

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018

SESSION OF 2018 202ND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 47

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, November 14, 2018

The Senate met at 1:18 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend JAMES R. KILMARTIN, of Center City Church, Altoona, offered the following prayer:

Good afternoon, everyone. I will start with a quote from William Penn. "True religion does not draw men out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it."

May we pray.

Lord, we pray today for this Senate Session, and we pray today for this great State of Pennsylvania. God, we pray for the gentlemen who are concluding their terms who are here and we honor them as they move on to the next seasons and next chapters of their lives. God, we pray for wisdom for all of those who are making the decisions for this great Commonwealth. We ask for wisdom and we ask for grace. God, may You heal this State and may You bring great healing into this State, even over the children and things that we have seen in years past. God, may Your grace, may Your goodness abound immensely, even today. This, in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Kilmartin, who is the guest today of Senator Eichelberger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

RECALL OF REGULAR SESSION

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

November 13, 2018

TO: President and All Members of the Senate

FROM: Senator JOE SCARNATI
President Pro Tempore

RE: Recall to Session
Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 1:00 p.m.

Consistent with the recess motion made on October 17, 2018, the Senate is recalled for session on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

October 26, 2018

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1506 Penn Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, to serve until July 1, 2019, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Gayle Isa, Philadelphia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC

October 26, 2018

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, Ashley Fehr, 115 Molleystown Road, Pine Grove 17963, Schuylkill County, Twenty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic, to serve for a term of four years, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice George Khoury, Bridgeville, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

October 26, 2018

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1506 Penn Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple University of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, to serve until October 14, 2020, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice H.F. Gerry Lenfest, Huntingdon Valley, deceased.

TOM WOLF
Governor

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITHOUT APPROVAL

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following veto communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following Senate Bill had been returned without approval:

SB 1172, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 31, 2006 (P.L.1210, No.133), known as the Price Gouging Act, further providing for definitions, for price gouging prohibited and for investigation.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

October 24, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1172, Printer's Number 2094.

Instead of protecting consumers by prohibiting price gouging for needed goods and services during a state of disaster emergency, this legislation shifts the burden to a consumer during a state of disaster emergency. The purpose of the Price Gouging Act is to prohibit parties from taking an unfair advantage of consumers by charging unconscionably excessive prices during an emergency. This legislation alters the existing standard in determining price gouging and permits preestablished increased costs during emergencies. Further, the legislation encourages the prices of consumer goods and services to be increased prior to a state of disaster emergency being declared. This legislation undermines the purpose of the act by reducing the standard for determining an unconscionable excessive price and shortens the period of this prohibition.

My administration has outlined legislative actions that can be taken to further address declarations of emergencies, including the declaration of public health emergencies. Rather than burdening consumers, I look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth during a public health emergency.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1172, Printer's Number 2094.

TOM WOLF
Governor

The PRESIDENT. The bill and veto message will be laid on the table.

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:

October 25, 2018

Senators BOSCOLA and SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SB 1267**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the use of initiative and referendum as powers reserved to the people.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, October 25, 2018.

Senators HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE, COSTA and BREWSTER presented to the Chair **SB 1276**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for education reinvestment, for severance tax, for public school building renovation and rehabilitation, for public school building renovation and rehabilitation bonds, for public school building renovation and rehabilitation grant program and for comprehensive public school safety program; and making a related repeal.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, October 25, 2018.

Senators GREENLEAF, MENSCH, SCHWANK and BREWSTER presented to the Chair **SB 1277**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Second Chance PHEAA Pilot Program; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, providing for Post-Prison Education Program Demonstration Project; and establishing the Post-Prison Education Program Demonstration Project Fund.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, October 25, 2018.

Senators EICHELBERGER, MARTIN, DiSANTO and FOLMER presented to the Chair **SB 1278**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employe Relations Act, in definitions, further providing for definitions, in employee rights, providing for payments to employee organizations and resignation from employee organization; in representation, further providing for exclusive representation and providing for recertification; in scope of bargaining, further providing for membership dues deductions and maintenance of membership and providing for collection of payments from nonmembers; and making related repeals.

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, October 25, 2018.

November 13, 2018

Senators ARGALL, BREWSTER, STREET, YUDICHAK, McGARRIGLE, FARNESE, BOSCOLA and LEACH presented to the Chair **SB 1279**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in historic preservation incentive tax credit, further providing for definitions and for tax credit certificates, establishing the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Administration Account, further providing for carryover, carryback and assignment of credit and for pass-through entity, providing for annual report to General Assembly, further providing for application of Internal Revenue Code and for limitation and providing for recapture.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, November 13, 2018.

Senator VULAKOVICH presented to the Chair **SB 1280**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for National Guard service tax credit.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, November 13, 2018.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following bills for concurrence, which were referred to the committees indicated:

October 31, 2018

- HB 562 -- Committee on Health and Human Services.
HB 1097 -- Committee on Education.
HB 1981 -- Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing.
HB 2303 -- Committee on Finance.
HB 2615 -- Committee on Transportation.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL LAND RECYCLING FUND

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

October 15, 2018

Ms. Megan Martin
Secretary and Parliamentarian of the Senate
Senate Post Office Box 203053
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3053

Dear Ms. Martin:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to present to you its Industrial Land Recycling Fund Annual Report. This report summarizes DEP's revenues and expenditures under the Industrial Land Recycling Fund.

As provided in the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act, DEP is distributing the report electronically and providing a link for accessing the report online. The report can be found on DEP's website at www.dep.greenport.state.pa.us/elibrary; click on "Publications" and then "Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields" to locate the report from the list.

Thank you for your interest in this report and for continuing to partner with DEP to promote a clean environment and safer communities for all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

PATRICK McDONNELL
Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Office of the Controller
1805 N. Broad Street (038-17)
11th Floor Wachman Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19122

October 26, 2018

The Honorable Megan Martin
Senate Secretary/Parliamentarian
Senate Box 203053
462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3053

Dear Senator [sic] Martin:

In compliance with Act 13A dated June 22, 2018, I submit the audited consolidated financial statements for Temple University - Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017.

Sincerely,

DAVID N. MARINO
Associate Vice President
& Controller

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Mr. John Verbanac as a Commonwealth Trustee of the University of Pittsburgh.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

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

Senator COSTA asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator LEACH, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of June 21, 2018; June 22, 2018; June 27, 2018; September 24, 2018; September 25, 2018; September 26, 2018; October 1, 2018; October 2, 2018; October 3, 2018; and October 12, 2018, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of June 21, 2018; June 22, 2018; June 27, 2018; September 24, 2018; September 25, 2018; September 26, 2018; October 1, 2018; October 2, 2018; October 3, 2018; and October 12, 2018.

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-46

Table with 4 columns: Alloway, Dinniman, Laughlin, Street; Argall, DiSanto, Martin, Tartaglione; Aument, Eichelberger, McGarrigle, Tomlinson; Baker, Farnese, McIlhinney, Vogel; Bartolotta, Folmer, Mensch, Vulakovich

Blake	Fontana	Rafferty	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Regan	White
Brewster	Greenleaf	Sabatina	Williams
Brooks	Haywood	Scarnati	Yaw
Browne	Hughes	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Hutchinson	Schwank	
Costa	Killion	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN EICHELBERGER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, I am proud to have the Chaplain with me today, Jim Kilmartin, whom I have known for a long time. Pastor Kilmartin does a tremendous job in our community in many different ways. He runs a youth program that is celebrating 20 years at Joshua House, and Jim is the pastor at the Center City Church in Altoona. With him is his lovely wife, Jessica, who is in the gallery, along with his daughters, Blaise, Triumph, Karis, and his son, Benjamin. I ask the Senate for its usual warm welcome for our Chaplain today and his family.

The PRESIDENT. Would Pastor Kilmartin and his family please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate. Thank you for your prayer.

(Applause.)

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request the Members of the Republican Caucus join me at the Leader's podium for a second.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the Senate will be at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

SENATE CITATION

Senator CORMAN laid before the Senate the following citation:

In the Senate, November 9, 2018

WHEREAS, The Legislative Data Processing Center (LDPC) is being honored upon the momentous occasion of its fiftieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, LDPC is an agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Created by an act passed on December 10, 1968, the agency strives to establish and operate computer systems capable of storing all the financial, factual, procedural and legal information necessary to serve all of the committees, officers and agencies of the General Assembly. Oversight is provided by the Legislative Data Processing Committee, which consists of four members of the House of Representatives, four members of the Senate, the Secretary and Parliamentarian of the Senate and the House Parliamentarian. For more than forty years, LDPC has developed and operated a customized payroll and financial system for the General Assembly. In addition, the agency assists in responding to hundreds of Right-to-Know requests annually. LDPC provides a full suite of information technology support to eleven legislative service agencies, manages hundreds of devices across twenty legislative networks and has developed and maintains more than eighty custom data-

input applications used by the General Assembly on a daily basis. It also has worked collaboratively with the Legislative Reference Bureau since 1971 to provide support of a legislative drafting system used to create bills and amendments. LDPC has developed a strong reputation for the highest quality of service throughout its history. Over the years, those in leadership positions, as well as its employees, have contributed in a tremendous way to its growth and development.

NOW THEREFORE, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania congratulates the Legislative Data Processing Center upon its richly deserved recognition; extends warmest wishes for a future replete with ever-increasing success;

AND DIRECTS that a copy of this document, sponsored by Senators Joe Scarnati, Jake Corman, Anthony Hardy Williams, Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr., and Guy Reschenthaler, be transmitted to the Legislative Data Processing Center.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule 21, I am giving the Senators notice that photographers from the Republican Caucus have been granted permission to take still photographs on the floor of the Senate during Session today.

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.

Before taking up nominations for the office of interim President pro tempore, the Chair would again like to suggest, 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.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, when thinking of Senator Scarnati, there is a lot I could say, but in the interest of time, I will not. Those who know Senator Scarnati know that on the last day of Session on a Wednesday, his car is probably already running and ready to go back to Brockway. So, Mr. President, we will have much larger comments on swearing-in day on January 1, so for now it is my honor to nominate Senator Scarnati as interim President pro tempore of the State Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Are there any seconds on the nomination?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I am honored to rise and second the nomination of Senator Joe Scarnati to serve as interim President pro tempore of the Senate of Pennsylvania. Given my good friend and colleague Senator Corman's remarks with respect to brevity, what I will do is place my remarks into the record on behalf of Senator Scarnati because they are outstanding remarks about a good man. I will do that but, again, rise to say thank you for the service that he has provided and second the nomination for Senator Scarnati to serve as interim President pro

tempore during the interim period of time and reserve the ability to give further remarks on January 1.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Mr. President, I am honored to rise and second the nomination of Senator Joe Scarnati to serve as interim President pro tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate. All across our great country voters issued a call for individuals who are willing to come to public service with a desire to act forcefully and responsibly. They are also looking for individuals who are ready to lead and build consensus. Senator Joe Scarnati has answered that call here in the Pennsylvania Senate.

Our Senate is designed as a deliberative body. We are predisposed to dialogue and discussion. Our guardrails are our traditions, practices, and procedures. It is these characteristics that help guide our actions. We all recognize that we need leaders who understand what we represent as an institution. In Senator Joe Scarnati, the Senate has a leader who has and will work on its behalf as an institution. Senator Scarnati has proven that he knows the importance of addressing issues of concern to all Members, Republican and Democrat alike. He knows our history and is experienced and well-versed in the lessons on how the Senate can be an outstanding lawmaking body. He also knows well the pitfalls of a body when it is broken and how that reflects on those we serve.

Senator Scarnati has experience in moving the Senate and advancing its interests. He is well-attuned to our practices and our traditions. He knows our processes and how we can be a better, more responsive body. Over the interim period, we need a leader who is fair, possesses the qualities mentioned, and is prepared to make thoughtful decisions on behalf of the entire Senate. Senator Scarnati is best suited to be that leader.

I am pleased to second the nomination of Senator Joe Scarnati for interim President pro tempore. I ask all Members to join me in supporting Senator Scarnati's nomination.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, not too much pressure to keep it brief. I also second the nomination of my colleague, Senator Scarnati, as interim President pro tempore of the Senate. While this period will be brief until we come together once again in January, definitely a critical time that requires experience, fairness, and direction, and I can think of no one more aptly suited for this role.

Thank you, Mr. President.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

The PRESIDENT. The Chair hears no other nominations 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. The Chair takes pleasure in declaring our friend, 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 interim President pro tempore-elect to the rostrum: the gentleman from Montgomery County, Senator Greenleaf; the gentleman from Bucks County, Senator McIlhinney; and the gentleman from Montgomery County, Senator Haywood. The committee will proceed to escort Senator Scarnati to the rostrum.

(Whereupon, the interim 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 today the Honorable John Joseph McNally, judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County. Judge McNally has kindly consented to be with us today to administer the oath of office to Senator Scarnati, so let us get started on that.

Please rise.

Judge McNALLY. Please place your left hand on your Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me:

I, Joseph B. Scarnati III, do solemnly swear and affirm that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge my duties as interim President pro tempore of the Senate with fidelity. So help me God.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

GAVEL PRESENTED TO INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. Please be seated. The Chair wishes to thank Judge McNally, and it is once again my privilege to present the interim President pro tempore of the Senate of Pennsylvania, a personal friend to me and to all Pennsylvanians, the Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati.

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

REMARKS BY INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you, Judge McNally, for being here today to administer this oath of office. Thank you to Senator Corman, Senator Costa, and Senator Martin, and to all of the Senators here for their unanimous support for me as interim President pro tempore. This will be my 13th year as President pro tempore of this body, and I humbly accept and I thank you for your support and, more importantly, your confidence in me. I never take this honor lightly. I do have to say that the class that came in together: myself, Governor Stack, and Senator Don White, two of us have done well. Don is a very dear friend, and every time this election rolls around, Don challenges me in caucus that he is going to run against me. You know, Don, you get your name in nomination and we are going to have a good debate out here, all right? You and I. Thank you. And thanks for your friendship.

In keeping with brief remarks, in which I thank everybody today, to the Members of the Senate who are leaving us, we, I, thank you for your service, and we will miss each and every one of you from this body. On January 1, we will be back here to start off the new year together in the Chamber to swear in new Members for 4-year terms as well as my swearing-in for the next 2 years. It is clear that our State and Commonwealth, we face many challenges, but it is by reaching out to each other, it is by listening, it is by compromising that we come together and we here make Pennsylvania a better place.

I wish each of you, and pray that during this period of time of the holidays until January 1 that you all return in good health and certainly come back with a spirit to get things done. So thank you all very much, and God bless.

(Applause.)

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS FAREWELL TO MEMBERS

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will now proceed to recognize our distinguished colleagues.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Eichelberger.

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, I first start by introducing family and staff who are with me today. I have my brother, Todd; my sister, Wendy, and her husband, Steve Wertz; my sister, Gail Coffey, and her daughter, Sidney. I have from my staff Michele Ivory, Patrick Schurr, Kathleen Gunnell, Tiffany Underkoffler, and they are the five I have from staff here today, and Lee Derr, who I do not see. He is in the corner. But as everybody says in Harrisburg when they leave how grateful we are to the staff that we have had over the years, and I would extend that to the people in this building with whom I deal on a more casual basis when we are not here as much, but they are tremendous to all 50 of us. When you see them in the hall, they do favors for you, they help you with everything you can ask for, they are there to assist all of us. I deeply appreciate your service.

I had mentioned that my wife, Charlotte, who was with us last night at the dinner, had to work today, and she could not be here, and my son is in Houston, Texas, so he could not be with us, either. They are sorry they could not join everybody here to say goodbye.

When I ran 12 years ago, people across Pennsylvania were demanding change. It was a different time. I, along with Mike Folmer, we both ran on a reform platform, and when Mike and I took out, at that time, the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Majority Leader of the Senate, we made national news. Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Bill O'Reilly, they all talked about us on their radio programs, which was kind of fun. We were in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, all of the major newspapers across the country. The big thing at that point was nobody quite understood why voters would choose to lose the clout they had with experienced leaders, the heavyweights of the Senate, and start fresh with new idealistic reformers. This was before the Tea Party movement started in America. In the old political model, especially in Pennsylvania and some of the older States, was that no matter how corrupt or how out of touch

an elected official was, whether they were Federal, State, whatever, you kept them in office as long as they had seniority and they were bringing home the bacon. So you held your nose, you made the vote, and kept them in office. But that model changed forever in 2006.

Speaking of staff, maybe somebody can take a look at this dais sometime before--

The PRESIDENT. We are going to get right on that, Senator.

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, I think there is a ghost here in the building. But the voters wanted somebody at that point that they felt represented their interests first and their values. They would have other people stand in line just like everybody else to get attention. And we got here, it was just after Bonusgate, and things did change for the better. The environment was much different then. I was proud to be part of that era where we were ushering in increased transparency in the system, and with that increased transparency came more accountability for all of us in this building. But there is so much more that needs to be done.

