that I would like to introduce for the record on behalf of Senator Kitchen, but I want to talk about a couple of things because I think they are important.

There is nobody in our Caucus who had more compassion and concern for folks who were less fortunate than many of us. She was constantly looking out for people in her community and her district, working to make sure that we provided the services and the benefits that they need to be able to pull themselves up. She was not articulating for a handout, she was looking for opportunities to make sure that we, as a Commonwealth, maintained and provided support to folks who needed it, whether through healthcare, and particularly through a lot of healthcare, that was a major issue that they talked with us about. Whether it was the food stamp crisis that we had to deal with and beat back a couple of years ago, or whether it was the cash assistance payments where folks were being cut off the rolls, or whether it was the reduction of Medicaid benefits over time, Senator Kitchen fought to preserve as much as she could in a reasonable way, in a reasonable environment.

When we did Medicaid expansion, she was at the forefront of the conversation trying to support and help us do Medicaid expansion, which now provides healthcare coverage--I hope going forward--for 600,000 folks. The adultBasic program that was part of what we had done before, Senator Kitchen was at the forefront of articulating and advocating for that. Back 13 years ago or so, when we did the tobacco settlement dollars, Senator Kitchen was making certain that we made investments in healthcare along those lines, again, through the adultBasic program and others.

So there are a variety of things that she has done, but I can tell you in our Caucus, when Senator Kitchen spoke, folks listened. She had the respect of our Members because of the life experiences she brought, not only in her term as Senator working in the vineyards, but also recognizing that she experienced some of those things that she talked about as a community activist and somebody who understood firsthand what things needed to be done.

So, it truly was an honor for me to come in with her at the same time in 1996 and serve 20 years with her. She will be missed, her resolve will be missed, her determination will be missed, and most certainly her ability to work across party lines on important issues, along with Senator Vance, who will be missed as well. Shirley, we wish you all the best. Godspeed to you, and I look forward to seeing you in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator COSTA:)

Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege to rise today and offer a few remarks about one of Pennsylvania's best public servants, Senator Shirley Kitchen. After 20 years in the Senate--and many more serving her community, neighbors, and friends in Philadelphia--Senator Kitchen is retiring this year. Few people have had a greater impact on the lives of Pennsylvanians than Senator Shirley Kitchen. She excelled at politics at the retail level, and her actions helped Pennsylvania's most vulnerable people receive decent meals, coats on their backs, and roofs over their heads. For her entire life, she has been on a mission. She has reached out to help the less fortunate, the downtrodden, and those forgotten.

She started in public service as an activist who had a passion to help make life better. She used her energy to force change by building from the grassroots. She used the force of her personality and will to shake the foundations of government. She used her inherent and abundant kindness, compassion, and empathy to rally others. There is no question that Senator Shirley Kitchen is a power. With few words, but with actions that would fill volumes, she achieved a great many things.

Then she joined the Senate in 1996 and was able to do even more. Here in the Senate, she has been a leader. From chairing the Committee on Public Health and Welfare for many years to serving as the Philadelphia delegation head, Shirley has helped spearhead policy and politics. I know Shirley is proud of what she has accomplished in the Senate. A fierce defender of the less fortunate and a ferocious advocate of services that help people manage daily life, she helped families access services and change lives. She is serious, earnest, and thoughtful. And I will tell you, when Senator Shirley Kitchen talks, people listen. Her word is rock solid and her actions sincere. She has dealt with Presidents and Governors much in the same way she interacts with the people of her district--straightforward and with a firm, steady hand. She is able to do all these things because beneath her strength, resolve, and steely focus, Senator Shirley Kitchen is one of the nicest people you could ever meet. The balance of her unquestionable integrity with an ability to get things done in a friendly, collegial way has been welcomed by Members on both sides of the aisle. She has said that she was proud to "help children get healthcare and better schools, assist families in uniting together, and rebuild houses so families have a decent roof over their heads." As a legislator, she was highly effective. I could name a whole host of things that Shirley has been involved with here in the Senate: second chance legislation, expungement, healthcare, and adultBasic. Plus, she was a prime advocate of expanding the Housing Trust Fund, sentencing reform, and outlawing powdered alcohol. She worked hard on the tobacco settlement legislation, energy conservation, subsidized childcare, healthy eating, and bringing Farm Fresh products into urban marketplaces.

Senator Shirley Kitchen worked to make things easier for those who have it tough, and in the course of her work she has never forgotten her north Philadelphia neighborhood. From building commercial enterprises, engaging SEPTA to clean and upgrade the subway system, to channeling millions in State funds for worthwhile projects, generations to come will reap the benefits of Senator Shirley Kitchen's service to Pennsylvania. I spoke earlier about Shirley's work with second chance legislation, but the truth is that Senator Shirley Kitchen's whole life is about giving people opportunities and second chances. She believes in good works and rehabilitation when mistakes are made. It is the way she has approached her life and public service.

Our best wishes go out to Senator Shirley Kitchen as she closes the door to the Senate and this phase of her life of service. It has been a remarkable career filled with successes. Thank you, Senator Shirley Kitchen, for your service, for being a role model, and friend to us all.

