

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 7

SENATE

TUESDAY, January 17, 2023

The Senate met at 10 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Kim L. Ward) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Pastor EARLENE COLEMAN, of Bethlehem Baptist Church, McKeesport, offered the following prayer:

Good morning. Before I lead us in prayer, please allow me to thank you for giving me this awesome opportunity. I am truly grateful to someone who is special to me, our Lieutenant Governor-elect Austin Davis, for extending this invitation to me. I have known him all of his life. He comes from a wonderful family, and he is truly committed and caring.

Let us pray.

All-wise and eternal God, we acknowledge Your presence, and we submit all control unto You. We know that all things will truly work together for our good if You are in the midst. We pray for wisdom and understanding to be the foundation of all work that will be done to accomplish moving Pennsylvania forward. We pray for unity because we know that and acknowledge unity brings productivity. As we work together, we are encouraged, and we are enlightened. Let each one who moves within the process of government for the people always think about and remember those who voted for them. Let them remember those who are struggling from day to day to make the ends meet. We pray for Your blessings, God, upon every person who is in this place and under the sound of my voice. So, we do stand today, and we stand acknowledging that You are in this place, and we stand in the name of Jesus. We want to remember all that You have said. But let us also remember what Henry Ford said, that if we take care of the business we are taking care of, success will take care of itself. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Coleman, who is the guest today of Lieutenant Governor-elect Davis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled, led by the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

January 13, 2023

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, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Accountancy, to serve until February 9, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Philip Reck, York, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

January 13, 2023

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Funeral Directors, to serve until June 8, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Thomas Kukuchka, Tunkhannock, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

January 13, 2023

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr. (Public Member), 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County,

Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Edward Rak, Glenshaw, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

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

January 13, 2023

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Charles Black, Williamsport, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

2023 EMPLOYMENT FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Office of Legislative Affairs
Office of the Governor, 238 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 15, 2023

To the General Assembly
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: 2023 Employment First Annual Report

Good afternoon,

Per Act 36 of 2018, please find attached the January 2023 Employment First Annual Report. The report is also posted on the L&I Employment First website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Spencer Schaeberle
Special Assistant to the Secretary

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

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

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

Senator Anthony H. Williams as a member of the Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Regan, Senator Dush, and Senator Coleman.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests legislative leaves for Senator Regan, Senator Dush, and Senator Coleman.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

SB 95 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 95 (Pr. No. 8) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 1 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED**

SB 95 (Pr. No. 8) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for use of farm vehicle plates.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on second consideration?

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

YEA-48

Argall	Costa	Kearney	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Langerholc	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Laughlin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Martin	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartagliano
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw

NAY-0

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

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

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

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 84 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 126 (Pr. No. 16) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the exclusion of veterans' benefit payments from income for Commonwealth programs.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOE PITTMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize several former and current elected officials here today. Former Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley is with us; current Treasurer Stacy Garrity is here as well; our current Auditor General Tim DeFoor is here as well; and I would also like to welcome Supreme Court Justices Kevin Brobson and Sallie Mundy.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, we are joined by a number of guests here this afternoon, and I would say starting off with our Governor Tom Wolf and First Lady Frances Wolf. Governor, thank you for being with us. United States Senator Bob Casey and his wife, Terese; United States Senator and our former Lieutenant Governor for this Chamber in Pennsylvania, John Fetterman, and his wife, Gisele. We have members of Congress and the congressional delegation as well: Congressional Representative Summer Lee, Representative Chris Deluzio, Representative Matt Cartwright, and Representative Susan Wild. We are also joined today by members of our State Supreme Court: Chief Justice Debra Todd, Justice Christine Donohue, Justice

Kevin Dougherty, and Justice David Wecht. We are also joined by former Lieutenant Governor Mark Singel.

Madam President, we have several Members--colleagues of Lieutenant-elect Austin Davis--here with us today from the State House, including Speaker Mark Rozzi and Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton. We also have a number of municipal officials who have joined us here today from Pittsburgh and Allegheny County specifically: County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey. I would also like to recognize a number of Governor-elect Shapiro's cabinet Secretary designees and members of his senior staff who are also joining us here today. We look forward to working with each of you.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. May I ask for a round of applause for all of our distinguished guests.

[Applause.]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT. Before proceeding any further, the Chair would like to announce that permission has been granted for photographers from each Caucus to take photographs during today's Session. Also, photographers from the *Associated Press* and Commonwealth Media Services have been granted permission to take photographs during today's ceremony. Further, the Chair would like to ask for the cooperation of the news photographers and others who would like to take pictures or videotape so that during the actual ceremony there will be no picture taking. At the conclusion of the administration of the oath of office, there will be a short pause in the proceedings so that the news photographers and others who so desire will be able to take photographs. The rest of us will be at ease for those few minutes. Your cooperation is appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

SENATE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE TO WAIT UPON THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT

Senator PITTMAN, by unanimous consent, offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

In the Senate, January 17, 2023

RESOLVED, That a committee of six Senators be appointed to wait upon The Honorable Austin Davis, Lieutenant Governor-elect, and escort him to the Senate Chamber to take the Oath of Office and assume the duties of the Office of Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO WAIT UPON THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to the resolution just adopted, the Chair wishes to announce the following committee to escort Lieutenant Governor-elect Austin Davis and his official party to the Senate Chamber: Senator Pittman, chair; Senator Costa,

Senator Hughes, Senator Lindsey Williams, Senator Saval, and Senator Bartolotta.