I am going to miss a number of things as a State Senator, but one thing I will definitely miss is not being here in this Chamber, fighting for change that will improve the lives of Pennsylvanians and honor the legacy of those who served before us selflessly and with integrity. Mike Stack and I worked on a package of bills when he was in the Senate on lobbyist reform. We have not had a lot of that done. I firmly believe that one of the bills that we introduced together that would outlaw, prohibit lobbyists, registered lobbyists from running campaigns is something that needs to be done for the sake of integrity in this building. I have had bills and worked with others on stopping the subsidizing of the newspaper business in Pennsylvania, where we can go to a Web site, something Senator Robbins worked on for many years, we could go to a centralized Web site that would be more convenient for our citizens and it would save millions and millions of dollars for our local governments.

School choice is something that is happening around the country, but it is not happening here in this State. It is time that we start to put the interests of students and taxpayers first and not protect the system that we have. We do not have a bad system, but we should have opportunities for every child to do what is best for them. Speaking of local government, I serve on the Local Government Commission, and I am proud to be there with a good group of people who are concerned about helping local governments survive in an age when it is difficult for them to pay the bills and provide the services they do. We will have good people left on that commission. They do great work, and the Committee on Local Government in the Senate and the House do as well, and I am asking people to remember when those bills come up how important they are to the folks back home who live in the boroughs, townships, third-class cities, or even the first- and second-class cities in Pennsylvania, and our county governments. It is very, very important to pass good legislation to help them.

We need to follow the lead of New Jersey for a change, not usually, but this time we do, and many major corporations around the country, and enact laws that will change how the charges flow from pharmacy benefit managers in our system. We can save billions of dollars, billions with a "b," over a period of a few years and change our budget picture permanently if we can work through that issue, and I know some people here will con-

tinue to work on that. I think we need to support the effort around the country for an Article V resolution and ask our Federal Congress to work with us in controlling Federal overreach, Federal spending, and implement term limits on members of Congress and work on a constitutional convention for Pennsylvania. It is the longest time we have ever gone in the history of our State without asking the voters if they want a constitutional convention. We have a lot of issues that we hear about - redistricting, the role of the Lieutenant Governor, how our courts are structured and elected, many other things that happen in the executive branch - those can all be addressed at a constitutional convention. It will take us many years to get through those issues. That can be done in a very short period of time and it comes back to the voters then for them to decide if they want it or not.

It is with great sadness that I remember the horrifying acts of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, which are now memorialized in a movie that is playing all across our country. We watched as State and local government leaders turned their heads for many years in Philadelphia, and we saw two women and countless babies killed by this incompetent physician who continuously violated local and State laws but maintained his abortion practice. So I ask you to please continue to fight for the lives of the unborn children and stop the slaughter of those thought to have Down syndrome.

And this body must respond, as we would with every other decision from the United States Supreme Court, to the latest decision on public sector unions, *Janus v. AFSCME*. We have laws, statutory laws in Pennsylvania, that contradict the provisions of that decision. The public sector unions are continuing to take advantage of many government employees. Some want to join, that is fine; some who do not are still in a very difficult position of getting out of the union, almost all public sector unions members have never voted to join the union or select the union that they are in. All of those things need to change. I remind everyone that the role of Senators and Representatives is to protect everyone's interests, not just people of influence like the union bosses. So I ask for you to please implement comprehensive reform early next year.

You know, I have often wondered what it would be like if Members of the General Assembly were in a labor union. We could make, I think, a pretty good argument for it. We come to Harrisburg at the call of the President pro tempore, we do not have any regular days or hours, we are expected to be here early, sometimes we work until 11 o'clock or later, we work on evenings, we work on weekends, how many of us were at Veterans Day events over the weekend and the weekend before? I think we deserve time and a half for those weekend events that we are expected to attend. I think that when we are in Harrisburg, our days are too busy. I am on six committees, like a lot of people here. You get here in the morning, you go to committee meetings, you go to hearings, then you go to Session and caucus, sometimes you do not even get lunch. We should have planning time built into our day so that we get a couple hours carved out, we can catch up on phone calls and emails and then we can go about our day. I think that is a better situation for our constituents, and then we could not be expected to work as long in the evening. I think we should also have in-service days, at least 2 or 3 a year. We have constituents coming to our offices, we have other government officials, we are expected to have a nice, presentable office. We need some time to decorate, meet with our

staff, talk about our philosophy, and our planning, I think that is not too much to ask that we have some in-service days without interruption so we can do some of that kind of work.

I think that this assessment process that we go through is unfair, the election process. There are too many outside interests, too many variables, it is not really fair how to judge us as elected officials in the election process. We know that most constituents really do not understand what we do as legislators. Maybe we could go to peer review? Senator Dinniman and I have worked through a lot of these issues. If we go to peer review, we could do a performance assessment on House Members and they could do one on us, but we know there are grudges in this building, that might not be a fair process and it probably would not work. We could go with a strictly administrative review. We could have Senator Scarnati do an assessment on all of us, but that, as far as a policy decision goes, might inhibit some people from speaking out on different issues in caucus or disagreeing with the Leaders on issues, so that probably is not a good policy decision for us and it gives too much power to too few people. Maybe we can get an outside group of professionals to come in, they could do an assessment, but a lot of times they have an agenda or they have other issues that we do not agree with, so we would not have a good performance review so that probably would not work either.

So, the only thing that really makes sense to me are standardized tests. We go with standardized tests and we all start fresh with the same piece of paper and then we find out who is really doing a good job and who is not, but the only downside to that is we know that some of our constituents are low income, so that is going to be a difference in where we are coming from and that really would not be fair if we have districts that have a lot more low-income people than others.

Now, I am saying all of this in jest, obviously, you can see how absurd that is, but this is a scenario that we have in schools today and in many other government entities where we have a lot of protection and a lot of cost and not much accountability for what we are spending money to accomplish. So it is the norm, and I am asking you to question the norm moving forward. Do not settle for answers like, we have always done things this way. Expect better and hold people accountable. The General Assembly should protect the individual rights and religious liberties of every citizen without question, and we should always strive to make certain that essential government services are delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible. So that is my admonition and my ask for everybody moving forward.

I thank everybody for your support and your friendship over the years. I respect many of you for doing your best to live up to the highest ideals of public office and pray that God guides your heart in all personal and public matters. May grace, wisdom, and peace be with you all, all of the days of your lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, who came in the at the same time as you, Senator, and I remember it as though it were yesterday, Senator Folmer.

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, if you do not mind, I am going to be a little informal here. John, I am going to miss you, man. We ran together, as you pointed out, in a very tough primary election cycle, and we were both beaten up pretty well. I know I was, and I will never forget that. There is a part here that

I think people need to understand about John Eichelberger. You know, John, I think some of the best work you did, I mean, you did a lot of good work, but when you pulled together with Senator Blake on the Committee on Local Government and you pulled together those hearings that led to the municipal debt reform package attempts that we have been trying to do here. John, that was really good stuff. We exposed a lot of bad things that had been happening and should never happen to any municipality in the State of Pennsylvania, and we have to continue to move on that legacy, sir, and I know that Senator Blake is probably in total agreement with that. But you pulled together a bipartisan collaboration and really good hearings, and you did a great job there, which led to the Local Government Debt Act, ethics commission and municipal authorities reforms, swaps restrictions, and performance bonds of municipal debts. It is all good stuff and we exposed a lot of what was going on and should not have gone on. I think you did a great job there, John, and you should feel very, very proud upon that work. We also did joint hearings on cost cuttings and trying to find performance-based grants rather than just handing out money to folks and then they really do not have to perform, they just take our money and run and things of that nature.

But mostly, John, I will miss your friendship. We will still be friends, but I will miss you here. It was kind of an era that we came in together with, and my memories with you, John, are so long that I could bore people to death here. I just want to say, John, it has been a real honor to be able to be your friend. You are truly a person of integrity and principle, and I am going to miss you a lot, man. Thanks.

(Applause.)

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

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleague, Senator Eichelberger. Coming in as a freshman Senator, but not necessarily a freshman in life, at the age of 56, he was a great resource watching him work in the Committee on Education. We tackled some tough subjects and subject matters. He always treated everybody with respect and integrity and an even hand, and it is the way this Chamber and government should work. He was very helpful to me in getting the lay of the land, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his guidance, his encouragement, and also, just as importantly, his discouragement on doing some things, too, that was wise counsel that I see now.

So thank you, good luck to you, and I hope you enjoy your time with your family. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, John, I rise as co-chair of the Committee on Education to thank you for your service. There were some significant bills that got through the Committee on Education this year, and I think the most significant one that we passed, 49-0, was to de-emphasize the standardized testing in this Commonwealth. That could not have gotten through without your willingness to listen, compromise, and for all of us to come together. I think if you talk to the parents, the students, the teachers, and the administrators, they were overjoyed that we finally got this done. I thank you for allowing it to take place and for always tolerating my point of view in the debates and for listen-

ing to my monologues that could sometimes go on for more than a few minutes. So, thank you so much for your service, Senator Eichelberger.

(Applause.)

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

Senator GREENLEAF. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the Senate for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I am introducing, first of all, and most importantly, my wife, who is a guest here today sitting in the back there, Kelly Greenleaf. She has been an inspiration to me and has been a wonderful companion and wife, and she deserves all of the credit and adoration that we can give her. She is a wonderful person and I love her dearly. I also point out my present staff, former staff, and friends who are sitting right in front of her. I am not going to name them all, but this is not a one-man show. In the legislature you need a lot of help, both as your fellow legislators, but also the staff who surround you and are helpful in developing legislation, changes, and reforms that we need. It has been truly a privilege and an honor to have served here in the 12th Senatorial District. I was thinking, walking in, some memories I have of 40 years ago this day, probably, I remember I had just been elected from the House to the Senate and I was the Senator-elect from the 12th Senatorial District. I opened the door and there was a sergeant there. He asked me, I just wanted to walk in here, step foot in here and see it in action, so I had a few seconds of doing it, and I will never forget it. It has been a real privilege and honor to serve here, as I said, and to represent the 12th Senatorial District and to chair the Senate Committee on Judiciary for over 30 years.

One of the things that I want to talk about and my last hurrah, I do not have a lot of good qualities, but one quality I do have is perseverance. So, you are going to have to listen to me a little bit about the 30 years that I was on the committee. I used to introduce the most draconian, hard-on-crime legislation you could think of, because that is what it was all about. We always thought, put them in jail, hang them high, and that will solve our problems. Well, it did not because our recidivism rate kept going up and up and up over the decades that we were getting tough on crime. It kept getting harder and harder and you would think nobody would be on the streets and we would be safe, and just the opposite happened. Our recidivism rate went up to 62 percent. That is a failure. Two out of three people who were released from our State prisons were coming back in 3 years. That is an absolute failure. That is not success, and we were dumping a lot of money into that as well.

We were building a new prison once a year. So, it was a brand-new prison that would hold 2,000 prisoners, and then, of course, the cost of operating the prison, the maintenance, and the building costs, hundreds of millions of dollars had to happen every year. We had to do that just to keep up with the increase in our prison population.

In addition, there has been millions of dollars in reforms that resulted in reforms of our prison system. Most recently, we realized that we were convicting innocent people, that we are spending all of this money, and the process was not working. So, we tried something else that I never thought I would do, and that is to use best practices, and those best practices resulted in what was not really earth-shattering legislation. The Joint State Government Commission came to our aid and the legislature passed legislation to provide some incentives for good behavior. Just

little changes. What happened? Our recidivism rate did not go up higher, it went down to 40 percent. With regard to our prison costs, we did not have to build new prisons. We were saving hundreds of millions of dollars by passing that legislation. This body did that and you were all my partners in that. I am letting you know now how successful that was. It increased our safety, thereby treating individuals and trying to rehabilitate them. I know it is all counterintuitive, but it works, and it is still in the process.

We have two colleagues, Senator Bartolotta and Senator Haywood, who have joined together to form a bipartisan task force on criminal justice reform. We need to do that. You need to do that next Session. I have run out of time, but you guys and ladies have not. We need to support this task force and to start developing and passing legislation next year that is smart and tough on crime. We are going to save a lot of money, millions of dollars if we do it, and our streets are going to be safer.

I thank my colleagues here. As I said, it was a privilege and an honor to work with you on issues and participate in the legislative process here in the State Senate. Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Greenleaf for all of his great work and his transformation on justice reform. We know that you will continue to be heard from, Senator, on these issues, and I look forward to working with you on them.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, you just heard from an institution. There have been a lot of Senators since Jake and I and others have been here who have been here a long time, but you just heard from an institution. A gentleman, and I will use that word a couple of times. He was elected to the House in 1976 when I think I was in 9th or 10th grade, and probably for those of us who served in the House, one of the most amazing things about Stewart Greenleaf is he served one term before he came to the Senate. A lot of us could have made that smart decision of coming over here a lot quicker. But having served in the Senate for 40 years, I look at that doorway and I almost wish Stew would have been around here in 1906. That doorway would have been a lot taller if Stewart would have been here than the average size of Senators in 1906.

For 40 years he served in this General Assembly, and for 30 years as chair of the Committee on Judiciary. We saw a video of Stewart last night and it started off by calling him the most legislative, prolific Senator in the history of the Senate. I have absolutely no doubt that is a true statement. With his retirement, our record of passing bills is going to go up because of Stewart not being here. If you can imagine, he has had hundreds--think about that for a second--hundreds of bills that have been signed into law. He has been here under eight governors. Think about that: Shapp, Thornburgh, Casey, Ridge, Schweiker, Rendell, Corbett, and Wolf. That is an amazing track record. As chair of the Committee on Judiciary for 30 years, and the thought about us swearing-in Joe, and I am not giving out any big secret here, but there was an election back in 2006 between Senator Piccola and Senator Scarnati, and at the end of the first ballot it was tied between those two individuals and there was one person to break that tie. One of the persons running for President pro tempore, Senator Piccola, thought we should have term limits on chairmanships,

and there was one person by the name of Senator Scarnati who did not think that was the best idea. I wonder who Stew Greenleaf supported in that President pro tempore election. Thank you, Stewart Greenleaf.

For the last 15 years, I have served on that committee, along with Senator Rafferty. John and I have been there with Stewart during that whole time period, and Stewart has known that Senator Rafferty and Senator Gordner were the two people he could go to in order to make sure bills got out of committee in a timely fashion. So we were able to help and respect our senior chair. If you think of the issues that Stew has been involved with, and perseverance he really does need to underline because there has been no one with more perseverance on issues than Stewart Greenleaf, whether it is criminal justice or human trafficking. I am not sure if I realize how long of an issue that has been to Stewart and how important it has been to him. An issue that ended up being an incredibly controversial issue is not being able to smoke in public buildings. I think Stewart introduced that bill for 20 years or so until it finally got done, and, even at the end, if I remember, that was a conference committee that ended up getting that bill done. I remember it because a House Member in my district, Bob Belfanti, who was a chain-smoker extraordinaire, was on that conference committee, but Stewart persevered. Every time I go into a restaurant, or some other establishment like that, and I can breathe and not come out smelling like smoke, I thank the perseverance of Stewart Greenleaf.

He mentioned, in regard to the video last night, the constitutional amendment regarding child witnesses and how important he thought that issue was to protect that child against having to be physically present in regard to the person who may have done horrible things to that child, and environment and everything else.

A lot of you may or may not know that over those years, someone who would pretty well drive home every night and drive back every morning was Stewart Greenleaf. So those of us who live even closer and would stay overnight, not Stewart. You must be an incredible wife that he wants to drive home every night to do that, or he really despised us. I am not sure, it was one or the other, and maybe a little of both. But, again, he was that type of person who wanted to be home. Probably the last thing I am going to say about Stewart is, and almost the best thing that you can say about a person, is that he is a good man, he is a gentleman, he is a spiritual man. I am not sure people fully understand other than those who would do the Bible study and the other things of the spirituality with Stewart and that being so important in his life.

Today is going to be an incredibly emotional moment for a guy who is not normally, I think, very emotional, but if you can imagine being close to 80 and coming here for 40--some years. I mean, think about that. Coming to Harrisburg and doing the people's job 40--some years, and doing it well, and leaving that impact and touching people's lives. Stewart, you are an institution.

Thank you for your service. The Commonwealth will never forget.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, I rise to join Senator Gordner in congratulating Senator Greenleaf. Many of you might not remember, or know, that Senator Greenleaf was a great bas-

ketball player at the University of Pennsylvania. Many a time I have walked through that door and I have gotten an elbow right in the ribs and you have taken me right down, Senator. You were quite an athlete, you are still quite an athlete, you have very sharp elbows and you can still jump higher than I can. That is true.