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, Senator Kitchen was probably the finest Senator I have ever met and the finest public official I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Shirley deeply cared about her constituents. Shirley was the voice for those who were poor and those who were marginalized in our society.

Among the splendor of this Capitol, it is important that we hear that voice, that we appreciate that voice, and Shirley made sure that it was heard. Shirley, I hope you are listening today, and I hope you understand the great work that you have done in this body. I hope you understand that you reminded us of our obligation to defend and to represent each and every citizen, because in this Commonwealth, whether you are poor or whether you are rich, whether you are black or whether you are white, whether you are young or whether you are old, you are a person of value. We are all equal. We are all to respect each other. That was William Penn's hope and dream, and Shirley Kitchen kept that dream and hope alive.

We still have far to go before everyone is mutually respected and honored and everyone has an opportunity to be taught to the top of the curriculum in education, to be honored and respected as a person, and to have an opportunity to succeed. But, Shirley, your voice will remain here in this Capitol and remain here in this Chamber. It is my privilege and honor to rise to thank you for everything that you have done for all, let me say that again, for all of the people of this great Commonwealth. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Cumberland, Senator Vance.

Senator VANCE. Mr. President, very briefly, Senator Kitchen was almost the perfect co-chair. She was a pleasure to work with. I think it is because she was so genuine, and more importantly, she was very honest. If Senator Kitchen gave you her word, you could really take it to the bank. She represented her district well, but she also understood that every district was not like hers, so we worked well together. I cannot think of a better partner, and I know you all will miss her.

And the other side of Senator Kitchen that I need to mention, she was a lot of fun. If you knew her well, she was really a lot of fun. So she is a good, good person. I know she is going to continue to be a leader in her community, and we should all be so lucky to know someone like Senator Kitchen. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Vance, for very kind and accurate remarks.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, as my Caucus Members would know, it is probably interesting that I would be up speaking at this particular moment about my good friend and colleague, Senator Kitchen. I want to be brief with respect to my remarks, but Senator Costa, on my way up to the podium, said, do not forget to say this and do not forget to say that, and his comments were absolutely correct with respect to the issues around Community Legal Services and her strong and truly committed support of making sure that they established a brand new office in the north Philadelphia neighborhood, a struggling community, a distressed community struggling to figure its way forward. Having that office there was extremely important and remains a vital effort in that neighborhood. In fact, you may have been there, Mr. President, when we had the ribbon-cutting for the brand new office for Community Legal Services.

I want to make sure that all of the Members knew of a very special occurrence that occurred on November 3 of this year. Just a handful of days before Election Day, as we were all struggling to try to figure out what was going to happen on November 8, I was privileged to be at a program convened by the Share Food

Service Program. This is their 30th anniversary. They do amazing work in north Philadelphia making sure that families get the food that they need to continue on, and also, at the same time, learn about nutrition and healthy eating and all the things surrounding the issues of food, nourishment, and nutrition. It was at that celebration that the Share Food Service Program announced that they were naming their building after Senator Kitchen, and it will now be called the Shirley Kitchen Community Food Resource Center at Share.

The Governor saw fit to provide some investment in that building to be fixed up; it looks very nice and new, and it will be named after Senator Shirley Kitchen. So, I thought it would be appropriate that all of the Members knew that honor was bestowed upon her on November 3, and I have the photograph to prove it. So it is a good thing. Members need to know that, I think it is a fitting tribute to someone who was relentless in making sure that those who are, if you will, stuck in the margins had the opportunity to be brought forward and brought out and were never forgotten. Thank you, Senator Kitchen, for your excellent service.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Hughes for his excellent remarks and for pointing out some of the folks who recognized a woman who, in a lot of ways, is an unsung hero for so many, usually for the underdog.

Also to speak on behalf Senator Kitchen, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Williams.

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I was not planning to speak, but I did not want to leave the floor without, because if Senator Kitchen is watching this, I do not want her to yell at me when I get back to Philadelphia. A few things: One, I want to thank her personally. Many people do not know, I have known Senator Kitchen for most of my life, not in politics, but outside of politics. Senator Kitchen was an activist who became a politician because of purpose, not because of political position. When I got here in the Senate, I am blessed enough to have my mother, who is 83 years old, still with me, but every once in a while you are blessed to have someone who becomes your parent in your work space, and Senator Kitchen was not only my conscience but she was a person who sort of mentored me. I see the President sort of smirking, because she has done it to both of us, and to many of us.

I also want to say to Senator Vance, I do not really have to say this, because I am sure she already knows it, but of all the people in this building, she taught me that the limitations of where we live, what we look like, and the pigmentation of our skin does not supercede the distinction of being a human being with dignity. I thank both of you, because I think you both were the conscience of the Senate. I am not sure what we are going to do now, but I do want to tell you I can remember the time that Senator Fumo fell on this floor and you ran to his side. You were not thinking about that. I can remember the times that I had moments when Senator Kitchen grabbed me, and I cannot tell you how comforting it is and was for you two to be on the Senate floor and show us, when we had tough times in negotiations, how to get along and how to figure out how to get to an end. You two have held this place together. You were the glue, and I thank you and I thank Senator Kitchen for showing us the way.