The committee will leave immediately and proceed to the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Senate will be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

GOVERNOR-ELECT AND MRS. JOSH SHAPIRO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will come to order. The Governor-elect of the Commonwealth, the Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro, and his wife, the First Lady-to-be, Lori, are entering the Senate Chamber.

Members and guests will all please rise.

[Applause.]

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT PRESENTED TO SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. Madam President, I have the honor to present the committee appointed by you to wait upon the Lieutenant Governor-elect.

The PRESIDENT. Please bring the committee and guests forward.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO WAIT UPON THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT

The SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. Madam President, the Chairman of the committee, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, the committee appointed to wait upon and escort the Lieutenant Governor-elect and his party to the Senate Chamber has performed its duty. The Lieutenant Governor-elect, Austin Davis, is present and ready to receive the oath of office.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the committee for performing its duty and asks the committee to escort the Lieutenant Governor-elect and his party to their seats.

[Whereupon, the committee escorted the Lieutenant Governor-elect to his seat.]

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT. The committee is discharged with the thanks of the Senate.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT AUSTIN A. DAVIS

The PRESIDENT. The hour having arrived for the administration of the oath of office to the Lieutenant Governor-elect, the Senate will come to order.

The ceremony will be opened with the invocation, which will be offered by Reverend Dr. Alyn Waller, Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Please rise.

INVOCATION

The Chaplain, Reverend DR. ALYN WALLER, of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philadelphia, offered the following prayer:

Bow our heads.

Eternal God, our Father. God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God of Deborah, Huldah, and Mary. God of Malcolm and Medgar and Martin. God, we bless You for this day and for this opportunity. I pray, O God, for all those who sit in seats of distinction in this august body, and we thank You for the privilege to call Your name. While I am mindful of the many African American men who still wait on justice and opportunity in this great State, I thank You for the privilege of praying a prayer of invocation for the first African American man to sit in the seat of Lieutenant Governor; for that, God, I am grateful.

[Applause.]

Then, God, we pray for all those who will work together for this great State. We pray for these proceedings that even through the celebration, the robust discussion, and dialogue that will take place in this room today and in the days to come, we pray for justice. We pray for opportunity. We pray for Your will to be done, and we thank You ahead of time, God, for even this day reminds us that we are getting closer to the dream. We are getting closer to what You imagined when You said, let there be, and for that, God, we are grateful. Now, God, have Your way, and we will be ever so mindful to give You all the praise, all the glory, all the honor. I ask these and all other blessings in the matchless, marvelous, and majestic name that is for me above every name, the name of Jesus Christ, and for His sake we do pray, let us all say. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Waller, who is the guest today of Lieutenant Governor-elect Davis.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT

The PRESIDENT. The Clerk of the Senate will, at this time, read the Certificate of Election of the Honorable Austin A. Davis, Lieutenant Governor-elect of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Certificate of Election was read by the Clerk as follows:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 3, 2023

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the third day of January, A.D., two thousand twenty-three, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Austin Davis had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Austin Davis was declared to have been duly elected Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) KIM L. WARD
President of the Senate

(SEAL) MARK ROZZI
Speaker of the House of Representatives

DANIEL LAUGHLIN
Teller on the part of the Senate

ROBERT L. FREEMAN
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT

The PRESIDENT. At this time, will Lieutenant Governor-elect Davis please present himself at the rostrum of the Senate for the administration of the oath of office.

The oath of office to the Honorable Austin A. Davis will be administered by the Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, president judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

Please rise.

Judge CLARK. So, before I administer the oath, I just want to let everyone know--I know some in this room know what a privilege it is for me to be here today for this historic moment to do this, so, for those of you who do not know--it is a privilege. I am so honored and humbled to be here for this historic moment. And Austin, I just have a few words of advice for you as you go forward in your work, because you are a shining example. You are hope for all the little boys and girls in Pennsylvania who look like you, and so, be a servant leader, first of all. Remember that you will lead wonderfully; you will lead and do great things if your leadership is based on the foundation of service. Number two, just be humble. Every one of us got where we are with the help of others, and never forget that. We never do anything by ourselves. We have almighty God who guides us and helps us, and we have a whole lot of people, many in this room who helped you, many in this room who helped me get where I am, so be humble. And lastly, but most importantly, just be kind. Kindness is just the easiest thing to do, and it is the most effective way to do business. So be a servant leader, be humble, and be kind. God bless you.