I just want to say that it has been a pleasure to serve with you. You have been the most prolific Senator I have ever witnessed. You are leaving me, you are the senior Senator and now you are leaving me the senior Senator, and I am proud of the work that we have done together. Every piece of legislation, I think, we have voted on here you and I talked about, you and I deliberated over and you were just a wonderful person to bounce the pros and cons of a piece of legislation off of. I thought we enjoyed a very professional relationship that way and I enjoyed your advice. I do not know if you took any of mine, but I did take a lot of yours. You were prolific in my committee, I am the chairman of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. The rest of the Members are happy that you will not be there anymore because we will be able to do some of their bills. We did more Greenleaf bills out of my committee than all the rest of the Members combined, because you are prolific.

You know, your work on criminal justice, you are concerned about law enforcement, you are concerned about our prison system and recidivism and what was going on. You are deliberative in everything you did. You are a wonderful human being, a spiritual human being, a great friend, the most deliberative and effective legislator I have ever encountered.

God bless you and enjoy your retirement.

(Applause.)

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, before I start my comments, I will say this. Stewart, you must be, you know, there is heaven and then you must be right below it. If you were all that effective, and I love my friends as they eloquently describe you, but if you were all that effective, why did they not vote with you a lot more is my only question? I just want you to remember that as you leave this hall.

In earnest, the reason why I am speaking, probably surprising to you, is because on behalf of a Commonwealth, in a time period where many people think and see and write about the division in our nation, you have evolved as a human being, and that reflects your process as a legislator. There are people who I represent in my district who will never know you, may never vote for a Republican, but because they are part of the Commonwealth, you have given them their dignity. There are four African American men who are a part of this great Assembly: Senator Hughes, Senator Haywood, Senator Street, and myself. Our prisons, unfortunately, are packed with significant, if not majority numbers, of African Americans and African American men. The work you have done, the foundation you have laid, was the futile effort of some of us on this side of the aisle from those communities because, frankly, not many people visited those communities. I am not suggesting that meant that they did not care, that they were indifferent, they just did not represent that community.

But every once in a while there is a space and a place for a human being who rises above the limitations of politics, pettiness, personality, whatever it is, and does something that will be counted well beyond the years when they leave this place. Your

name may not go on a hall, your name may never be recounted in any legendary space, but I want to tell you, in Anthony Hardy Williams' place, in his heart, the people for whom we fight every day, you are a hero. You are a hero. You knew my father, he went to the University of Pennsylvania, unfortunately, like you did. And you, as lawyers, compared notes upon people every day. You went one way and he went a different way. Unfortunately, he is not on this Earth anymore, he did not get to see the extraordinary work and the growth of the extraordinary Senator Greenleaf, but his son has. So when I say my prayers in the morning to my father I will tell him of the greatness of you and the extraordinary things you have done for all of us. Because what people do not understand in America, when we fight for civil rights, when we fight for fairness, when we fight for inclusion, it is all of us who benefit. Even though there is a moment that we think it is for a woman, or an LGBT person or community, or an African American, or a veteran, no, it is for all of us. Senator Greenleaf, job well done. Smell your roses while you are on this Earth and walk amongst us. I thank you on behalf of a grateful Commonwealth. Thank you, my friend.

(Applause.)

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I, too, rise to thank Senator Greenleaf for his work. When I was in law school and we were starting to talk about legislative process and Senators, you had come to the school to talk to us about legislative process and that had an impact on my interest in this body. Years later, I was pleased that you were still here and to be able to serve with you. I really appreciated being able to travel the State with you as you talked passionately about criminal justice reform, about your beliefs and your value system. In a time and era where so many have made everything partisan, you talked about basic justice and rights, economics, and made it nonpartisan in a way that I truly came to respect, and I learned so much from you. Your years of service to this body and to the Commonwealth are unprecedented. Your impact on people, whether they be black, white, urban, rural, suburban, east or west, has been truly noted. I thank you for being a great man, a great Senator, and an example of what we should all aspire to.

Thank you so much, Senator.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from fancy Bucks County, my high school classmate, Senator McIlhinney.

Senator McILHINNEY. Mr. President, I rise to thank a few people, and I need to start with my wife, Jennifer, who is here with me today. Twenty-six years ago or so I was a Doylestown Borough Councilman when we met and she was a registered Democrat. So, you can see how for the next 26 years she stood by me in a public life which was never easy. We raised our children in it and I know that I am looking forward to spending every weekend with you now, for the rest of our lives. But, seriously, it takes a toll on all of our families and I really do want to thank you for being there with me. I need to list my staff as well, and have you bear with me. They never get the recognition, so I would like to read their names into the record and really give them a thank you for the last 21 years in the General Assembly. My chief of staff, Heather Cevasco; Gail Reinard, Monica Riddle, Doug Zubeck, Tammi Mancuso, Rhonda Tettermer, Sandy

Snyder, Jason McEwen, Kim Heileman, Bob Galdo, and Kit Davis. When you reach back, you know that they are the ones who make you look good. We cannot do it ourselves, and very rarely do we ever. It is the staff who make us look good and get the job done.

I also thank my campaign guy who is here with me today, Pat Cleary. You also need to get some stuff done on raising some money and actually winning these elections. So, I really appreciate all the effort that has gone into it.

I also thank the Leadership team that I was able to serve with these past years. Senator Gordner, Senator Browne, Senator Argall, Senator Mensch, Senator Alloway. To say something about Rich Alloway, he is the only guy I still know who can go from completely irate over an issue to complete capitulation in a 30-second conversation. Bam, and it is over, he is there and he is up and back.

Jake Corman, the first day I came out here in 1998, it was a great year, Jake Corman was out here that year, it was the year our moms got us elected in the General Assembly. But I met him that first night out here and, to this day, he always tries to do the right thing. He has been a great leader, he cares about the issues, he always tries to do the right thing, even when he is wrong, but he thinks he is doing the right thing and I really appreciate that because he has always been a true friend and a sincere supporter on the very few times when I was wrong on issues.

To Joe Scarnati, who has spent the last 12 years trying to get me to do the wrong thing. In all honesty, our districts could be complete polar opposites, from the rural area to the southeast suburbs, but he always took the time to listen to the concerns of the people of Bucks County, to listen to me to come up with some sort of compromise to help me if he could, and I am going to give all you new guys who are here with him, if you end the conversation with Joe Scarnati and he says, you are not wrong, you just lost the argument. It is over, you are not going to win the rest of that argument.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle, Senator Brewster, we have had a great time working through these liquor issues for a while. It is a good thing we had Mike Turzai to write them for us. To Senator Tartaglione, who really gave me a crash course in union politics in Philly, I really appreciate all that input. Senator Williams, it seems like every committee or every issue I was on he was always the chair on the other side to make sure I was not getting out of control on that, and I really appreciate all of the friends I have made here.

To my good friend Senator Tomlinson, we were able to represent Bucks County together for a long, long time, and the voice of sometimes crying in the wind in the southeast and representing Bucks County, and I admit, it is unique within our Caucus and unique in the whole General Assembly some of the districts we represent down in the southeast. But it has been a pleasure serving with you, your constituents are very lucky to have you and Bucks County is very lucky that we will still have you another 4 years, we hope, in the General Assembly.

I could go around the room. I could look at Citizen Mike, who I have been working with; the reformer, John Eichelberger; people like Michele Brooks, with whom I have only worked for a few years; Lisa Baker, who has been with me the entire time; Kim Ward. I am going to try to stop short of citing everybody in the General Assembly, but in all honesty, the fact that we can come from all these different districts and still have a decent civil

conversation and come up with good laws that actually help the people of Pennsylvania is something we should all be proud of. I am not going to get all emotional on you and say I am going to miss you a lot because I am going to see you all next month. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the hardworking blue-collar Bucks County, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, Senator McIlhinney and I have worked together for well over 20 years. First when he was in the House, then he came over here to the Senate, and we have really more shared our districts than represented different districts. Our districts almost intertwine. The interests of Bucks County, lower Bucks County, middle Bucks County, we have shared them. We have worked very, very well on issues, whether it is Pennsbury Manor that is in his district, it is my passion or a school in my part of the district, I have just shared a great relationship with Senator McIlhinney. We have worked so well together, I do not think we have ever had an argument that went past 2 or 3 days, and we were able to resolve that, but you really have been wonderful to work with. We have really put our county first, we have really tried to represent our people up here amongst the rest of the legislators. We are a very unique county, we have a lot of different needs, we come from very diverse communities, and putting that together was very, very important. And my relationship with you, not only personal but working on a professional level, was very, very rewarding for me.

Chuck, I know we are going to see some more of you. I hope to see some more of you. You have done a wonderful job, you have a wonderful family, and I know it is going to be better for you and your family to spend a little more time together, but you have been a very, very effective legislator up here. I have truly enjoyed working with you. I thought we worked more of a team than anything, and God bless you on your retirement. Thank you, Chuck.

(Applause.)

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I want to make a couple comments on my good friend, Senator McIlhinney. He did mention we have a few things in common. We both came from political families, his mother was a vice chair of the Bucks County Republican Party and mine was very involved in statewide politics, and neither one of us would be here without them. When you go around to events and you are running for office, you try to tell the story about how you are a small business person, you worked on a farm, some sort of grassroots background in business to appeal to the voters. We were political hacks. We were the biggest nightmare of the Chamber of Commerce people. They wanted someone with business backgrounds, we had none, but we came up in a political family and that really aided us both significantly. We both married Democrats, which enlightened both of us over the years, and we both married way over our heads, that is clear.

One of the traits that I will say most about Senator McIlhinney is his loyalty. When he is with you, he is with you. I remember I ran for this position in 2006, it was not a successful one, and he supported me. Then in 2014, I ran against the same person again and I asked him for his support and he said, what, is he going to be more mad at me that I did not vote for him the

first time? I might as well stick with you, I was there with you the first time, I will do it again. But he is always with you. Sometimes it is not easy to get him there, but once he is there, he has always been a very loyal friend in all cases. Even though Senator McIlhinney gives off an air of fun loving and maybe not the most serious guy all of the time, he is an extremely serious legislator and he did extremely good work in his time here, not only on getting things done but also in stopping some things from getting done.

So, in conclusion, I want to let all of the Members know that next year Senate Bill No. 1 will be legalizing VGTs in all bars and taverns. Senate Bill No. 2, we are going to take the horseman money and give it to the Penn State School of Agriculture. Senate Bill No. 3 will be privatization of all liquor stores in Pennsylvania. So, we are looking forward to a healthy agenda next year once Senator McIlhinney retires. In all seriousness, he is a strong advocate for the issues that he feels are important and most of the time he was right on all of the big issues. So, good luck, my friend, and I am sure we will see you right down the road. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, for the second time I rise on behalf of a Member on the other side of the aisle. These two men I have to talk about because, frankly, for many of you, Philadelphia, not personally but politically, when you talk to constituents, Philadelphia is the den of evil, the place of dark, bad things. The truth is Philadelphia--and I represent Delaware County as well--frankly, is a place I love, it is my home, it is an extraordinarily wonderful place. It has the Eagles and a variety of other amenities, but most importantly it also has things that challenge the civility of that community. One of those things are stop-n-go's. Many of you would and will never know what a stop-n-go is. Frankly, it is an old deli that carved out and uses a restaurant license so they could sell liquor every day in a place where they sell candy to minors. They sell single cigarettes illegally and then every time someone who is a regular shows up, they throw them away. They are dirty, filthy, disgusting places that, frankly, I believe should not exist, but, that said, they do. If you ask any Member from Philadelphia County, because they are unique to Philadelphia County, many of us would arrive at the same description or similar conclusion of these places. For almost 20-some odd years of my career I have been trying to work to get them modified, changed, and a variety of others.

Chuck, and I call him Chuck, came to Philadelphia about a year ago and walked through parts of many districts, saw these things that we call stop-n-go's and literally said, this would not happen if it were my community. That sentence that you echoed on that day was a relief to many people who felt like things would never change, but more importantly, you came back and were a man of your word and you worked on it. You ended up having legislation that was passed, it is landmark, and it is beginning to put a dent in the awful affects of the stop-n-go's within our community. I would not be fair to you if I let you depart this place and did not tell the public how significant and what truly bipartisan activity is, because usually when we say bipartisan we grab one Republican and one Democrat and we say it is bipartisan. The truth is, your work really reflected the fact that you reached well beyond your natural constituency into a place and

saw something that should not be, was unfair, and you did something about it because you were in a position to do something about it. Today, in many of those communities, again, it is not about Philadelphia, it is about the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but, Chuck, you did something that many of us just could not get done and we appreciate you and are very grateful for your work as chairman of that committee, and I do look forward to seeing you well beyond these halls.

God bless you, and thank you so very much.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes my friend, a great Senator from Montgomery County, Senator Rafferty.

(Applause.)

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, with Senator Eichelberger's speech it reminded me of something. John and I became very close since the day he entered the Senate. We have sat next to each other here on the floor and in caucus. Senator Alloway used to call us the odd couple of the Senate because of John's political bend and my political bend. One time we were driving out to the Chamber of Commerce dinner early on, and this was after John was elected after the pay raise and after the gaming vote, and he had on the back of his pickup truck two dozen bumper stickers: throw the bums out, remember the pay raise, let us get rid of them all, reform, and I like Ike. So, we were going out to the Chamber of Commerce dinner and he said, who is going to drive? I said, do you still have all of those bumper stickers all over your truck? He said, yeah. I said, I am driving.

(Laughter.)

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I say those words every day from the Prophet Jeremiah. Today, God is closing one door for me and opening another. I have been blessed for 16 years to work in what I think is the finest legislative body in this nation. Now, I know I will be getting emails from people tomorrow saying, how can you say that? But I really, firmly believe that. The people in this body, this Senate of Pennsylvania, hold their convictions in their heart, and that is what the people want us to do. We are elected Republicans and Democrats, but once we are sworn in and we take our seats on this floor, we are the stewards of the public trust and we are to pull together and work for the benefit of the people not only in our districts, but the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. President, we are seeing too much division today in this country; I am afraid somewhat in the Commonwealth. I encourage my colleagues to make sure that we do that cross-aisle communication with one another to make legislation effective and to benefit all the people of this Commonwealth.

Mr. President, looking back over 16 years, I am proud of the work that I have done, especially on public safety issues. I worked very closely with the DAs Association, the law enforcement association, Jennifer Storm and the Victim Advocate's Office. I worked very closely with those in transportation and my friends in the building and trades for a number of issues that are important to all of us. I looked at the first piece of legislation I worked on of significance, which was the introduction of Jessica's Law here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and strengthening Megan's Law. Mr. President, each and every one of these pieces of legislation that I undertook either had my name on it first or second or third, I worked with somebody on the

other side of the aisle. That is why that legislation was successful, got through the Senate by large numbers, got through the House, and to the Governor.

Mr. President, I am proud of those pieces of legislation I worked on, and certainly one with you for a number of years when you were a Member of this body, one that we finally got to the Governor's desk and signed and today is law, increased penalties for home burglaries. I worked on legislation that grew out of an incident in my district and Senator Dinniman's district, the arson fires in Coatesville. My chief of staff, Ryan Boop, and I worked with Tom Hogan, the Chester County District Attorney, on this, and I was livid and determined I was going to get that bill passed. Why? Because these people were being inconvenienced, threatened, and these people were losing their sense of security, but overriding all that, there was one life taken in those fires in Coatesville. A woman lost her life who survived the Nazi death camps. She lost her life in that, and I was determined, and with Senator Dinniman's help, we got that bill through the Senate of Pennsylvania, got it through the House, and to the Governor for his signature.

Mr. President, lately working very closely with Senator Martin, we worked on a number of initiatives for DUI enhancement here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For the first time ever in our history we have ignition interlock for first-time offenders. This helps make our roadways safer for innocent people and makes that person who is convicted of DUI realize that he or she may have a problem and that they should get counsel to make sure it does not get any worse. And, lastly, on a piece of legislation that I worked on this term with, again, Ryan Boop, chief of staff, and Nolan Ritchie, the executive director of Committee on Transportation, and Senator Martin and Senator Dinniman as my second and third, we were able to pass a piece of legislation that was landmark for this Commonwealth which increased the penalties of repeat DUI offenders who killed someone. Who were drunk, sometimes seven times, sometimes eight times, sometimes five times, repeat DUI offenders who, again, recklessly and dangerously got behind the wheel of a car and killed someone.