God bless you both.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair takes a point of personal privilege to point out that I chuckled when my friend from Philadel-

phia, Senator Williams, talked about the great mentoring influence that Senator Kitchen had on all of us. Personally, I got to sit next to her for 14 years and I knew very quickly if I was on the wrong path with something, that I was going to hear about it. It did not happen often, but the wonderful thing was that she was so respected and essentially loved. At the same time, out of that respect and love, she brought about accountability in a group dynamic in that people would say, keep this up and I am going to tell Senator Kitchen and see what happens. People knew what that meant. I got a chance to spend a lot of time with her in battles, which we sometimes have unbecoming battles in politics, and I must say she was a tremendous battler, but she was also someone who was fun to go to battle with, because you knew she was going to be with you, side by side. You knew whatever you had to do was challenging and tough, but you were going to have a friend in that battle all the way. Nothing could be a greater gift in life than to have that. So, Senator Kitchen is going to be missed, and people who did not necessarily know her thought that she was tough, of course she was tough, but she was a committed, passionate public servant, and she stood up for the underdog.

We are all going to miss her and she made a difference in everyone's lives here. She had the respect, as we all know, of everyone, whether Republican, Democrat, liberal, conservative, or anything in between, everyone respected Senator Kitchen. I hope she is watching at home. She is my friend and I love her. Senator Kitchen, we love you and will see you some more, because you have much to offer.

(Applause.)

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

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, one of the things I learned very early on as an elected official was, if given the opportunity to speak, take it. For the first time, however, I would prefer not to have such an opportunity. This is not a speech I want to make, given the circumstances, but I appreciate your brief indulgence as I try.

Let me begin by saying this has been the most exciting, most fulfilling, most humbling, most frustrating, most exhausting, and all around most personally and professionally challenging 4 years of my two decades of work in the public and private sectors. I thank the voters of Dauphin and York Counties who chose me as your State Senator in 2012. Although different voters in Dauphin and Perry Counties made a different choice last week, it has been as much of an honor and a privilege to work for you since 2014. Regardless of the outcome last week, I have absolutely no regrets. I knew from the moment that I was elected as the first Democrat to represent the 15th Senatorial District in almost 100 years that I had a big target on my back, and I made a conscious decision to make the most of whatever time I would end up having in office. When I say I have no regrets, I do mean that literally. There is a quote that I keep on my desk from Martin Luther King:

Cowardice asks the question, is it safe?

Expediency asks the question, is it politic?

Vanity asks the question, is it popular?

But, conscience asks the question, is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because it is right.

That is what I have tried to do. I have never done it perfectly, but I have always tried to act in good faith. As a result, there is not a position I would have taken differently, there is not a vote I would have cast differently, and there is not a constituent or cause I would have fought for differently.

Ironically, one of the causes for which I fought was to reform the process by which legislative maps are drawn. I can now report from personal experience that gerrymandering works. Fortunately, there are good people here on both sides of the aisle who are trying to fix this and the other systemic problems with the way we conduct elections in this Commonwealth. I do not know if you will succeed, but it is important to our democracy that you keep trying.

There are a few things that I do know. I know that my wife and kids could not have sacrificed more to allow me to pursue and hold this office. I look forward to being able to spend more time with them, because from what I hear, they are lovely people. I know my staff, individually and collectively, could not have worked harder or been more talented or effective. I am profoundly grateful for their effort, and deeply sorry that they and their families are collateral damage in someone else's fight. I have no doubt that the setback is temporary and that each of them will move on to bigger and better things in their own careers.

Finally, I know that I could not be more pleased with what my team accomplished over the last 4 years. From investing again in our schools, to creating good-paying jobs in our communities, to fighting for much-needed reforms in our government, to putting our capital city on the path to fiscal recovery, along with making real progress on a whole host of other issues, plus providing an unprecedented level of constituent service. I know that the time we spent here mattered for the families and taxpayers whom we had the privilege to represent, and for all Pennsylvanians. To my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus, and in the administration, and also to those Republican Members who routinely put politics aside in order to get things done, thank you. Your guidance, support, and friendship mean more to me than I can articulate today. I wish we had more time to continue our work together, but we do not.

I first came here to the Senate as a lawyer in 2003 and spent a great year and a half working for the Senate Democratic Caucus. I will leave here on November 30 most proud to still be the same person as when I left in 2004 and as when I arrived 4 years ago as Rob, not as Senator Teplitz, with my values and dignity and integrity intact, and with even more gratitude for the opportunity to be of service to my community. I look forward to finding other ways to serve, and I wish all of you, Members and staff, the best in your own pursuits. I hope that you and your families have a happy and healthy holiday season. Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Thank you for your great work, Senator Teplitz.

The Chair recognizes our friend from the great northwest, the gentleman from Erie, Senator Wiley.

Senator WILEY. Mr. President, I was not prepared to speak today, but I felt that I have a sense of gratitude to offer to you. To each of my colleagues for the last 4 years, I thank you. I thank you for the time that you have given me and for being part of my life. Thank you for allowing me to grow, and thank you for your commitment to this great Commonwealth. I, too, am

incredibly proud of what we have been able to accomplish. I say "we" because there is a group of people whom I have been blessed to assemble who have done nothing but amazing things for the people whom we serve. I thank them with everything inside of me, as my family has grown exponentially over the last 4 years.

The last 4 years have been incredibly challenging, but every time I stepped in this Chamber, I felt a sense of awe, a sense of history, and a sense of responsibility. I hope that each and every one of you never loses that feeling when you step into this Chamber. There is a quote that I would like to recite from one of my favorite Americans, President John F. Kennedy, who said:

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past - let us accept our own responsibility for the future.

I do thank you all. I thank you for the opportunity. I am very proud of the fact that I have attempted very hard to serve with integrity, commitment, and conviction.

The Devil whispered in my ear, "You're not strong enough to withstand the storm."

Today I whispered in the Devil's ear, "I am the storm."

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator, for a job well done.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, with the indulgence of the Members, I will provide a few remarks for our departing colleagues, both Senator Teplitz and Senator Wiley. We heard from them, and we say thank you to them for their service in a variety of ways.

With respect to Senator Teplitz, Rob, you could look and see that you have laid a foundation in a number of areas where we, as a General Assembly and as a Commonwealth, will be able to build upon your work that you started and were a part of, and hopefully it will grow. Specifically, when you look at the basic education funding formula, where you were an integral part representing our Caucus, you helped frame and shape what that needed to be. That will have a lasting impact on how we drive out resources here in this Commonwealth on behalf of our schools and how that works. You created a caucus among the Members of the House and of the Senate. The reform caucus addresses some of the things that, quite frankly, we need to talk about in this Chamber. They inevitably became part of the campaign that has taken place over the course of the election cycle, but for whatever reason they end there. Rob made certain and pulled together folks to have a conversation about what we needed to do in terms of how we reform and how we operate in this Chamber and in this building.

He built upon that by putting together budget-process reform initiatives that hopefully will allow us to have a conversation about how it is we budget and do our budget process. Now, we learned today and yesterday that we have significant challenges ahead of us. No doubt, there very well could be another type of budget impasse that was harmful to folks, to school districts, to communities, nonprofit groups, and providers across Pennsylvania. Rob was thoughtful. He reacted to that situation and proposed initiatives that we need to move forward with, in my view, and have a conversation about along those lines of figuring out

how it is that we will do that. Rob, you had the privilege of representing the city of Harrisburg. When you came here they were faced with many challenges, and I can honestly say and believe that in my view, and in what I have witnessed, the city of Harrisburg is in a better place today because of your service and because of your commitment and your doggedness as it relates to initiatives and measures with respect to that city that you were able to drive to make certain that we move forward along those lines.

So, again, as I said, your presence here, although it was a short 4 years, we know you came to our Caucus with a significant depth of knowledge and breadth of experience that was very beneficial to our Caucus Members. Thank you and job well done, and you really have laid a solid foundation going forward in the areas that I mentioned.

Senator Wiley has been here with us for 4 years, and I can tell you that in a number of areas Sean has excelled. As our chairman of the Committee on Banking and Insurance, he had the pleasure of working with Senator White, advancing initiatives that were very important not only to the people of Pennsylvania, certainly, but with a keen interest of what would take place in the northwestern part of the Commonwealth, not just Erie County, but the northwestern region as well. Sean was also a strong advocate, a tremendous advocate, for education. I could tell you in the last 2 years he worked very, very hard and pounded Senator Hughes and Senator Williams and I about the need for more resources in cities like Erie, and school districts like the city of Erie. He is a champion toward that end to make certain that this past year we were able to recognize that and drive resources to that end. He is a strong champion for economic development, which manifested itself in a variety of significant signature projects that will now take place. They will now go forward because of Sean identifying them, and more importantly, being a strong advocate and working very, very hard to make sure we achieve those. So, Sean, I thank you for your service to our Caucus, but, more importantly, to your region in Erie and this Commonwealth as well.

I thank both of my colleagues on the floor, and I look forward to working with you outside of this building as you go forward in your next endeavors. Thank you, gentlemen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Costa one more time, and appreciates all of the Members' remarks and their tremendous service to Pennsylvania.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held in the Rules room in the back of the Chamber, followed by a Republican caucus also to be held in the Rules room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, there will be no need for a Democratic caucus. We caucused on the issues we may be voting on.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, to be

followed by a Republican caucus, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Killion has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Alloway.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a legislative leave for Senator Alloway. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CALENDAR OVER IN ORDER

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that all of the bills on today's Calendar go over in their order without prejudice as to day.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

Senator GORDNER, 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 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

June 28, 2016

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, Bryan Lentz, 627 University Place, Swarthmore 19081, Delaware County, Twenty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Civil Service Commission, to serve until April 9, 2022, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Scott A. Rainey, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 28, 2016

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, Syed Ali-Zaidi, 509 Ridgewood Road, Apartment 6, Shippenville 16245, Clarion County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 28, 2016

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, Neil Weaver, 1080 Elliott Lane, York 17403, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jeffrey Szumigale, Erie, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