Mr. President, public safety is preeminent, and I am also proud of the fact that I worked on a piece of legislation with a number of my colleagues here, but especially a man who was a great friend and partner, Senator Sean Logan, we worked on Senate Bill No. 369, and Senator Logan always used to say, it would not have gotten through as fast if we did not have Senator Rafferty. We worked on it, and that piece of legislation gave full pension benefits to the widows or widowers of a police officer or first responder killed in the line of duty. I thought back to the horrific losses we had, especially with the State Police corporal killed up in Senator Baker's district, at least the family was going to get his pension benefits. That was the least this Commonwealth could do for them. I was very proud to stand with Senator Logan and Governor Rendell the day that bill was signed.

Lastly, one that has had far impact on public safety here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is our transportation bill. When I was appointed chairman of the Committee on Transportation by Senator Scarnati, he said, I need somebody aggressive to take the Committee on Transportation, you do it. I took that as Joe's signal to me to say, get the legislation done, do something to get transportation done. When I encountered that situation, I worked 2 years, 2 1/2 years having hearings throughout this whole Com-

monwealth. The Committee on Transportation would travel. We met with everybody who had an interest in transportation, Mr. President. We met with farmers, bicyclists, conservation districts, nonunion truckers, Teamsters, building and trades, Chamber of Commerce, AARP, mass transit, our freight rail, our ports, and our airports to make sure that what we did was multifaceted and multimodal. I had a stupendous and terrific partner in Barry Schoch, who was Secretary of Transportation at the time. We were able to get that piece of legislation worked on. I thank Senator Wozniak and Senator Costa on their side of the aisle for working with me on that piece of legislation, and certainly Senator Corman and Senator Scarnati for allowing me the freedom to work on that piece of legislation. So significant, and the Governor's Office kept saying that they did not care for that, it was too big of a program, and people said you will not get it passed. When it came out of the Committee on Appropriations, Jake, thank you for that, it came out of the Committee on Appropriations 24-0, I knew we had life. This body stood tall and voted 45-5 to pass that transportation bill. We got it to the House, we encountered some problems, we worked with Representative Vereb, my friend and colleague who is here with us today. Mike was very instrumental in stirring up some support there, Representative Reed and others in the House. Representative Briggs on the Democratic side kept saying, why are we not doing this? So, we were able to get enough support there in the House of Representatives to get it passed, it came back here for concurrence, then to Governor Corbett, and a \$2.4 billion package was instituted in this Commonwealth.

We are now seeing that coming to fruition with roads and bridges not only being repaired, but infrastructure being expanded. We just received an award. I received the award, but it was the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that received an award for what we did in Act 89 for mass transit. It was not a United States national award, it was a North American award. North America recognized Pennsylvania for what we did with Act 89. That will always be, I think, a landmark piece of legislation, and Senator Don White was my vice chair then and he was a huge proponent. He used to always push at me, let us get it done, and we did get it done. Today, not by my accounting, but the Governor's Office, Labor and Industry have all said 50,000 jobs were created. Everybody likes to say when they are running for office they want to create jobs. We did as a body. Fifty thousand jobs were created because of Act 89. That is a decade of enhancement, we are seeing it today, and I am very proud of that piece of legislation. I am proud of my colleagues here who stood tall, voted for it, and many who stood in support, Senator Eichelberger and Senator Folmer especially, because they were being attacked by the right, but they stood and recognized it as a constitutional duty of this Commonwealth.

Mr. President, I had the very, very good fortune of having worked with a number of partners here on both sides of the aisle. Senator Martin with the DUI legislation, Senator Vulakovich with a number of law and order pieces of legislation; certainly on the Democratic side, Senator Logan, who I mentioned, who is still my very close friend, Senator Connie Williams, Senator Mike O'Pake and I worked on legislation together, Senator Sabatina, Senator Schwank, and my friend and colleague from Chester County who shared so many similar ideas, especially on the environment, Senator Dinniman. It is to these people that I now am entrusting to them and all of my colleagues here to keep

the best interests of the public first and foremost. Like any good person, you cannot do it yourself. I have had a lot of support from the 49 Members of this body over the years, but I have had major support, encouragement, and counseling from a very wise staff who I was very fortunate to accumulate over the years, my district staff and Harrisburg staff. Nolan Ritchie, the executive director of the Committee on Transportation; Sean Moll, who is my legislative director; Cheri Mizdail, who had the toughest job of all, scheduling me and keeping my schedule straight for 16 years; and Cecilia Boyer, who has been our secretary for the committee and has done a terrific job. My district staff with Susanna Fahey and Julia Loehlein, who were with me from the beginning; Travis Kryder, Kevin DiGuiseppe, Kevin Nally, Josh Arnold, and Matt Dean, who are all with us here today. They are exceptional people. I am holding back with two. For 16 years in the Senate of Pennsylvania, I have had the good fortune of having two exceptional chiefs of staff who not only taught me the ropes but counseled me and, at times, had to reel me back in when I got out there too far. Mark Meyer, who was my first chief of staff, who is still with the Senate and a terrific and great individual, and Ryan Boop, who I came across one day in my office and, after a 20-minute conversation, I said I want you to come over here and be chief of staff and legal counsel. I always say I rescued him from the dark side and brought him over to the Jedi. Ryan has been terrific and a real asset to me, and they continue to be guidance for the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, God has been good to me and continues to be good to me. God has been good to this Senate, and may He continue to bless all of the Members, wherever their futures take them. I know that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and these 16 years will always be special in my life.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair takes note of the presence on the Senate floor of former Lieutenant Governor, President pro tempore, and Senator, Bob Jubelirer.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Bob, I almost did not recognize you, you look so relaxed, not like your Senate days, right? Nice to have you.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I cannot remember the exact year, and I do not even know if Senator Rafferty remembers this, but my first time I ever encountered him, I was a 20-some-year-old vice president of the Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs of Pennsylvania. He was one of the first legislators when we were tasked to come up here and talk about what the needs of it was, one of the first people that I ever met was Senator Rafferty. I remember going away thinking, wow, this guy is really down to earth, and thinking about how kind he was to a 20-some-year-old kid. As I continued to meet him over the years, what really stood out to me was the next time I saw him, he said, hey, Scott, you are from Lancaster County, right? My relationship with John over the years as I ended up getting involved in politics, it only grew from there. He is a decent man who cares so much about the work that he does, the people who work for him, and I think nothing more espouses that than some of the issues he has talked about. I grew up in a law enforcement family, and the issues that you just heard John talk about, when

a family sends their loved ones off to work a third shift, and they are doing highway stops or whatever, to know they have that safety that if something happens, that the family would be taken care of. You cannot underscore the importance of that enough.

I really want to point to two things this year and having seen it--and these are heartstring kind of issues that he had a real passion for, and I know there are people all across this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are very sad to see him go but extremely grateful for the efforts he put into it. First and foremost, I do not think anyone in this building will underscore the importance of our efforts with pediatric cancer research. When I came into this, and he has a lot on his plate, but he sat down and talked with me, and he said I would like to meet some people and this is an issue that I think you should get involved in and work with. Ironically, he also had the idea this is the kind you want to bring people in for. Let us reach out to a John Sabatina, let us reach out to a Ryan Aument in order to get this done. To this day, I still have families, as they come and tell their stories, who always ask about how Senator Rafferty is doing.

The other hits a little more closer to home, and that was obviously the landmark DUI legislation we helped get through. It was his vision and strategy on how to get that bill done that brought that to fruition. I have seen him interact with families with whom many of us have stood on stage holding pictures of their loved ones who have lost their children, husbands, spouses, coworkers, to people who are repeat DUI offenders, and his efforts to bring that across the finish line and get all of the right people involved and the right partnerships is something that truly cannot be understated and is something that will directly impact all of the citizens of this Commonwealth in helping to keep these roads safe for years and years to come.

So, Senator Rafferty, on behalf of all of those families who are going to miss you tremendously and the work that you do, and as the son of a lifetime law enforcement officer who is a big John Rafferty fan, and I know there are a lot of men and women who are first responders across this Commonwealth that you have been their champion over the years, and for me from a human being perspective, thank you for your kindness, having open arms when I came in and showing me how things were done. You will be missed, my friend, and may God bless you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, I have served with Senator Rafferty for 16 years, and he has been a great proponent of law enforcement and has been very, very strong in public safety, but what I think I am going to miss most is you presiding over the Senate, Senator. You were probably the best person ever to preside over the Senate when we needed it. Except for you, Lieutenant Governor. But when we needed a temporary to fill in for you, Senator Rafferty was best.

The PRESIDENT. I am with you all the way on that one, Senator.

Senator TOMLINSON. But, seriously, your work on public safety and law enforcement, but the funding of transportation is probably the one that I think affected most of us in this State. I just cut the ribbon, about a month ago, for the Interstate 95 Turnpike connection, a \$450-million project, thousands and thousands of construction jobs. The Philadelphia Economy League predicts there will be another 3,000 jobs and another \$450 million worth

of economic development right in lower Bucks County. We fought and fought for that and you delivered that funding. It is 14 bridges and 3 1/2 miles of overpass. It is a spectacular addition. It is the last connection between Maine and Florida, but it is also the connection of my part of this county and southeast Pennsylvania to the rest of the world, and the economic development will weigh all the way down to the Port of Philadelphia, it will affect the city of Philadelphia. It was such an important project, \$450 million.

Over \$400 million in that bill for mass transit, building us train stations and providing transportation to most of our suburban people who live in Bucks County but work in Philadelphia. We could not have our economy in southeast Pennsylvania without supporting mass transit. Senator Rafferty, you were the champion for that. You were the one who brought that bill home. It might have been \$2.4 billion statewide, but in my district it was well over \$600 million just in transportation, not including mass transit. That is an incredible accomplishment for any Senator, but you brought that home, you worked hard on that. I cannot thank you enough for the work that you did on that. You have been a great friend and colleague. I have enjoyed my work with you in the Senate, but your work on that transportation bill created more jobs in this State than anybody could talk about.

Congratulations on your accomplishments; it has been an honor for me to serve with you. God bless you, and enjoy your retirement.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, for the citizens out there in the Commonwealth, every time you see a detour because a bridge is being done or a road is being paved, repaved or reconstructed, just think of one man who made it happen, and he is right there, Senator John Rafferty. He shepherded a bill, and I know everyone is talking about it, but something that we thought was almost impossible in the House--and Representative Vereb could speak to that--he was able to get it done. But one of the things that always stays with me, and will stay with me forever, is the kindness of John Rafferty. In the hallways when I was a lowly Representative, he would always stop by, how are you doing, with a smile, and he would put his hand out. Is there anything I can do for you in the Senate? That type of individual. His closing comments, and it really tells the story about John Rafferty, he reached out to both sides of the aisle to work together. When you work together, good things happen and, John, you are going to be sorely missed. You are a friend and I learned a lot from you being on the Committee on Transportation the last few years. Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth and to the people of this great State.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, in this era of hyper-partisanship and when the nation and even the Commonwealth sometimes comes apart because we do not respect each other, when we only think of Democrat or Republican, John Rafferty has been a refreshing and important voice. You see, to get good legislation done, to represent all the people, you need someone who reaches out, who understands what, who under-

stands the entire constituency. The very nature of the Senate, the House, are political entities, but we are something more when we have bridges. John Rafferty was such a bridge, was he not? And that is why we are honoring and applauding him today. He was a bridge between all of us, no matter what our political party is. You know, John was my partner in Chester County and we worked together as one. We trusted each other implicitly. If there had to be a proclamation given, I had no trouble giving it to John to present, or if I could not show up to someplace, I had no problem and John had no problem with representing both of us. That is the way it should be. That is the way it should be here. When you think about it, that transportation bill was a heavy lift, man. Everyone said, oh, it was not going to be done, and by the way, the Governor at that particular time was not so helpful either in getting that thing accomplished. But John did it. As others have said here, we see the creation of jobs and opportunity as a result of all of that.

So, John, we not only wish you well, but you know Elie Wiesel, the author, said that the two most delicious words in the English language are "and yet." What did he mean, "and yet?" He meant that we can do great things if we have hope, and hope comes out of faith, my friends. We can do great things if we still believe in the American dream. We can do great things if we come together as one, if we overcome the hyper-partisanship. If we overcome what divides us. The politics will continue, that is okay. That is part of the nature of American society. But we need to have people like John Rafferty who are willing to reach out as partners, who are willing to bring people together.

So, John, we wish you the very best, and we wish the best to each of us, because perhaps what, as I was sitting here listening, I realized is that this is no different than a graduation from college or a graduation from high school where we always say that commencement is the beginning of something new, do we not? These are very emotional and special moments for our colleagues and for each of us who have had friendships with each and every one of these great individuals. So let us, if we can, celebrate their public service, let us celebrate bipartisanship, let us celebrate the diversity which is the greatness of Pennsylvania.

So, to each and every one of you, best wishes. I really believe in my heart, and I found this in my own life and I think all of you found it in your lives as well, sometimes it is hard when you leave someplace. It is very hard. Your friends, and I can see the emotion on people's faces and it is okay. It is the way it should be. If people did not show emotion, then one would wonder, but the emotion shows the commitment they had to this body, the love they had for this body and to all of us and the people of Pennsylvania. But understand that if you are a person of faith, God has something in store for you in terms of where you go. Each of us has gifts that the Lord has given us, and so each of us will take those gifts into a new dimension and into new opportunities and we as a society will continue to prosper, will continue to grow thanks to those legislators who have done so much and are retiring today.

So God bless each and every one of you. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

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

Senator SABATINA. Mr. President, I will be brief. I came over from the House in a special election in 2015, and by the end of 2016, I was named the Democratic chair of the Committee on

Transportation. After a week of convincing people that, no, Senator Costa was not high or drunk or did not lose his mind naming me as the Democratic chair of the Committee on Transportation, I was greeted by Senator Rafferty. Senator Rafferty, from the get-go, offered me a partnership, if you will. He had the votes to do whatever he wanted in the Committee on Transportation, but that is not how he operates. He operates on a partnership level, and I was taken aback from it because he included me in everything - decisions, bills, meetings, you name it. There was not anything that Senator Rafferty did not include me on, and it built such a quick relationship of trust and friendship and admiration and is something that I was not really used to and did not have a lot of experience with. Usually, you take your lumps and you go to the next meeting, but with Senator Rafferty it was different. I could tell it would be a great experience for me sitting with him and learning from him all there is to know about transportation.

I only hope I can stay on the Committee on Transportation long enough to learn half as much as you know, Senator. And to all of the Senators here who are moving on, I always looked at it, and I told Senator Rafferty this, it is God's way of telling you it is time to do something else. So thank you, John, for your friendship and your cooperation and your example that you set. I think if we all ran committees like you did, this place and this world would be a lot more peaceful and uniform. So thank you, everyone.

(Applause.)

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, John, people have been saying really nice things about you, and my job is to even the playing field a little bit and pull out some of the Rafferty quirks that you may have. First of all, I am not sure everybody realizes this, but this is a bad day for the John caucus. If you are not aware there is a John caucus, there is a John caucus and we meet at least once a year. Let us see, Blake, DiSanto, Eichelberger, Gordner, Rafferty, Sabatina, and Yudichak. Think about it. There is a John caucus, and today we are losing two Members of the John caucus, Eichelberger and Rafferty. So, on behalf of the John caucus, we are sorry to see you go. If you could pick up the bill for the next time, that would be awesome, but we will miss you not being a part of that bipartisan group.

Secondly, one of the quirks that John has, the first desk that John came to is the desk that he is leaving. Many of us who started over there, and I am looking at the Martins and the Regans and such who now have an opportunity to come this way, John was one who said, I started at this desk and I want to leave at this desk, and, in fact, 16 years, that little note that is in our desks is going to have your name and your name only on the desk. If you have not noticed, the flags have been moved. I am not sure all the reasons why you deemed Senator Aument as the keeper of the flags, but as you know for a long, long time, those flags have been front and center on John Rafferty's desk, and if you know John Rafferty, that is not a surprise that they have been there all that time.

It is funny that Senator Jubelirer is here, and I think Senator Brightbill is up there as well. John likes 1 o'clock Sessions. He likes 1 o'clock Sessions to begin at, what time, John? 1 o'clock. For many years, Senator Jubelirer and Senator Brightbill, 1 o'clock started around, what, 3 o'clock, John? John did not like that; John did not like that at all. John also likes 6 o'clock din-

ners. John does not like 7 o'clock dinners or 7:30 dinners or 8 o'clock dinners. If you do not want John to attend, you invite him to a 7 o'clock dinner because John will not attend. He will come to a 6 o'clock dinner. I am with you, as you know, with that, John.

So, this is a little private thing, but I have to mention, we had a Senator by the name of Jane Orie, and Jane would introduce guests, she would introduce guests many a time. It was one time when John and I realized that the guests that Jane were introducing were not there. We noticed it a second, a third, and a fourth time, so when Jane used to stand up to introduce guests, we would both stand right there and Jane, to her good humor, would start to say, I want everyone, including Senator Gordner and Senator Rafferty, to recognize my guests, that we knew were not there, is that correct, John? That is correct. We used to look behind the pillars thinking they were hiding behind the pillars.