November 7, 2016

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, J. Alex Hartzler, 2233 North Front Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University, to serve until July 1, 2019, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Clifford Benson, Sewickley, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

November 7, 2016

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, David M. Kleppinger, 841 Providence Circle, Hummelstown 17036, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University, to serve until July 1, 2019, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Paul Silvis, Port Matilda, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE CIVIL
SERVICE COMMISSION

June 28, 2016

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, Bryan Lentz, 627 University Place, Swarthmore 19081, Delaware County, Twenty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Civil Service Commission, to serve until April 9, 2022, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Scott A. Rainey, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

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CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF
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TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
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TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
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TOM WOLF
Governor

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

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

YEA-48

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

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 GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

Senators MENSCH, TEPLITZ, BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, DINNIMAN, BAKER, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, WHITE, COSTA, SCHWANK, FOLMER, YUDICHAK, BROWNE and KILLION, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 493**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of January 1 through 7, 2017, as "First Responder Appreciation Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, this resolution designates January 1 through January 7, 2017, as "First Responder Appreciation Week." Thousands of Pennsylvanians have benefitted from the brave and courageous service of the first responders across the Commonwealth. The police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel who are commonly known as first responders work tirelessly and selflessly for the citizens of Pennsylvania, regardless of their peril or hazard to themselves. The citizens of our State do greatly respect the first responders. The men and women who bravely serve as first responders find themselves on the front lines of homeland defense, as well as the war against terrorism. First responders are called upon to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania when natural disasters occur.

We have 55,000-plus registered emergency medical service workers, more than 75,000 firefighters, and over 45,000 police, each of these risking their lives every day to make Pennsylvania communities safer. The 55,000 registered emergency medical service workers respond to and treat many life-threatening emergencies such as traumatic injuries, strokes, and cardiac arrest. The 75,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide critical fire prevention safety, education, fire suppression, automobile accident response, search and rescue, hazardous material response, and oftentimes provide emergency medical services when needed at the scene. The 45,000 police officers protect our lives and property, prevent and detect crimes, and insure justice. These men and women should be honored the first week of next year beginning January 1, 2017, to show our renewed respect, appreciation, and gratitude for those who carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety for all of us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator John N. Wozniak) in the Chair.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators HUTCHINSON, VULAKOVICH, ARGALL, BAKER, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, COSTA, EICHELBERGER, FOLMER, MENSCH, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK, TEPLITZ, WARD, WILEY and YUDICHAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 494**, entitled:

A Resolution designating December 7, 2016, as "Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, since we will not be here in December, I rise today to discuss this solemn resolution commemorating December 7, 2016, as "Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" here in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, this year we mark a special anniversary, the 75th anniversary of one of the darkest days in our nation's history. It is important that we honor our veterans and remember that our nation and her Allies brought light and freedom back to countries around the world. Mr. President, today our victory over the Axis powers is an accepted part of history. It is a tale of heroes that many Americans can relate to through films like *Pearl Harbor* or *Saving Private Ryan*, but, Mr. President, in those movies the outcome is never in doubt. The forces of freedom always prevail, but back in 1941, that is not the way it truly was. We were fortunate that we still have our greatest generation to remind us of just how dark those days were. America and her Allies knew that there was no turning back, and December 7, 1941, will forever be remembered as a pivotal point in world history. On that day, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii. That attack lasted only 2 hours but caused tremendous damage, loss, and ultimately shaped the world that we live in today. Over 3,500 military personnel and civilians were killed or injured, 19 ships were either destroyed or run aground, and more than 300 American aircraft were either destroyed or damaged during that attack.

Pennsylvania also suffered losses on that day. There were 22 known servicemen from Pennsylvania who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. These men and women served valiantly to protect and defend the freedom of our country. Mr. President, I believe it is our duty as Pennsylvanians to forever remember those individuals who were lost that day and honor them, which is why I, along with my chairman, Senator Vulakovich, offer this resolution. It was through the valor, bravery, and sacrifice of American soldiers, sailors, and Marines that that long, bloody war was won. Their determination, dedication, perseverance, and drive carried the day for the Allies and earned the grudging aberration of the foes as well.

So, Mr. President, I ask that we remember the spirit of America by honoring those who served and also by never forgetting those who died on December 7, 1941. I ask my colleagues to join me in an affirmative vote for this solemn resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. December 7, 1941, a day of infamy.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators ALLOWAY, ARGALL, GREENLEAF, YUDICHAK, TEPLITZ, BROWNE, GORDNER, BAKER, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER and RESCHENTHALER, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 495**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" program in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Aument.

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I rise to offer this resolution on behalf of my colleague, Senator Alloway, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" program in Pennsylvania. Hunters Sharing the Harvest is celebrating its 25th anniversary with more than 1 million pounds of venison donated to hungry families throughout Pennsylvania. More than 1.8 million Pennsylvanians require food assistance because they are classified as food insecure. Since 1991, the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program has effectively brought the hunting public together to compassionately serve their communities and has been providing venison to regional food bank systems to benefit needy citizens throughout this Commonwealth. The processed venison is redistributed to more than 4,000 local provider charities such as food pantries, missions, homeless shelters, Salvation Army facilities, and churches.

For 25 years, this unique program has provided an annual average of more than 85,000 pounds of this nutritious, high-protein meat to residents needing food assistance through local area food banks and is now calling on all Pennsylvanians to assist in this program. Further assistance is needed to provide funds to offset the processing costs for venison and further extend delivery systems to more quickly and efficiently reach needy recipients. The General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have supported these efforts, and now join the more than 62 corporate and organizational program partners, including the Safari Club International, Friends of the National Rifle Association, the PA Association of Regional Food Banks, and the PA Association of Meat Processors in encouraging hunters to share their harvest.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program and commend its dedication to providing meals for families in need across the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. 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 Nicholas Hawkins, Jack C. Young and to Hanover Fire Department by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jarrod Stebick by Senators Alloway and Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. John Culbert, Mr. and Mrs. John Zemansky, Mr. and Mrs. James Oslar, Michael John Dudash II, Nancy J. Smink, Zachary Steven Hoffman, members and coaches of the Pine Grove Area High School Girls' Soccer Team, members and coaches of the Schuylkill Haven High School Football Team and to members and coaches of the Williams Valley High School Football Team by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stanley M. Dakosty and to the members and coach of the Marian Catholic High School Girls' Volleyball Team by Senators Argall and Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Motter, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Herr, Mr. and Mrs. William Flickinger, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Sheaffer, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Tamanini, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eckert, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Lehman, Dr. Daniel Rossi, Claire S. Wise, Etta G. Brubaker, Paul Eugene Carpenter, Charles H. Hafer, Harold J. Marshall, Russell J. Scherer, Dorothy Denlinger, Timothy C. Fitz, Zelma Z. Shelly, Ada W. Lindemuth, Helen M. Ament, Beatrice G. Mullaney, Margaret Koch, Marguerite B. Musser, Arnold Stackhouse, John E. Ziegler, William L. Lennington, William B. Eaton, Kenneth Beane, Sr., Harold Galebach, Lloyd I. Putt, Phyllis Colvin, Richard Myles Miller, Geraldine Beaton, Leonard J. Droege, Lillian Thompson, Clair S. Zimmerman, Robert J. Crossgrove, John Raymond Westell, Jean L. Brown, Bernadette Falk, Edward Henry Campbell, members and coaches of the Donegal High School Field Hockey Team and to Lititz Lions Club by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yenkowski, Ryan Ashley Malarkey, Michael Soskil, Edward M. Reese and to Michelle Tonkin by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Catherine Ahier Demian and to Mary Barna by Senator Blake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Amar Sharma, Dr. Charles Saunders, Chief Michael Collins, Chief Robert W. Novatnack, Callen Lane Messman and to Stephanie Smith by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lutz, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Kingen, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Levio Baldarelli, Colton Tapper, Matthew Robert Fassinger, Joyce Jean Stevenson, Charles J. Vorisek, Charlene Kunkel, Chris Palutro, James Ryan Lanham, Ian Widmyer, Kyle Joseph Mehok, Airik Hardisky, Roberta Elder, Charles E. Rudler, Eric Thomas, Jack Campbell, Dave Hock, Les Young, Doug Riley, members and coaches of the

Hickory High School Girls' Soccer Team, members and coaches of the Hickory High School Football Team, Grace Baptist Church of Greenville, Saint Paul's of Greenville, members and coaches of the Farrell Area High School Football Team and to the members and coaches of the Maplewood High School Girls' Volleyball Team by Senator Brooks.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lloyd H. Moll, Patricia Ann Buffman, Ariana Ramos, Arietta May Thomas, Elsie J. Hoenl, Joseph John Barnas, Marie Stella Bauman, Lee Lichtenwalner, Logan Andrew Flammer, Marilyn Elaine Eitner, Marelda Victoria Leibensperger, Esther Elizabeth Chapin, Kathy Rader, Paul G. Miller, Willard Paul Andrews, Frederick Henry Krommes, Paul Maynard Kroninger, Frances S. Larash, Isabel May Pohl, Eric Weiss, Bob Wittman, Clifford C. Horn and to Hopewell Elementary School by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis E. VanHorn, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Q. Fultz, Senior Master Sergeant Luke L. Landis, Denny Hall, Timothy A. Parson, Jan K. Muhlert, Alexis Hartman, Michael J. DiRaimo, Elijah James Urban, Nicolaas Robert Van Der Sluys, J. Elrose Glick, Chad Avery Weaver, Garrett Baublitz, John D. Coursen, Heather L. Pavlik and to the members and coaches of the Belleville Mennonite School Field Hockey Team by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Kaplan, Mr. and Mrs. Tom DiAntonio, John Edward Byler, Benjamin Stapleton, Brandon Linnenbaugh, Susan Horwitz Goldberg, Samantha Buterbaugh, Beatrice M. Boyle West, Michael Schmit, Robert Raker, Brian Sporek, James Reagan, Lauren Tandarich, Helen Locke and to Christian Ibrahim by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Main Line Chinese Culture Center, Inc., by Senators Dinniman and Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rita Reves and to the members and coaches of the Conestoga High School Boys' Soccer Team by Senators Dinniman and McGarrigle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Russell Campbell, Linda Pizzi, Jennifer Mack and to Bentley Systems, Inc., by Senators Dinniman and Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pegasus Technologies, Community Volunteers in Medicine and to Theraplay, Inc., by Senator Dinniman and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jarred Stephen Covert, Thomas A. Scarbro and to Blair County Conservation District by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Peter Michael Gingrich by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael J. Lacek by Senator Fontana.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cora Bailly, Blake M. Gudonis and to Hunter Latranyi by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Krise, Anna Y. Black, John F. Piergallini, William G. Ackerman, Florence Bothers Spencer and to Anne Shaeffer by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the members and coaches of the Archbishop Wood High School Football Team by Senators Greenleaf, McIlhinney, and Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Julianne Petersen, Patricia A. Holt Abner, Craig Littlepage, Abington