John has an Irish wit and--I am looking at Ryan and Mark-- John has an Irish temper. Have you ever seen the Irish temper? Even those of us in caucus have seen the Irish temper, but we have also seen the Irish wit, and it is part of knowing who John is and knowing that you knew where John was coming from. John is a sports fan. You go into his office and you see lots of sports memorabilia, so Eagles championships and Phillies championships and maybe 76ers championships with their new teammate is something that is very special to John. I think John Sabatina just mentioned about meetings. The good news is if you want a quick meeting, you go to a John Rafferty meeting, because if you arrive at 11:06 for an 11 o'clock meeting, it is over. I have never seen anyone move a meeting as quick as John Rafferty. That was appreciated, John, for what you did.

Look, on a more serious note, John has left his fingerprints on a lot of issues. He has been the chair of the Committee on Law and Justice and got knee-deep in so many different issues in regard to that. It has already been talked about in regard to the Committee on Transportation. Again, I served with John on the Committee on Judiciary for 15-plus years and John became very active in all of those issues as well. If you have ever wanted to know where the DAs stood, if you ever wanted to know where the State Police stood, if you have ever wanted to know where the corrections officers stood, you knew that John Rafferty would be able to guide you in that direction because if there was a law and order issue, that was John Rafferty. Look, not many of us get the experience to run statewide, and not many of us want to get the experience to run statewide, but John Rafferty took that on and ran for Attorney General and went statewide and visited with folks, and I know it was an exhausting but a very moving and a great experience for you getting all around the State and talking about issues that are important to you and meeting people who have become very important to you as well.

I am going to finish almost like I did with Senator Greenleaf in regard to John the person. John goes to Mass every morning, bright and early. John is an incredibly religious person, a very spiritual person. Whenever there was a new Pope vacancy, we always wondered whether John was going to get those puffs of smoke to become the Pope or the Cardinal or the Bishop or whatever, but faith is very important to this person, and it has been a guiding example to him throughout his life. John, again, thank you for your friendship, thank you for your service, and thank you for your leadership in the Senate of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. I also acknowledge the presence of the former Majority Leader who is also here in the gallery, Senator Chip Brightbill is with us. He is up there.

(Applause.)

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, Senator Rafferty is really not this good of a guy, so we do not really need to go on and on. But, in all seriousness, one other accomplishment that has not been mentioned yet that many of you may not know about or read about, other than maybe Senator Tomlinson or Senator Greenleaf or myself who served here before Senator Rafferty, and Senator Costa, but before Senator Rafferty came here we did not say the pledge. We did our opening prayer and went onto business. After Senator Rafferty got here, in the first year or so, he said, why do we not say the pledge? That seems to be common sense. Sure enough, we did a rule change and from that point on we started to say the pledge every day. It is something that we take for granted, but it also speaks to the patriotism, he is a man of faith and a very patriotic individual. Something as simple as that never happened here in the Senate until Senator Rafferty got here. So, another significant accomplishment which we all may not think too much about doing it every day, but an important one, an important change for the Senate of Pennsylvania. So, again, Senator Rafferty left his mark.

So my friend, good luck to you, and we will see you around the block I am sure many times. God bless.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Senator, I do not want to keep us here all day long, but we would have never passed a motion here without your presence. You are the only guy who says "aye," so you need to appoint someone to take your job.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, Senator Folmer.

The PRESIDENT. Sounds good.

Also, a lot of people do not know that Senator Rafferty is also a frustrated actor. He and I visited the set of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* a few years ago and we got asked to do a riff for a promo where he and I spontaneously talked about what a horrible show it was, even though we both like it, and it got on YouTube somehow. But our enemies have made it disappear because they know it would have won an Emmy, right Senator? So, I look forward to working with you in those next areas of our careers.

Thank you for everything, Senator. You have had a huge impact.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes a great Senator who has really made a difference, the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Vulakovich.

Senator VULAKOVICH. Well, Mr. President, most of my speech is going to be about the people who surround me and made a lot of sacrifices and were very loyal. First, my wife, Bobbie. You know, your wives or your male spouse, they make a lot of sacrifices for what we do here and what we do at home. When someone puts bad words to something that you did, when they criticize, make fun of you, it hurts, and it really hurts your family. When you go through an election, when someone tries to chew you up, they take it very hard. We take it much easier, we understand it goes a little bit with the territory. I do not agree with it. I think there is a sleaziness and evilness sometimes to

politics that I totally despise, but it is not about what we do here in this hall. My wife, and my daughter, Stacy; her boyfriend, Tim; my son, Randy, and his wife, Marissa; my grandchildren, Tyler, Emmy, and Drew, and little Emmy you are watching this on TV, if this is on TV, I do not know, but you are watching Pap-Pap now. Grandma is there with her, she had a little accident riding a horse, and she likes her grandma around her, so grandma stayed home today.

My mom, 92 years old on Saturday, and she took the election hard, too. She did not understand why people did not like her son. I said it is not that they do not like me, mom, they just disagree with some things. But 92 years old, I am still her little boy. My sister, Deb, who took it hard, too. We are very close. My brother, Tom, his wife, Lisa, and my nieces and nephews. All that immediate family, they have a part in your life when you are up here. Whether it is in the House or the Senate or some other position, a part of their life is involved with you because they miss you at certain times. My wife, always there, my most staunchest person on the campaign, every day she would go door to door when I ran my campaign. Out there getting signatures, relentless, trying to help me out, especially when I could not be at home because I was here in Harrisburg. Always worked very hard for me, and I am sorry that she is taking it so hard.

My district office staff. Without our staff, most of us are really nothing. We could never get all this done. Our staff is everything to us, and their loyalty is so important. They make a lot of sacrifices sometimes. You know, I have said some things and done some things that I wish I would not have done, and they take the brunt of it because they want to be true to me, but at the same time they know I made a mistake.

Melissa Girty, my chief of staff, has been with me since 2006 when I opened up my House office. You really do not know what you are doing when you get into this kind of work, and Melissa Girty came through from the House. She has been with me ever since. It is people like your chief of staff, especially who has been with me for 12 years, that I am going to miss. She has made me look good, along with the rest of the people on my staff.

Nick Martrano has been with me a long time. Nick is just one of those guys who, when people come in he says, I want to help that person, and he goes out there and does everything he can do.

Amber Lepic came on and she assumed some responsibilities and she is very thorough in what she does and she really cares about the people.

Scott Frankowski came on a little later in the Senate, filled a position, a void. Scott is one of those people who sits down and you are talking about something and he says, I know a guy, and sometimes that scares me. He knows a guy, and he knows everybody.

Aleta Weakland is a person who is real involved with people with disabilities because her son has very special needs.

Dave Shutter, a good friend of mine who was with my district staff, he was my chief of staff for a while in the House and also for a short time in the Senate. He is one of my dearest friends and we still are very close.

Jim Fisher who worked for me. Jim Fisher came on board and he was a school board member for years and we would sit down and debate all the school issues.

Joe Weidner, I want to mention him. He worked for Senator Vogel for a while, and he also worked for me in the House, and

we would debate bills. He would sit down and take one position and I would take the other.

Melissa Hanza was with me for a very short time, but I want to mention her, as I want to mention all of these people, because it was so wonderful, the people who came into my office. I told them, some things that come in might sound a little crazy, but if it is important to them, it should be important to you to come to some type of closure, even if you have to tell them something that they do not want to hear.

Joe Pulgini, I thank him for working in my office. He worked with veterans and with people with special needs.

Bob Griffin, who has passed away, but Bob was very good, he would come in 2 days a week and work in my office in the House.

Rachele Heintz came in and worked for me. I worked with her son on the police force.

Sal Marsico, who was a close friend, he would come in and volunteer in my office too, back when we could do that, back in the House.

Harrisburg staff: Nate Silcox has been director of my committees through the period of time, Committee on Communication and Technology, Committee on Aging and Youth, and he moved up to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness. I will tell you, he works hard. I can call him at 2:30 or 3:00 in the morning, and I am not kidding, he is awake. He is absolutely awake. When you go back to my chief of staff, I swear she is awake too because she will get some email that comes in someplace and first thing in the morning she is on there letting me know about it. She knows that I stay up late at night, and she will send me something. So, here you got your chief of staff and the director of your committee, and believe me, I am so proud of what we have accomplished on that committee. So very proud. Nate, give him directions, he charts the course and we go.

Monica Armstrong, thorough, wow. Anything I give her is done immediately, and if it cannot be done immediately, the process has already begun. She is so thorough, I will come in and say, did you, and then I stop myself and say, I do not even need to ask you because I know you did it. That is how thorough she is.

Charlie O'Neill. Charlie was with me, he went away for a while to work on some people's campaigns. But when Charlie was there, he was the person who would go out and talk to all the different committee people and the other Senators and people in the House and try to work out things to get bills passed, even bills that I was not a sponsor of, if I thought they were worth it I wanted to know if we could get them done somehow.

Scot Pitzer came in when Charlie left. He is now with Senator Alloway, a great guy. He really worked well for me for the short time he was there and he gave it his all and he would bring some people in who were controversial and when they would leave, they were not so controversial anymore. Good guy.

Ryan Deloinger came with me for a very short period of time, and Ryan is another one who was really supportive of me. He is a very bright young man and worked very hard. Nate was in charge of trying to get Scot and Ryan both during that transition period to figure out how we work our office.

Rachel Washic came in a little bit late. Rachel, I apologize to you. You came in at a bad time after I lost the election, and it was not where you could see me at my best. So I apologize for that.

State House Harrisburg staff: Maureen Payne Berezna. John Payne was my mentor in the House of Representatives. His daughter worked for me over there in the office and she took care of my needs. Everything I needed, she was right there. She came in early, left late, whatever I needed, covered my back, because you only had one person over there to do all the work.

Patricia Geiger. Patricia, if you are watching this--Patricia is from the Lancaster area and she came with me and she said, you know, I do not know a whole lot about this job when I interviewed her, but I knew she wanted to do it, and I said, well, we are going to grow together. I put her on and it was a wonderful experience.

I thank my Leadership. I could mention everybody, but, specifically, if I could mention Senator Scarnati and Senator Corman, who were always there with me. Through the tough time in my primary, they never abandoned me and they stuck with me. They were very good to me over a period of years.

I also want to thank Senator Reschenthaler, because he took some of the burden off of me. At one time in Allegheny County we had six Senators, and I was the only Republican, so everything came to me. Some people would like that. I did not. It was a lot to handle. So, Senator Reschenthaler came in and I thought we will split this Allegheny County, you handle that part and I will handle this part over here to get the things that everybody needs, because you have to work together on both sides of the aisle. It is not fair that you do not take care of the other people on the other side of the aisle when you represent the same county. So, I thank him.

Now to mention, I want to tell you that you people have really treated me well here on the other side of the aisle, so very respectful to me and encouraging and complimentary. I cannot mention everybody on this side because, well, it would go on forever because I can tell you my favorite stories about them, but especially I want to acknowledge my good friends Senator Costa, Senator Fontana, and Senator Brewster. There is our Allegheny group, Senator Reschenthaler, myself, and those three. We worked very well together. We got a lot done. Sometimes you measure accomplishments not by what you got done but what will continue after you leave. I worked very hard to not have that aisle in Allegheny County, to have us all work together. We might vote quite differently up here on issues, we might have differences in debate, but back home it was about working for the people. I do not know, but I hope that will be sustained. I might have failed my part there to make it strong enough that it will last, but I pray that it will. I thank my friends, all of you, from across the aisle.

I thank Senator Eichelberger, because I will tell you, there are a lot of things that are in law that had to be kind of put together the right way and you had to update things and you did a lot of stuff in the Committee on State Government to bring all of those different pieces up, and they needed to be done. You have to really clean house once in a while.

Senator Greenleaf is a legend. Thirty years as chairman of one committee, the Committee on Judiciary, and 42 years altogether. Amazing. He is one who no one will ever forget. And a gentleman. We had a few disagreements in the end here, nothing major, but just differences of opinion, but I tell you, one of the nicest people I have ever met. Truly, I do not know if anybody will ever surpass what he has done.

Senator McIlhinney, liquor was a big issue, and we had some differences there, too, but in the end, you came up with a solution. We will work it in bits and pieces and see how it all works out, but we will start working on a major problem, and I think it is working out very well, and I thank you for that. It was a big issue.

Senator Rafferty, Act 89, I know all of the things that you did, but Act 89 was one of the biggest pieces of legislation ever to come out of here. I got pounded on that in the primary. I lost because of that bill, but I will tell you something right here before everybody, if I had to put that vote up again, I would put that vote up. That had to be done. It was neglected, it is a good piece of legislation, and I will tell you it is going to make this whole State a better place to live. It is one of the most major bills we ever did. I am proud, and I am proud of the part I did, and I will own up to it. I helped get that bill passed over in western Pennsylvania for those people, I am proud of it, and I would do it again knowing I would lose the election.

Senator McGarrigle. The first time I met him, I liked him. He is an affable man. In the short time he was here, not much shorter than me, I only had 6 years here but he had 4, and he did a lot of good things. We saw that last night in the video of everything he did. I thank him and I understand his son had some type of operation and that is why he is not here, and I hope everything goes well for him. I really do.

In closing, I sit in Senator Waugh's seat. When I first came here, I was up here someplace, I was only here a short time, and Senator Waugh was another one of those people who I met that I instantly liked, and, unfortunately, we lost him way too early. I asked for his seat. If he is looking down on us today, I hope I did his seat honor back there by having my name on that list with his. He was a really good guy.

I spent the morning coming in here, and a lot of people came into my office and unexpectedly showed up to say goodbye. To all of those people, and to the people over the last couple of months who have been coming into the office to talk to me, I thank you. I thank you very much. One thing I will tell you, you know, we got along to work together, and I am going to say this, the extreme left and the extreme right get nothing done. They do not. Everybody else is in here and they want us to work together. They do not want to hear notes that are constant all of the time like talking points. They do not want to hear that. They want things done, and you get things done by working together and compromising and not grandstanding by beating somebody up and creating your own narrative. That is what the people want, and that is what I hope I was part of, because it is about compromise. I do not like when people say, well, that is what got us in this problem is, compromise. I disagree with you. You can put those things aside you really cannot agree on and you can get those other things done by talking and coming to common agreement on certain things. Not everybody is going to get everything they want, but the people expect us to get things done.

I came into this place, I believe, with honor, and all I wanted to do was leave with honor. So I pray that I have accomplished that. I will not be remembered in a short period of time and it is not going to be remembering Representative Vulakovich or Senator Vulakovich. As the old saying goes, and paraphrasing it a little differently, I am very ordinary. But I tried to do extraordinary things and hope that I somehow came to the middle and made this just a little better world for people to live in who I

represent. For those of you who I have offended in some way during my period of time here, I ask for your forgiveness. I leave my family with no great wealth, but will leave them with my reputation. I hope that I have served well and honorably. Like I said, I will not be remembered as a great Senator, a great Representative, but I will be remembered as Officer V, I will be remembered as Dad, and Pap-Pap. I could not ask for any better titles than those three.

So, to close, I will leave you with a very short prayer. I say it every time I walk into church at Mass and at the offertory: May God grant all of you serenity to accept the things you cannot change, the courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference. With that, I will paraphrase something from one of our great generals. I will say it a little differently: old Senators never die, they just fade away, and I will fade away. Thank you. God bless you.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Officer V.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I really want to be looking at you, Randy, when I speak, so I am going to take another mic, if you do not mind. You know, Randy, I served with you in the House and here in the Senate. We sat in that next to the last row. There was not a person who sat in front of you, who sat alongside of you in that same row, myself, Representative Peifer, that whole group, and then the folks behind you, who did not have the ultimate respect for you. You know, there might be some people who might work as hard as you on legislation and how you read each and every individual bill, every word. There might be some just as much as you, but nobody harder than you. When you came over to the Senate, I was blessed to be across from you for 4 years downstairs, and, you know, you are one of the nicest people that anybody would want to meet. When you said over here that you lost, the people of the 38th Senatorial District lost because what you did for them, they do not know. They do not realize it until you are gone. What you were able to do here for them and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you are going to be missed, my friend. I wish you the very best.

(Applause.)

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

Senator WARD. Mr. President, you know, I knew Randy Vulakovich and helped Randy while he was running for the House. He had not even met me, but I was friends with his son and I would go and help his son. It was back in my political days, he was running for the State House and we were knocking on doors. Who knew that years later my son would then help Randy, so we became a big family.