Junior High School Video Production Team and to the members and director of the Cheltenham High School Marching Band by Senator Haywood.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend James S. Hall, Sr., Christopher R. Conner and to Colin Manning Bachman by Senator Hughes.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Baran, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moyer, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Whitman, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bauder, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Glass, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Maul, Maura Kimmel, Stephen P. Kosak, Maria Kontros, Larry Clutter, John Howley, Todd Rice, Matthew Pristas, David Mack, Michael Henry, Donald L. Shearer and to DeWalt Health Foods by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Daniel James Rosenberger, Samuel Noah Messer, John Michael Duttonhofer II, Christopher Allen Gehrke and to the members and coaches of the Garnet Valley High School Girls' Volleyball Team by Senator Killion.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Kathleen Cieplak Owens, Nathaniel Joseph Truitt, Alexander Mark Sanfilippo, Jonathan O'Donnell, Christian Vaughan Hart, Timothy Ean Giddings, Jon Pogorzelski, Derrick Kuklinski and to Matthew Rueter by Senator Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cadet Second Lieutenant Evan James Patton Zanolli, Jamison Wellman, Philip Boyle and to Thomas Michael Falcone by Senator McGarrigle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. James P. Blore, Sara Tyler, Maria Grigoryants, Michael M. Blash, Matthew Christopher Peshek, Christopher Lee Kirchhoff and to Barbara L. Davey by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael Chase Skavinsky, Matthew Harter, Mark Laudenslager and to Jacob Huller by Senator Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jonathan David Elphinstone, Grant Garrick Jackson, Reed Bauer, Avery Huber, Michael Pacaro, David Cherna, Domenic Cimini, Daniel A. Diamond, Mason J. Humphry, Liam Patrick O'Neill and to Julian Campanella by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the students, staff, and administration of Pickering Valley Elementary School by Senators Rafferty and Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Master Sergeant Victor H. Guerra, Mary Anne Straub, Austin Christopher Dill, Aiden Gerard Deroy, Alex Pelkington, Anthony Alfred D'Angelo, David Zahniser, Patrick Counihan, members and coaches of the Moon Area High School Girls' Soccer Team, members and coaches of the Sewickley Academy Boys' Soccer Team, members and coaches of the Quaker Valley High School Boys' Soccer Team, Jefferson Hills Area Ambulance, members and coaches of the Chartiers Valley High School Boys' Soccer Team, Medical Rescue Team South Authority, members and coaches of the Thomas Jefferson High School Football Team and to the members and coaches of the West Allegheny High School Girls' Volleyball Team by Senator Reschenthaler.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Robert A. Brady and to Shawn McCullough by Senator Sabatina.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bliss, Jr., Master Sergeant Cris Dush, Garrett P. Walters,

Elizabeth K. Ahn, Kameron Haines, Michael Trunzo, Nicholas Hultz and to Gearhart Herr & Company, Inc., by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murray, Dr. Peter J. Casale, Carole Geary, Matt McDermott, Harry R. Brodhead, Cameron James Chuss, Julianna Sweeney, Marie E. Fluck, Patricia A. Fretz, Jacob Paul Sroka, John Anthony Bernardo, Walter Lichtenegger, Streamside Camp and Conference Center, citizens of the Borough of Mount Pocono, Boy Scouts of America Troop 86 and to the Pocono Irish American Club by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Geraldine Maginnis and to Nicholas P. Spease by Senator Schwank.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Colin Anderson, Steven Hollern, Jack Drummond, Joseph Hetherington Deerin and to David Oliver Deerin by Senator Smucker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jonas Cramer and to Armstrong Group of Companies by Senator Stefano.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Eric Masington, Greg Rogers, Kevin Stokes, Brittany Couper, Cyndi Farmer-Streeter, Susan Michelfelder-Sommers, Doug Aldrich, Chris Holtz, Rick Darnley, Thomas Glasson, Sr., Thomas C. MacHenry, William Raymond, John P. Nickels, Sr., Michael Hartman, Thomas Cawley, Thomas Porreca, Donald Bogan, Don Harris, Omar Ammouni, Dennis Birch, Dave Brown, Nick Christian, Fred Ellzy, Matt Kantor, James Fox, Nick Altomari, Alexander Gromosaik, Mark Mixner, Nicholas Gromosaik, Mariella Rapoport, Swara Patel, Nicole Guo, Faith Ortman, Emilie Erdman, Edan Kauer, Griffin Demetsky, Douglas S. Guma, David J. Price, Joseph R. Reynolds, John M. Scott and to Wings of Victory by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Harold Offutt, Bryce Logan Taylor, members and coaches of the Beaver Falls High School Football Team and to Concord Presbyterian Church of Baden by Senator Vogel.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nicholas David Steranko, Benjamin Karl Harris, Jacob Balbach, Kyle Dewey, Raymond M. Holloway, Alex Mesaros, Andrew Turzai, Matthew Ferris, William Winowich, Matthew Beck Heil, Eric Stefan Dunbar, Matthew Albert Shaginaw, Adam Reid Ward, David Steven Barancyk, Joshua E. Bachinsky, Mitchell Hagan, Thomas Scott Schmelzer, Tyler Thomas McDonough, Joshua Paul Madden, Brett Robert Fafata, Nathaniel G. Ticjak, Gerard J. Aufman, Jr., Eric Leathem, Wexford Volunteer Fire Company and to the students, staff, and administration of Hampton High School by Senator Vulakovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jacob E. Mashuda by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chad Patrick Sanderson, Kathrine Wolfe, Charles Sullenberger, Chris Kolbosky, Tim Gray, Dave Barlock, Robert Wade Fencil, Dave Arnold and to Chip Frederickson by Senator Ward.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Clayton Oliver Stupic by Senator White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Diana Newborn, Patricia A. Dennis, Ralston Center, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University and to Drexel University by Senator Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Daniel J. Kane, Nicholas Michael Collare and to Eben Blaisdell by Senator Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Conner, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neidig, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick English, Derek G. Clark, Jeffrey Bastian, Darla Bortz, Cassidy Voorhees and to Thomas J. Sullivan by Senator Yaw.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Larry A. Seibert by Senators Yaw and Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Semanski, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Long, Mr. and Mrs. David Nealon, Mr. and Mrs. Ignatius Rutkowski, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hroback, Henrietta Hendricks Thier, Juyla Generoso, George Pavlick, Andrew Baylor, Matthew Martin, Eric Whyte, Joe Maddon, Marie Pavlick, Laurie Tombasco and to First Assembly of God Church of Wilkes-Barre by Senator Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Saint Luke's Miners Campus by Senators Yudichak and Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cornelio Catena by Senators Yudichak and Baker.

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 Nancy Darby Dietrich, to the family of the late Norene Faux, to the family of the late Almeda E. Gilpin, to the family of the late Timothy E. O'Connell, to the family of the late Charles Eugene Parente, to the family of the late Garry L. Shook, to the family of the late Pauline Roth and to the family of the late Stanley J. Gulbush by Senator Baker.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Pamela R. Cordero and to the family of the late Robert G. Yeingst, Jr., by Senator Teplitz.

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 Anna Urda Busby, Anna Danyo, Wayne Willgrube and Daniel Kitchura were extended to the families by Senator Blake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

9:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (H) and VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (S) (joint hearing to review emergency preparedness and response measures for natural gas/petroleum pipeline infrastructure across Pennsylvania)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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Off the Floor

RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)

Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016

1:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (public hearing to consider school construction funding issues)

Overbrook H.S., Phila.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016

10:00 A.M.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (public hearing to consider school construction funding issues)

Coebourm Elem. Sch., Brookhaven

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, something is different about you. I have not figured it out yet, but you look good. You are a little taller than I remember, too.

Mr. President, today we said goodbye to a number of Members and we are welcoming new Members on both sides of the Chamber, but more importantly, next week we celebrate a very important day in the history of our nation. That is Thanksgiving, and we have much to be thankful for, not only in this Commonwealth but in our great nation. Mr. President, we went through a tumultuous election that seemed to go on forever. We went through a period of difficulty here stabilizing the State budget, but being thankful for the many graces that we have been given by the Almighty outweighs all of that. We have to learn as a nation and a Commonwealth to work together to heal. That does not mean that one side capitulates to another. That means we do something very important called "discussion" and "dialogue."

Mr. President, we should be thankful for the many gifts that we have been given. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve in the Senate of Pennsylvania with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address the many issues facing us. We owe it to ourselves and to the providence of the Almighty to make sure that we join together to work for the greater good of this Commonwealth. Mr. President, next Thursday when we sit around, grab some quick turkey and watch football games, let us take a few moments to reflect on the importance of that day and thank God for all of His blessings upon each and every one of us, our Commonwealth, and our great nation.

Mr. President, to all of those watching on PCN, to all of those in the gallery, and to the Members on the floor, I wish them all a very happy Thanksgiving, and may we continue to be honored to serve the Almighty and the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Senator Rafferty, for those words of wisdom, and I wish all watching a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess to the call of the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:43 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

(NOTE: The Senate did not reconvene but Session constitutionally expired November 30, 2016, at 12 o'clock midnight.)