Randy was a public servant as a police officer, and he carried that here into the Senate and he continued with his knowledge and his commitment to emergency services. He carried that here and he served them well. Probably better than anybody else could have here. You know, he talked a little bit about how he, you know, did what he thought was right, and that is just the kind of legislator that you want. I saw Randy in a rest stop while he was in the State House, it was not a rest stop, it was a Turnpike plaza, and I said, Randy, you should run for the Senate. He said, I do not know, I do not think so. I am like, why not? You will win. He said, because I like my State House. I like that I can call

everybody back every night and that I can talk to them and that I know them because the district was manageable. So he came to the Senate, he ended up running, of course we all know, and he won and, you know, he continued that work ethic. I remember many times going to dinner with Randy and then going back to my hotel room and Randy was coming back to the Capitol. He was going to read the legislation and read everything that we were going to do the next day. He was such a great, committed public servant and he spent a lot, a lot of his time, much more than many of us, making sure that he knew everything that was happening and how he could best serve his constituents. He was like the Republican across the aisle over there in Allegheny County, he was like the Allegheny County go-to Republican.

So you know, Randy, you are not really going, we are not really saying goodbye. You are only an hour away and you and I are still going to start that private investigation firm, right? You are the front man, I do the investigation. But, you know, I will miss you here, Randy. I love you.

(Applause.)

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, as we finish up, and not necessarily fun being last in the alphabet, you were last on the floor today, but it is always hard to say goodbye to all six of the Members we are talking about today. I take this one a little more personally. As Senator Brightbill can tell you, as Majority Leader, our job is to get votes. If we are going to pass budgets, if we are going to pass infrastructure bills, if we are going to pass public safety bills, we need "yes" votes. At the end of the day, we have to vote "yes" to get things done to govern. We have to govern. We have to pass budgets to keep the government of Pennsylvania operating. We have to pass infrastructure bills sometimes for the better part of our community. We have to pass public safety. We need "yes" votes. It is easy to vote "no," that is pretty simple; but we need "yes" votes to govern, and Randy Vulakovich was a "yes" vote. He was a person of courage who would vote "yes," even though it had some political consequences.

Now, we spent the better part of an hour lauding Senator Rafferty for his transportation infrastructure bill and the benefits it has had throughout the Commonwealth. Benefitted my district, although I do curse Senator Rafferty every time I go by an orange cone and get delayed in traffic. Short-term pain for long-term gain, I get it. But we spent the better part of an hour, and then, coincidentally, the next person we talk about is Senator Vulakovich who, as he said, lost a primary because he voted "yes." A bill that was good for Pennsylvania, I know a bill that was good for Allegheny County. I saw the "Batman" movie, there are a lot of bridges in Allegheny County, right? There were a lot of bridges that needed help. We passed that bill 45-5. We could have passed it 44-6. He could have taken a pass and said, you know, it is a little politically dicey for me, I am going to vote "no." But he said, no, this is good for my community, and I am going to vote "yes." And you just heard him say it, I wanted to break out in applause, but I did not know if it was appropriate, that if he had do it all over and it would cost him his election, he would still vote "yes." That is courage. That is a man of convictions. He cared more about his community and making it better than his own career here, necessarily, in Harrisburg. If it had to come to an end, it came to end in a way that he could hold his

head high. You know, it was not a bunch of anonymous money and campaigns where people can hide behind contributions to take shots at legislators who make the votes. He put his name behind it, and if we have any courage next year, we will do something about anonymous money in politics.

Randy Vulakovich is a man, he said he may not be the greatest legislator, but there is no one here with more character, no one here who cared more about his community. Someday when I grow up, I want to be like Randy Vulakovich. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I beg the indulgence from my colleagues to be able to provide a few remarks and, probably most importantly, to speak about my friend and our friend, Senator Vulakovich. I guess I cannot say it any better than Senator Corman has just stated in terms of how many folks feel about the man who has represented many parts of Allegheny County for a number of years. I would be remiss if I did not stand up and thank him for the work he has done on behalf of Allegheny County, along with my colleagues Senator Brewster, Senator Fontana, Senator Reschenthaler, Senator Smith, and Senator Logan, and so many others before who were part of our delegation. I can tell you that in many instances, Senator Vulakovich was one of the first people to reach across the aisle and say that we needed to work together to get something done for our county and making certain that we understood the impact along those lines. What comes to mind, probably most significantly, and I am not quite sure who it was who talked about him having an impact and having it be a sustainable impact that is going to be here for a long time. I worked very closely with Randy and our county executive and other members on pension legislation for Allegheny County, right on the heels of what we did in 2010 with Act 120. Randy came and said, we need to work with our county executive to get this done and make changes to our pension system in Allegheny County that, over a 50-year period, will save our county \$1 billion, but it goes beyond that.

I had the privilege of serving the last several years as co-chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness. He has been an outstanding chair. I do not think many folks in this room appreciate the work that he has done along those lines and his work that will have lasting impact. 9-1-1 fees now provide critical services to our first responders and folks across this Commonwealth so our emergency responders and law enforcement folks can communicate to one another, which was shepherded into law with Randy's work and making a major impact in advancing the technology in each of our counties to help our counties be able to deal with the costs of making certain they are upgraded and doing things along those lines.

We are still working on Senate Resolution No. 6 to put into place a series of recommendations along the lines of a number of areas dealing with our first responders, our fire folks, revisiting that whole conversation. Recently, we expanded the Veterans Trust Fund to allow more folks to be able to access resources along those lines. That is something that the committee as a whole and the previous chairman had worked on that, but it was something that was significant that we needed to get done.

In the city of Pittsburgh, Randy had two small wards. Two wards in the city of Pittsburgh, the 11th Ward and 12th Ward, yet, he was so much a part of the conversations that we had,

along with Senator Fontana, working with city officials to advance various pieces of legislation. When there were issues with our Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, or ICA, it was Randy, working with Senator Fontana and myself, to shepherd legislation through both this Chamber and help us on the House side to get it done, to make reforms along those lines. When we had issues with respect to lead pipes and things of that nature in Pittsburgh and lead in our water, we are working closely to address those issues to be able to allow private laterals to be part of the conversation, and the list goes on.

They talked about Act 89, and while we did talk a lot and Senator Corman referenced the bridges and highways, probably the most significant part of that legislation was not about either one of those, it was about our mass transit system in Allegheny County. Our Port Authority was on the verge of reducing its services by 25 percent, raising fares, but also shutting down many routes over the course of weekends and evenings. We live in an area, particularly in the city of Pittsburgh, that provides a tremendous amount of hospital services, healthcare services to so many people in our county, it would have been devastating to those folks who worked there. It was working collectively together to support that legislation. It was Randy who understood that and made sure we did it along those lines.

There are a number of things I can point to, and I thank him for the tremendous work that he has done, but also, Senator Corman talked about being a "yes" vote, and that is important and that is our job as Leaders to be able to work with our Members to be able to get to that point. In 2016 or 2017, I believe, when we were at a stalemate, a lengthy stalemate, not the first one but when we did a revenue package, Randy Vulakovich stood with us and said, I am going to support a revenue package for this Commonwealth that is going to allow us to advance the budget to closure because we needed to bring closure to that issue at that particular point in time, and he was part of that conversation.

Randy, my hat is off to you. I cannot say it any better than Senator Corman. You are a good man, I look forward to working with you. I have gotten to know some of your family, your son in particular. You can see that the apple does not fall far from the tree, he is a good person like you are, and I would be remiss if I was not able to stand up and say that.

With regard to my other colleagues who are leaving, Senator Rafferty, I applaud you for the work that you have done. Certainly, Senate Bill No. 89 was a key part of that conversation, and you always made certain that you referenced the people who supported you. You are an outstanding public servant, and it goes beyond the transportation work that you have done. Your great work with our good friend, our mutual friend, Senator Logan, on the work that you have done with deceased men and women who lost their lives and the benefit remaining to them, but a whole host of things that folks talked about. You were always here, you always worked hard, and I applaud you for your service to this great Commonwealth.

Senator Greenleaf, I had the privilege of serving as the Democratic chair for 8 of his 30 years and, boy, it was a great learning experience and we were busy, and he had some great folks, Ron Jumper from my staff, and Greg Warner from Senator Greenleaf's staff was an outstanding person to work with, and those who served on the Committee on Judiciary with us during that time know what a wonderful role model, and as someone had

mentioned earlier, just an institution in history that we should not forget. My hat is off to all of you.

And Chuck and John, we appreciate your service. John and I did not work that close together on many issues, but I know that you worked hard and followed your heart and what you thought was important to the people of the district you represented in this Commonwealth, whether it be on the Committee on Education, the Committee on Local Government, I know was very important. Congratulations on many of those things you were able to advance there. Chuck, your work on liquor in the Committee on Law and Justice, it was outstanding from my perspective, maybe not from Senator Scarnati's place, but we thought it was good work along those lines, and I thank you for the work that you did, certainly with Senator Brewster, our colleague, but also with my brother, Paul, with whom you worked closely on the House side when the two of you were serving on those committees.

Mr. President, each of us have been blessed to be able to work with each other, but the folks who are leaving us we have been very fortunate to be able to serve with them as well. Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that we get here and we forget about some of those things, but today is a day where a lot of us are sitting here, and many of us old timers who have been here a long time are reflecting upon some of the things that we have done together in a bipartisan way, some of the things that we have advanced in the best interests of this Commonwealth. So, my heart goes out to all of you, Godspeed to all of you as you move forward, and I know we will be seeing many of you as we go forward.

Thank you for your indulgence, Members, and thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

FAREWELL TO MEMBERS (Continued)

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, Senator McGarrigle is in his district. He had an illness in his family and we wish him all the best. Unfortunately, this would have been his last day, as he lost his election last week I think mostly due to national issues rather than local issues. He is a man who only got to spend a term with us, but it was a significant term. The first time I called him after his election looking for support in Leadership races, he said the one thing you ought to know about a man from Delaware County, which means my word is my bond, he made a commitment and he will always be with you after that, and he always was. He has been a great friend and he was a great legislator. With his help, landmark Keystone Exam reform was passed, something Senator Dinniman was passionate about, which provides alternatives and options to fit the needs of all students. He passed vital domestic violence legislation allowing

for important extensions for the PFA process and greater safety. He worked on pay equity legislation, which created equal protection across the State and very important legislation regulating drug recovery houses, which created significant improvements in the Commonwealth's fight against opioids.

We talked a little about Senator Greenleaf earlier and his long career and prolific legislation. Obviously, Senator McGarrigle's career was far shorter, but it was very, very impactful, and I think everyone would say he was an affable guy. He was a great guy to have in caucus, a great sense of humor, always a good friend, and someone who will be tremendously missed. We look forward to spending some time with him in the near future. Unfortunately, he could not be here today, but I did not want the day to go by without remembering Senator McGarrigle and his great time he had here with us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Since everyone has been here so long, I have decided that I will torture people with only about an hour of remarks, because we are coming to the end of our term. I want to say that when I came out on the Senate floor, I got a chance to pose for a selfie with Kim and Camera, two dynamic Republican women from western Pennsylvania and two of my favorite people and friends. We got to pose for those selfies, which are a great way for all of us to connect with each other. As I have gone across Pennsylvania, people would often say, can we get a selfie with you? And I would say, of course, and then we would be standing there for a half hour or 45 minutes doing selfies. People would say, I bet you hate doing these selfies all the time with people, and I would say, are you kidding me? I am not going anywhere where everybody does not want a selfie with me. It is a wonderful honor that all of us have to serve and that I served.

I take this opportunity to thank all of my Senate colleagues for their tremendous guidance, their friendship, and encouragement over the years being here in this Chamber. You are all real folks and you are all public servants. We do not hear enough of that. There is nobody from the media sitting in the media boxes. They do not care about the positive stuff, they do not care about the bipartisanship, and that is a big problem. So, we have all got to work to continue to change that.

I thank my beautiful wife, Tonya Stack, who I know many of you know and are friends with, for all of her love and support. She might be watching this on PCN, but I sincerely doubt it. I express my gratitude to these tremendous Senate staffers, the wonderful job they do to make this Chamber run. We come out here and show up, and it is magnificent and it is a credit to all of the people of Pennsylvania and our great tradition. Their dedication and diligence are too often overlooked. These are the people who do great things. They are too seldom recognized. This includes our tremendous Senate Secretary, Megan Martin, whose guidance has been absolutely indispensable. People said to me when I came to the job 4 years ago, they said watch that lady. She is going to try to make you look like an idiot. I said I can do that on my own. She has done nothing but help me look professional, excellent, and make this Chamber run smoothly. So, great job, Megan, thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. So, I owe a debt to all of those on my staff who worked so hard and traveled so many miles across our Commonwealth to do so many positive things. I shout out Matt

Franchak, my chief of staff, who has been with me since he was an intern for another Senator. I was able to bring him on my staff as a legislative assistant, and then he made his way and became executive director and chief of staff into the Lieutenant Governor's Office. He does a wonderful job and will continue here in the Senate. He is a guy who, basically, like many of our great public servant staffers, rather than--his idea of relaxation is working on legislation. He would have to sneak away to work on policy. That is how dedicated he is. He is a great person, and we have many like that. Matt Franchak, thank you so much for all of your great work for me personally.

I thank the tremendous staffers on the Board of Pardons who have helped us make such incredible inroads on pardons and second chances. They are in the gallery and I pushed them hard to move more cases, to give more people second chances, and they responded. They did a great job and there they are. Folks, stand up so that we may recognize you. Thank you for all you do.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. I will tell you that I visited with Senator Rafferty maybe 12 years ago at Graterford Prison and we met a guy by the name of Thurmond Berry who was a veteran who was sentenced to life in prison without a chance of parole. We were talking about the whole issue of hope and the issue came up that the only problem with the pardons issue is you have politicians making the decisions. Where are you going to find politicians who are going to let lifers go even if it is in the interest of justice? Are they not going to choose their own reelection first and foremost? Then in my first couple of weeks in office, I meet this man again and he is in leg irons at Camp Hill prison seeking to have his sentence commuted. He remembered me and I remembered him. If you do not believe in some kind of higher power, after that experience for me, it is difficult to not believe that there is something greater than ourselves operating. We were able to commute that man's life sentence and he is a free man today, and he is making an impact to talk about second chances.

So, one day on this job has been worth every bit of it, and it has been a privilege of a lifetime. On behalf of, first, the people of northeast Philadelphia, I got a chance to do it as a Senator, and then the 13 million people of Pennsylvania. I lost three elections before I ever won my first election, and then I came to this Senate Chamber and I said, what have I gotten myself into? So, during the first 14 years, I learned the importance of reaching across the aisle, and if you are a Democrat in this Chamber, it is not like you have any other choice if you want to get anything done, but it was a really well-learned thing and we were able to get many things done.

So, over these past 4 years, I have traveled across the State from Erie to Bristol, from Matamoras to Mercer, and I learned the value of inclusion of diverse ideas that has been indelibly impressed upon me. Representing the vastly diverse corners of Pennsylvania has given me the opportunity to listen to a wide range of voices, ideals, and priorities, and as Lieutenant Governor I was able to find common ground with a surprising number of partners. On criminal justice reform and second chances, I worked with Senator Brooks and Senator Street and so many other Republicans and Democrats on this issue, all of you believe in the power of hope and redemption, and hope and redemption are not just words, they are actions. That has been an amazing experience that we are going to continue to do. On access to

clinical medical trials to finally speed up the pace to find a cure for cancer, I had the honor of working with Senator Scarnati, Senator Baker, and Senator Dinniman in passing real legislation that is going to save lives. There is no mistake about it.

With our friend, Senator Vulakovich, and others, Senator Alloway, and Senator Blake, on the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission, we stood up for the 50,000 jobs that our military assets are about. I always say if we could spend a quarter of the time that we spend trying to court Amazon on courting our military jobs, that would be time well spent. We fought for our veterans and we will continue to fight for them on our task force. Can we please? Can we please finally stand up for the people who have put so much on the line for all of us and served us, can we finally serve our veterans? Let us work on it together.

I am going to miss this work and it has been a great experience. I think it might be great training to someone who might want to be Governor, or U.S. Senator, or mayor of Philadelphia, who knows? The recent election is going to mean some significant changes in the Senate of Pennsylvania, and I know you guys are going to be ready. One of the sad ironies that I have learned during my career is that it is often the most reasonable and moderate voices of this Chamber that become the most vulnerable. It has been speculated that with these big Democratic victories that somehow bipartisanship is going to become even more difficult and progress less likely. I hope this is not the case. My experience has taught me that when we have differences, acrimony is not the way to deal with it. Even when it is the most painful, we have to attack our differences with love, justice, and collaboration. It is the only way. If we are uncomfortable with it, that means we are doing the right thing.

So, I urge our newest Members and our most senior Members to draw on experience instead of angst to guide them through the next Session. All of our constituents want the same things, and we talked about them for years. They want better schools, they want all neighborhoods to be safe, and they want good jobs that people do not have to be petrified about their economic future. None of us have all the right ideas. So, we have got to work together to make sure that we solve these problems because we have not solved them yet. We have well established through the remarks made here today and through what we have seen have been our arguments, that we know what our differences are. We have beat that into the ground. A real challenge is to find out where our similarities are, where we can work together, and that is going to take hard work, but only when we do that are we going to solve the real problems that the average people of Pennsylvania are counting on us to solve.

Once again, I thank you for the great opportunity to be with you. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we go forward and make Pennsylvania all that it can be. It is a wonderful State with so much to offer, and our greatest treasure are our people. Together we can really fight for them to get things done. Thank you all for your friendship and for your guidance. God bless you, and God bless the people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, I wish all of my colleagues who are leaving today the best, and it is been a true pleasure and

privilege to call you a colleague and a friend. I hope that you now have the opportunity to spend more time with your families because, as it has been said earlier, we do make a lot of sacrifices and miss a lot of time with our loved ones and our families, so I hope that now you have time to spend with your families.

Mr. President, I am going to miss you as well. I thank you for how you have presided over this Chamber. Whether it is Democrat or Republican, you have treated every Member in this Chamber with dignity and fairness and you have been gracious to each and every one of us. I thank all of your staff, and you as well, on behalf of all of my constituents who you welcomed into your office with open arms and spent time talking about the office. You are so gracious in taking pictures with them, spending time with them, and you can truly tell that you love this Commonwealth and the people in the State. I thank you and wish you the best.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator, very kind remarks. I appreciate all your work, and, you know, it is a great honor that we can open doors to our constituents and show them just the wonderful things that belong to them, this Chamber and this Capitol. I know that you are one of those people who like to bring your constituents around and introduce them to people, and that is really what it is all about. I think, once again, if the media and the people across the State would only talk about these things, I think it would be a more accurate portrayal of the folks who work here. Thank you for your friendship, Senator.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, very briefly, I forgot to mention Mimi Sack from my staff earlier, she was here as well. So I want to make sure I do that publicly.

Mr. President, you and so many of the Senate family we have here - Ann-Marie, Rob, Bobby, Chris, and Amy - who have been here from the beginning with me and really help keep this institution together and going in the right direction. You mentioned *It is Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. I do note that Rob McElhenney has not called us back yet, but we did do a great commercial for them in season four.

One thing that I want to highlight that you were part of and I was part of because of the Supreme Court, and that was the steering committee for the foundation of the Veterans Courts here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; specialty courts that have done a remarkable job in helping our brave men and women who have had issues from substance abuse or post-traumatic stress, instead of incarcerating them for maybe a wrongdoing, getting them the assistance that they need, they deserve, so they once again can become productive members of society. Mr. President, it was you and me and a few other Members who were on that steering committee who established the Veterans Courts, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve with you.

The PRESIDENT. Thanks again, Senator Rafferty. I look forward to working with you in the future. Truly a great Senator, a great public servant, and, mostly, a great friend and person. Not since grade school, and I think a lot of people feel the same way, could you walk into a room and say there is my guy. So I do not want to say you are going to be missed, because we are going to see you all over, I am going to see you all over, but thank you so much for all your great work on veterans, too.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Sabatina.

Senator SABATINA. Mr. President, I thank you for your leadership and your example that you set for me as the former Senator of the greatest Senate district in Pennsylvania, the Fifth Senatorial District. I would be remiss if I did not get up and thank you for the kindness that you have shown me, the example that you have shown me. As Senator Brooks said, you have impressed everyone with the way you preside over the Senate and the professional manner that you do. So thank you very much. I will be looking forward to working with you in the future, and until then, have a good day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Sabatina. I check in all the time, I call everyone in the Fifth Senatorial District and ask how you are doing and they all say you are doing pretty good. Thanks, Senator.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise and echo the comments of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Thank you for the manner in which you have presided over this Chamber. You were outstanding and always fair and worked with Members, and we truly appreciate that. But, more importantly, I have to say I appreciate the work you did through the Board of Pardons. You talked earlier about how you gave folks a second chance. You gave them an understanding of the process by which they could remove barriers to employment and barriers to housing and things along those lines, and it was outstanding work. But I would also be remiss if I did not talk about the work that you did when you served in the Senate with all of us as chairman of the Committee on Banking and Insurance for so many years. You did an outstanding job in that regard, and many of the things that some folks in this room worked with you on are still very important measures that have been enacted into law and are moving forward in a very positive way. So we thank you for that.

Most importantly, I guess, I thank you for your friendship and your relationship with all of our Members in our Caucus over the years. You have always been one of us, as we refer to it, and you always will be part of this Chamber. Certainly, but more importantly, part of our Senate Democratic Caucus. You have been a great friend. We will continue to see each other as we go forward, and I thank you very much on behalf of not only our colleagues who are here today, but many of the colleagues with whom you served who remain friends with you to this day. We thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you again, Senator Costa, for all your friendship. It has been an honor to work with you, and a privilege, and you have continued to develop and just like I have, just like we all do. You know, the day that we think that we have got it all together is the day that we are not going to be effective. You have to always be striving and, you know, I have always had that special connection with you when you told me that time that your mom was watching me on PCN talk about when families should all dine together. So I want to give her a shout-out again for the great job that she has done with you and your family. Great lady, great family, and you have made a huge impact in western PA but also our whole State, so thank you for everything.

Senator COSTA. Thank you, Mr. President, and I would be remiss if I did not mention the great work that Dylan has done for you, helping to manage the floor. Dylan is over here. He was

the liaison between us and you with respect to how we manage the floor. It goes to the manner in which you presided through this Chamber, so thank you very, very much for your kind words.

The PRESIDENT. Megan said, do you want to say something about Dylan? And I said, no. And then I thought, maybe I will, but thanks to you, Senator Costa, once again, I owe you a solid. Dylan has done an outstanding job and traveled the State with me, and something tells me it is not the last that I will see of Dylan McGarry, or that Dylan McGarry will see of me. Thank you, Dylan.

(Applause.)

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, just to echo briefly, you have been great to work with. First, when you were in the Senate, you and I had the opportunity to do some PCN shows together, and I can remember after one particular show I called my father afterwards and he said, how did you get that Democrat to agree with you on every issue? I said, we are not that far apart, even though one lives in Philly and one lives in central PA, you know, we just want the best things. You were always someone who can be worked with. In your time as Lieutenant Governor, your job a lot of times was to be the referee. We do not get into too many big battles here on the floor, but every now and then, usually when Senator Hughes is talking, we usually get into a big battle, but you always treated us fairly. You always gave us every opportunity and treated us fairly. You will be missed. I think in 2 months you will be really missed, but thank you for your time and thank you for your fairness, and I look forward to our friendship in the future.

The PRESIDENT. Me too, Senator. Thank you very much. Thanks for your leadership and, you know, thanks for being a real person. We got elected at the same time. Two years apart, but I just remember, you know, the way things were run around here, and it is part of how the institution evolves, it is differently handled now. And I feel like it is important for Members, even if you are not going to carry the day, for Members to get heard. It is the least you can do, so I think that is always a great thing, and you encouraged that and enabled people to get the respect that they deserved, their ability to make the arguments that they want and, if they can move a part of a piece of legislation, you helped them do it. I think that is amazing. Thank you for your great work. I am sure that is the influence of marrying out of your league and marrying a Democrat. So thank you very much, Senator Corman.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I share the same sentiments as Senator Brooks, thanking all of the colleagues who are leaving us today, but also to thank you for coming out to my district more than once to talk about the fast track to pardons and a way forward for a lot of people and our mutual friend now, Ashley Potts. I am sure if she were able to she would send the warmest hug ever for your help that you gave her with her pardon to start a new life and to move forward. I think that is just the beginning, and I am so deeply grateful for what you have done and what you have started. And as a chair, along with Senator Haywood, of the new criminal justice reform caucus, I can only hope we take those giant steps that you laid before us and continue down that path. I thank you very much for that.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you for your friendship and for all the great things that you have done, Senator. We had a great time in your district and we are making an impact. Just for your information, and others, in December we have 3 days of pardons hearings, I think it is a record number of pardons that we are hearing, so we are going to keep doing that, and we are starting a second chance foundation to try and continue this in Pennsylvania and nationally to tell people that a second chance is available. It is one of the areas where Pennsylvania is ahead of a lot of other States on the issue. So we will keep doing it. So thank you, once again, for your friendship, to me and to Tonya. We look forward to seeing you again. Thank you, Senator.

The Chair recognizes my feisty friend, the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, that is exactly why I got up here. I wanted to hear that one more time because I have a feeling I am not going to hear that in the next 4 years with the other Lieutenant Governor who is coming in.

Mike, what can I say? You have been a colleague for so many years of mine, you have been such a great friend, and I do not think people really know just how accessible you are and when you meet people, it is kind of infectious when you meet people and they love you. You love talking to them, you are accessible, you are positive, and you do actually listen to people, too, and I saw that when you came up with our pardons. There were not that many people there, but you sat and talked to every single one of them. You really listened to them and it mattered, and that is what you do for people. You help them. You have helped me personally; in my life politically as a woman in our Caucus it was sometimes a little difficult and I was trying to aspire into leadership and I have had numerous conversations with you and you just helped promote me to that and told me to just keep running and never give up, and as a woman I am blessed to have you as a friend to keep pushing me in that direction. You are so full of energy. I am going to miss you tremendously, but you are always going to be my friend.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator, I really appreciate that.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. I talk about 4 years ago, when I had a lot of commercials going on when I was running for Lieutenant Governor, we were visiting your area and we were walking down Main Street and people were saying, how many commercials do you have on, Stack? So I was walking down the street and I was like, why are these people not watching my commercials? Somebody came up to me and said, hey, hey, can I talk to you? I said, finally, someone has seen my commercial. And the guy said, is that Senator Boscola? I love her. She is feisty. Thanks, buddy. But I appreciate all you do, and we will do more.

Thank you, Senator.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I did not plan on saying anything at all today, but I wanted to say thank you to you for your kindness and your professionalism along the way. Coming from the House of Representatives, things did not always flow as smoothly as they do here in the Senate and I always thought that you do such a fantastic job of keeping things moving, keeping things lively, and as Senator Corman said, you are very fair. You would never know what party you are if you did not know. So I

really think that is something. And I always enjoyed our conversations about fashion, things like, hey, where did you get those cuff links, or thinking to myself, I wonder if I could pull off that blue jacket that the Lieutenant Governor is wearing?

The PRESIDENT. Oh, you have exceeded me.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, something tells me that I will not be having those same conversations with your successor, but thank you just for being a nice guy. You are always fun to talk to and always very kind and engaging, and it is been a real pleasure working with you. Godspeed.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator. I feel the same way, and I will see you on the path. Thank you for your kind remarks.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street.

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise, too, to join my colleagues in thanking you for your service. Since I have been a Senator, you have been great in terms of helping me in my transition into my role as a Senator, but even before that I have known you for a long time. Stacks and Streets have been supporting each other for a couple of generations now. And I thank you for all the work you have done, particularly your work on criminal justice reform. My predecessor, Senator Kitchen, I would be remiss if I did not bring up all the aid and assistance that you gave to her as a Member when she served here trying to move a criminal justice reform agenda. When you appeared in the Third Senatorial District, even when you were representing the Fifth Senatorial District, talking about those issues and helping constituents, and as a Lieutenant Governor who really brought the pardons process out of the darkness from something that most people were unaware of into an open program that people understand how to access.

Finally, I want to talk about the remarkable pardons clinic that we hosted at Dobbins High School. It really showed the outpouring of interest and concern when we set up that event, and over 2,000 people came out to hear about your message of redemption, your message of second chances, and you gave so much hope to so many both in my district in Philadelphia, the southeast, and throughout the Commonwealth. I am really pleased to hear that you are going to continue this work. I thank you for all the service you have provided, and I am looking forward to great things that come from you in the future.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator, appreciate it. Anytime that you can have the father and son thing or, in Senator Tartaglione's example, the mother and daughter thing, where we carry on those family traditions of public service, I think it is an amazing thing, it is an important thing. So my dad and your dad, your dad was a great mayor, and, in fact, he does not get a lot of the accolades he should get, but he looks like he was just mayor yesterday. He is so energetic and active, but the apple does not fall far from the tree. You have done an amazing job in public service and we will continue to work together on the second chances and so many other things in criminal justice that you have been fighting for and we will fight for together. So, God bless you and Godspeed. Thank you so much.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, just briefly, Michael, and that is why you are so well liked here, because you did not put on any airs as Lieutenant Governor. You understood you came from the people, you understood you came from the Senate, and that

we were all colleagues, and that is deeply appreciated. Also, you understood something that is very important, that the office that you have, which by the way is nicer than the Governor's office, it is the most beautiful office in the Capitol, that office belonged to all of the people of Pennsylvania. Of all the Lieutenant Governors that I have known, you were the most willing to share it. I would bring in group after group, in fact, I knew more of the history of that office and I learned it so that people were so excited, not only to see the beautiful marble which is so rare and that fireplace is the rarest marble in the whole Capitol, but also to go outside there and to see the scene.

Finally, what you were able to do, you were one of the few people in politics who actually asked people for advice and listened to the advice in making a decision. Some of us will ask, but we are asking merely as a courtesy. You are asking because you really want to know what other people think and you take that all together in making the decisions and the policies that you ultimately stand for. So, it has been wonderful to be your friend, and I know that you still have a great career ahead of you and that you know that. Think of this as not the end but it is the beginning, and just like the phoenix you will fly again.

Thank you, Michael.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Dinniman. And you know we call you, affectionately, your nickname in the Caucus has been the professor because you are so smart and so educated, so you must be correct in what you say, Senator.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, that is very kind of you. I also speak in 45-minute lecture segments, by the way.

The PRESIDENT. I see, and thank you once again, Senator. It is always a tremendous honor to work with you on so many issues and have your advice. I am very lucky.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, we have grown up together in families that were entrenched in politics. I loved your father. Most people here do not know that when I had my accident, his father would come up to the hospital at 7:30 in the morning and read to me. When I came out, he had a series of massages paid for to be able to help me feel a little bit better. Mike, you are a lot like your dad, you really are, and I know he is looking down and he is really proud. And I take just a little bit of credit for you coming to the Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Of course.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mike had to report to me every morning and I had to tell him what ward and division he had to be in, but he never wore the high heels. Mike, I wish you all the luck in the world.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Tina. That was the story where one of our great friends, Senator Fumo, said you need to knock on doors like Tina Tartaglione did. She knocked on doors from 8:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night, in high heels, and I said I will do it, except for the high heels. He said, if it takes high heels to get elected, you will wear high heels, too. And we all know, that is what you do in politics, no matter what it takes. So, yes, it is been great, our family affair. And my dad also said, Tina, that I lost three elections for every one election, and whenever I would sulk he would say, what are you sulking about? And I would say, I am upset about losing the election, we did not get the help, and so-and-so were against us. He said get over it fast, because the next election comes up soon and you are going

to need all the friends you can get. Enemies are a dime a dozen, friends are a treasure and always be focused on turning those enemies into friends. I know you know that, and so does Senator Street, and most successful people in politics know that. Thanks again, and love you Tina.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, love you, too.

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

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I think I wanted to go last, maybe, because I probably wanted to put this off as long as possible. We have heard a lot about your public service, and I guess over 14 years just in the Senate and the 4 years you have spent here as the Lieutenant Governor, one of the things I know that you have cared deeply about is criminal justice reform. I know your Pathways to Pardons and the different events that you have held throughout Pennsylvania are important, but I do not know if people really understand the type of work that you have done as Lieutenant Governor. Chairing the Board of Pardons is a constitutional obligation of the Lieutenant Governor, but no Lieutenant Governor ever has done more in the role of chair of the Board of Pardons than you have. You have gone well beyond your constitutional duties. You have made the pardons process more accessible and more efficient than ever before. I believe right now the record is, you have reviewed more than 1,800 cases and chaired more than 1,000 public hearings for pardon applicants in 3 years, and that is double what any other Lieutenant Governor has ever done in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Double. I know you have hosted more than 70 Pathways to Pardons, a third of these have been held in Republican Senators' districts. You have heard some of the previous speakers remark about that, and that is something that I have always admired about you, your ability to reach across the aisle and build coalitions and work with folks, no matter whether they are Republican or Democrat.

On veterans reforms, you have taken an issue to start a veterans task force which brings together various State agencies and other experts to help active duty soldiers. I know as a veteran yourself, spending years in the military as a Judge Advocate General in the National Guard, 28th Infantry Division, you come from a family of public service, but you are a true public servant yourself.

People talk about progressive ideals and policies. I think my first opportunity to talk with you about that was when I was not even in the Senate, it was April of 2008 when there was an amendment going through this Chamber that would have changed the Pennsylvania Constitution to set forth that marriage is only between a man and a woman. I know it was a tough vote for you, it was a very, very hard vote for you, but you did the right thing; you voted against that amendment. Then a few years later, actually, when you ran for Lieutenant Governor, you had the guts, you had the progressive guts, to go around this State and make a cornerstone of your campaign same-sex marriage. You went into each and every county, and that is not easy, because there are a lot of people out there today, people who are going to be coming in here in the next administration who want to talk about what a progressive is. You were one when people did not even think it was cool or the thing to be, but you had the guts to do that. Time and time again you have supported those types of progressive causes that people around this Commonwealth care about. You helped highlight many of those issues across the State.

One of the things that I have always admired about you, again, is your willingness to talk to people and to work with folks. With 14 years in this Chamber before you became Lieutenant Governor, the relationships that you have built up, Mr. President, are remarkable. The way that people speak about you and talk about you and say, I may not agree with Mike Stack on his policy, but he always is willing to listen and he is always willing to work together. I believe that in 2015 during this administration's first budget that if this administration, this Governor, would have tapped into that experience and utilized the 14 years that you had and friendships on both sides of this aisle, that maybe, Mr. President, not maybe, for sure, at least in my opinion, we would not have had a budget impasse of close to a year. That was a missed opportunity. That was a missed opportunity, because the time you spent here, as Senator Costa said, being one of us, it matters. It matters to us, it matters to the people in this room, and you will always be one of us. The experience that you brought to that office, I believe, was unprecedented. I wish that it had been utilized and tapped into more, because it certainly was a waste to not.

That is some of the things, Mr. President, that you have meant to Pennsylvania. I would just like to say a couple of things of what you have meant to me. When I came here, I was naive, I was foolish in many ways to think about the way things worked here. I did not understand public service or what it meant. I certainly won an election that I was not supposed to win. I know that and you know that. There were many people here who came to me. I know that one of the first phone calls I got was from my friend, Tony Williams, the day after. We sat down and we had talks and Tony worked with me over the years and helped me and was a friend to me. You were there, and you were there for me during that election, you were there for me after that election, and you have been there as a part of my life, both yourself and Mrs. Stack, through some of the best times of my life and some of the hardest. I remember a time when I was going through some difficulties and the phone was not ringing very much and people did not really care, but you were there, Mrs. Stack was there, and you always opened your home to me. And I know it could not have been easy. I know it was hard to have me around, not because I ate a lot of Triscuits but because of the things that were going on. You never, ever turned your back on me. You always stood by my side. You always made sure that my mom knew that, and knew that you and Mrs. Stack were there for me. I will never forget that. I will never forget that.

So in this Chamber you have been a very important person to me. You have been a true public servant. You have been an outstanding Lieutenant Governor, deserving of reelection, in my opinion, and many, many, many people's opinion. You deserve everything in this life that is good that happens to you when you leave this Chamber. You and Mrs. Stack, who I love dearly, and Georgie the cat, who I think just recently began liking me a little bit more.

I know that people today talk about politicians and they talk about being a different kind of politician, a different kind of Senator, a different kind of Lieutenant Governor, a different kind of Governor. You are. You are a different kind of person because you are a man of your word, because you are a man of integrity, and you care. So, Mr. President, I will miss you greatly when you leave here. I know we will talk and we will see each other, but your time here has meant very much to me and my family. I

remember my dad after you won, I do not think he was ever as excited, even when I won my election, as when you won Lieutenant Governor. He would always tell me, and he used to love to watch PCN, I think my dad, my mom, and Mrs. Costa are the three people who watch PCN across Pennsylvania, and they watch it religiously. He would always talk about when you would get on the microphone, and your microphone was right over there next to Senator Williams. You would go through your thing, I would be talking to him at night and he would say, I saw Stack today talking about adultBasic or talking about CHIP or railing against those oil people. I would say, yeah, dad, what did you think about me? He goes, yeah, you did a good job.

You got guts, you really do, you have always had them. I know there is another name for that and I cannot use it because I would probably get bleeped and I probably would get uninvited by my mom for Thanksgiving next week, so I am going to be good. You have done so many things, and you have so many things to go and do, and I hope that I can be a part of them, but I think the most important thing you have been to me is a friend. I will never forget what you have done for me and my family. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator. Appreciate it.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Larry, you know we love you, and Mrs. Stack loves you. Mrs. Stack is your age and you call her Mrs. Stack. We always liked that and think that is funny. It just goes back to people who are in our business. You know, it is not always easy in our business, and it is rare that you can have people to lean on who love you, and who you can be vulnerable around. They might laugh, but they are not laughing at you, they are laughing with you, and that is how we march on through these moments. You have been a great friend. We are going to continue to do so much. We are going to have a lot of fun. I learned early on in the business of politics that you have to stand up and be counted. If you want to be in with the crowd, you are not going to have the kind of impact that you want to have coming here, and why go through the aggravation? So, whatever the word was you are thinking of, gravitas or gumption, guts or gusto, everyone should try and exercise that, and I know you will in your next years and continually.

So, I love you, I know Mrs. Stack loves you, and Georgie the cat loves you. So, we appreciate everything, Larry. You have great parents. Your dad is in heaven with my dad, and your mom is really proud and we love her as well. Let us continue to fight these fights together.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, it is not because Leader Corman threw out my name a few moments ago that I am here right now, but it is because of our friendship, a long history together, and there could be lots of things that I could add. You know how I feel. You know when you jumped into that foxhole dealing with people and providing a second chance for them, as I said on more than one occasion, but at the press conference that we had for you, no one has ever jumped into that foxhole like you have. To me, that said a whole lot about your character and who you were as a person deep inside. So, I could say a whole lot more, but having served with you along with Senator Tartaglione, probably the longest here in this building, having rooted for you as you will remember in the election prior to your

victory when we almost brought it home, you remember that. You will always be Mr. President. That is a title you deserve, a title that you have earned, and a title I would like you to carry with you as long as you choose, Stackie, Stackaphonic, the Stacker, Mike Stack, and Mr. President. Thank you so much.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Vince Hughes. Thank you, buddy. Thank you for all you do. Thank you for all of your support and friendship and just keep kicking butt. We will have fun as we go down the road, and it has been an honor serving with you. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, it has been a tough year for the southeast. I have been up here several times tonight. Maybe I survive, maybe I do not, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you. Most people do not know, you probably grew up about two neighborhoods from where I grew up. Our districts are so close, you border me on the west and the north, and Senator McIlhinney borders me on the east and the north. We have done many projects together. We helped Frankford Scarsdale Hospital with some grants when you were a Senator. We have worked very, very well together. I have had some experience with Lieutenant Governors in the past. My chief of staff, Jim Cawley, was the Lieutenant Governor, and Mark Schweiker before that, and I guess we had Bob Jubelirer and Joe Scarnati. But, as I told Jim Cawley the other day, you treated me much better than he did. There were times that Jim Cawley would not turn on my microphone. Of course, he was just getting back at me.

You have treated all of us with great respect. You have done a great job not only for the city of Philadelphia, which you represented as a Senator, but for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It has been an honor for me to serve with you. I consider you a friend. I have truly enjoyed working in a bipartisan way with you to accomplish things for our area, northeast Philadelphia, Bucks County, and the Commonwealth. I thank you so much for your service, and it has been an honor to serve with you. Thank you, and God bless you.

The PRESIDENT. Tommy, thanks for standing up. I appreciate your friendship, and you are one of those guys who it is always a pleasure to see you. Our neighborhoods are almost exactly the same, we know a lot of the same people, and that is really what it is all about. So, whether it is here, whether it is in districts, whether it is out there, whether it is in the dining room, just a great guy to spend time with. I knew it was important to make up for Jim Cawley's bad treatment of you and to give you the respect that you deserve, and that was my main reason for running for Lieutenant Governor. Thank you, Tommy.

(Laughter.)

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I was not going to speak, but a couple of my colleagues reminded me of the substance of what you stand for. I was actually going to allow for Senator Farnese to conclude. I am sorry for bad manners, I did not. First, with Senator Hughes's comments. I spoke about Senator Greenleaf earlier and I put you in that same space of human dignity that I put with Senator Greenleaf. The countless human beings who you see on frequent occasion who come before you without fanfare, without wealth, without a high-priced lawyer, without

power, and, frankly, on too many occasions, are broken human beings who are looking for basic consideration of fairness. They recognize they have done something wrong. They recognize that they have assaulted the rules and laws of society. Most significantly, what they usually understand is that they have changed, they have evolved, they are a different person, and they are in a different place. They want that change to be reflected in the compassion and consideration of the person in power. So, when Governor Stack brings Mike Stack to that place of fairness, Governor Stack, growing up where he grew up, as Senator Tomlinson said in a place that was similar but, frankly, not like many of the people who came in front of you for consideration, that requires a different kind of human being, and it does not require a politician, it does not allow you to put your finger in the air and calculate the winds.

I was struck by what Senator Farnese talked about. We are using titles today, whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, we use "conservative" or "progressive" and somehow you fit into those boxes. The truth is, the measure of either one of those titles is the character of the person. In your case, you have far exceeded what many people have purported to do; you have done it. You have done it without the calculus of considering how the outcome would weigh upon your reelection, and so for those reasons, I have to say I respect you.

The second part is because of what was demonstrated between two human beings, a friendship. In this business, it is rare you get to be somebody's friend. You are always trying to figure out what their agenda is, what their angle is, and why they are doing what they are doing. Do they truly extend their hand and does it really mean a handshake? I think between men in today's society when people are not wanting to expose who they truly are as vulnerable, that they, too, need support, that someone on occasion does need to bend an ear and have an open heart. Larry and Mike demonstrated to all of us publicly what that means, and I think that is more of what we need in this Chamber so that we can figure out the differences, whether you are in rural, suburban, or urban Pennsylvania, it is all about people getting ahead, about doing the best thing for all people in the Commonwealth. It is all about protecting our families and putting food on our tables, and a roof over our heads. That is what this is all about. So, when two friends end up on the same battlefield, I understand what it means to take one off and the pain of that. But, that said, you got to experience it, and we all got to enjoy it while we watched you both experience it. So, God bless you, and God bless Mrs. Stack. I did not know about the cat. I am sorry, but I do not remember the cat.

The PRESIDENT. He has diabetes.

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I did not know about that part, but I did experience the barbecue. I do appreciate that. And your air of uniqueness is something -- I am not going to miss it because I am going to see you in Philly.

The PRESIDENT. Absolutely.

Senator WILLIAMS. So I am going to enjoy it. God bless you, my friend.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator, for all your friendship. It has been a great adventure hanging with you. You, too, come from a legacy of service. You and I have had that chat about fathers and sons following in those footsteps and the challenges and the benefits of it. I have always appreciated that, ap-

preciate what you do, and I look forward to working with you in Philly on so many other things, and around the State. Thank you, Senator.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Vulakovich.

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, I did not expect to say anything, but I have to. Look, you have done a great job. You are one of the most affable people that I have met, and the way you handle yourself up there when disputes go on, you are fair to both sides. You do not talk down to anybody, you try to be reasonable with everybody, and I hope your replacement follows, watches how you operate, and follows your suit, because you have done a great job. I thank you for that.

In closing, the National Guard, I love them. They are the greatest bunch of guys in the world, and I know how much they mean to you. Also, I thank you for working, and all of the work you guys did and what we did back in Pittsburgh in getting every Member of the Senate to sign on to keep the 911th and 171st Air Wings there. I think we have secured that, and I will tell you, the C-17, that big monster is in the parking lot out at the 911th right now, and that means the KC-135s, the refueling planes for the 171st National Guard, they will be coming in for there, and we secured it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you. God bless you, Senator. We turned a situation where we were worried about those bases closing to getting a new mission, which the economic development piece and the job creation is going to keep people in the southwest part of Pennsylvania employed well into the future. Thank you for being such a great leader and partner on that, and together we win, Randy. Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you for all you do.

Senator VULAKOVICH. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Blake.

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, let me extend my best wishes to you, thank you for your friendship, for your leadership, your even-handedness as our Lieutenant Governor, and best wishes to you going forward.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator.

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 and resolutions on today's Calendar go over in their order without prejudice as to day.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators BLAKE, MENSCH, MARTIN, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, SABATINA, YUDICHAK, FARNESE, DINNIMAN, KILLION and STREET, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 487**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of November 2018 as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Blake.

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, my good friend and colleague, Senator Vulakovich, would normally be the author of this resolution, so he is kind of handing the baton off to me this evening. I want to bring attention to this dreadful disease of pancreatic cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 55,000 people have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year, with more than 44,000 of those people dying from that dreadful disease. Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers in the United States. Pennsylvania ranks fifth in the nation in cancer diagnoses, and increased awareness about this cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatment can directly enhance the good health and well-being of Pennsylvanians. My hope is that this declaration and this resolution in the Senate will continue to spread awareness, assist in educating the residents of the Commonwealth about the aggressive nature and lethality of this cancer, and, Mr. President, we need to increase early detection of this disease to save lives. Thank you.

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleague for introducing this resolution. Eight years ago, and not many of you all know it, I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I was diagnosed with the most lethal form of pancreatic cancer so I rise to acknowledge the fact that certainly some people survive. But I really rise because there is not enough research in this particular area. The incidents are increasing and the funding is remaining flat. I attended a meeting about 3 days ago with some of the leading researchers, doctors, and scientists at the University of Pennsylvania talking about this phenomenon that is occurring within this space. So I am appreciative of the opportunity to speak on and behalf of those who are going through this process.

I do want to acknowledge a few people on this floor. Senator Costa and a few staff were privy to my diagnosis and, of course, those of us who hold public office, the moment you are diagnosed with a hangnail people begin to plot on your career. So, certainly if someone had known then that I was in the throes of trying to recover from pancreatic cancer, I am sure that they would have had more than ample opportunity to figure out what my next step was not going to be. Senator Costa had to hold that secret for a long time privately as I went through a variety of treatments. Knock on wood and God willing, I will be able to continue on and next year I want to be able to introduce that resolution on behalf of many Americans and many Pennsylvanians who think that there is no tomorrow when, in fact, there is a tomorrow, and you can just point to me and a few other folks with whom I was privileged to be in a room about a week ago who have survived this very, very, very, very lethal type of cancer.

But I hope that we as a Commonwealth will invest in the science and research, and some of the best researchers in the country are in Pennsylvania, to support their work so we can find true, true outcomes that are much more positive. As I was told in the meeting, we want to be able to treat cancer, pancreatic cancer, and all other types of cancer as if they are chronic diseases, just

like diabetes and a variety of others. Things that are survivable that you can live with and move on. The science is right around the corner, the research is right around the corner. We just have to continue to do the research, but, most importantly, we have to support it. That means we have to invest. That means that those who have dollars to contribute, please do. Those who are in government places, be it the Federal or State level, please do that as well and we will adjust the policies accordingly. I thank you all in this Chamber, and many of you all did not know I was necessarily going through it, but your kind support on many days when I did not look particularly well got me through. God bless, and thank you to my friends, Senator Blake and Senator Vulakovich. I appreciate it.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you for your personal testimony, Senator. I remember when you were going through your illness. Great courage and perseverance, so thank you for sharing that because it helps thousands of people across Pennsylvania who are scared, and your personal testimony helps.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator HUTCHINSON, on behalf of Senators VULAKOVICH, COSTA and AUMENT, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 488**, entitled:

A Resolution designating December 10, 2018, as "Wreaths Across America Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I have the distinct honor of giving remarks of a great friend, a great patriot, Senator Vulakovich, on his behalf, possibly his last remarks on the floor, but I will be giving those remarks as the Senator has been called away.

Mr. President, I rise today to offer this resolution designating December 10, 2018, as "Wreaths Across America Day" here in Pennsylvania. For over 25 years, the Wreaths Across America project has placed more than 3 million wreaths on the graves of our nation's fallen heroes in all 50 States, at sea, and abroad. This is an honorable mission, one that we should all support. Mr. President, these wreaths express our gratitude for the service and ultimate sacrifice made by our fellow Pennsylvanians, as well as their comrades from hometowns across this great nation. I thank Wreaths Across America and commend the efforts of the thousands of volunteers here and around the world who insure that we remember the sacrifices made for us. Mr. President, this program receives no government funding, with the costs of its programs paid by individual sponsors, corporate donors, and volunteer truckers. On December 10, the Gold and Blue Star Mothers will hold a Wreaths Across America service here in the State Capitol Rotunda at 12 p.m. and that ceremony is open to the public. I again thank those who are organizing this special event in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

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.

RECESS

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

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:03 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

(NOTE: The Senate did not reconvene but Session constitutionally expired November 30, 2018, at 12 o'clock midnight.)