Would you place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I, Austin A. Davis, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

Congratulations.

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Kim L. Ward) in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Congratulations. Be seated. The Senate will now be at ease to allow photographers to take pictures.

[The Senate was at ease.]

GAVEL PRESENTED TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AUSTIN A. DAVIS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I now present the gavel of authority of the Senate to the Honorable Austin A. Davis, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and President of the Senate. Lieutenant Governor Davis, congratulations. [Applause.]

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the Chair.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AUSTIN A. DAVIS

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, good morning. This is a special day, truly, for me personally and for our great Commonwealth. This day would not have been possible without the unwavering love and support of Pennsylvania's now Second Lady, my wife, Blayre Holmes Davis. [Applause.] Every day, she pushes me to be the best version of myself day in and day out, whether as an elected official, or simply as a man.

Growing up, my parents instilled in me the values of hard work, compassion, and empathy, the very values we hope are instilled in all of our leaders. I would not be the man I am today without my parents, Kathy and Ankarie Davis. Thank you, and I love you. [Applause.]

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to acknowledge the historic nature of my swearing-in as Pennsylvania's Lieutenant Governor. Today, I became the 35th Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania and the first African American to ever hold this office. [Applause.] While I am blessed with this awesome opportunity and responsibility, it was paid for by the blood, sweat, and tears of those who came before me. People like Speaker K. Leroy Irvis; people like Chief Justice Robert Nix, and countless activists and concerned citizens whose names may not show up in print but were just as important to our Commonwealth's trajectory. They paved the way for this moment. This moment is a symbol of our progress here in the Commonwealth we love, and it is one that I hope serves as a point of pride for millions of Pennsylvanians who have never before seen themselves represented in the halls of power. Today, the son of a union bus driver and a hairdresser, a boy who grew up in a small steel town often overlooked by those in power, a young man driven to his first city council meeting because gun violence came to my neighborhood, has reached the second-highest office in this Commonwealth. I am humbled by the chance to carry this history and to serve.

More importantly, today we are sending a message to the next generation of leaders--young people across our Commonwealth, especially Black and brown young people--that Pennsylvania has and will always be a place where all are welcomed and where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. I say to all the young people watching right now who are worried and unsure about their future, that the American dream is alive and well here in Pennsylvania. That no matter how you grew up, no matter where you come from or what you do look like, this Commonwealth will always be a place where you can create your own destiny. But my experiences and the history we are making today are not ends of themselves. But rather, the value resides in the promise that every single Pennsylvanian who feels unseen, unheard, or

forgotten will have a voice for their concerns and aspirations, a say in Pennsylvania's future, and that in the Shapiro-Davis Administration, they have leaders who are fighting for them.

Over the past year, I have traveled across this Commonwealth, and I have had the opportunity to meet Pennsylvanians from all walks of life. Whether it be at a fair in Huntingdon, a church in Erie, a VFW in Williamsport, or a barber shop in Philadelphia, I can tell you that the things that unite us are so much greater than the things that divide us. Pennsylvanians across class, color, and creed want good schools for their children, the opportunity to join the middle class and live the American dream. They want to keep their families and communities safe, and they want real freedom. At a time when our politics has become mean and divisive, and simply out of touch for the needs of those it is meant to serve, I have come away with a singular message from the conversations I have had. Pennsylvanians want leaders who will put delivering real results for them and their families above all else. Because of this, I say to my colleagues in the Senate and in the House that we must no longer measure our success through the counting of insignificant political points or transient headlines. Our success must be measured by the results we deliver for Pennsylvanians and their families. The only victories that matter are those achieved on behalf of the people we serve.

In the weeks and months leading up to this moment, I have thought a lot about my grandparents: Guy and Sadie Simmons, and Vernon and Josephine Davis. One grandfather was a steelworker, the other was a railroad foreman for B&O railroad. All of them came to Pennsylvania from the South to create a better life for our family. When they made their journey, they sought refuge from the suffocation of Jim Crow and the sting of segregation. I do not think in my grandparents' wildest dreams they would have ever imagined that their grandson would one day be sworn-in to the second-highest office in this Commonwealth. But while they may not have been able to envision this particular future, they fought to make sure that their children and their grandchildren had the opportunity to chart their own paths; that they had the right to vote, and that when they walked into a room, they would not just be listened to, but they would be respected. And their sacrifice and hard work was not in vain. It is, in fact, embodied in this very moment. It is their sacrifice and the sacrifice of countless others that allow me to stand here today as the first African American to ever hold this office.

This moment is truly historic. But while what is happening today may be unique, the story of generation upon generation working to build a brighter future for those who succeed them is not. That story is one you can find all across this Commonwealth: hard-working families across Pennsylvania fighting to give themselves and their children a brighter future. Their struggle, their hopes, and aspirations are what fuels me; what drives me; and continues me to do this work.

I often have said that the people closest to the pain should be closest to the power. That is why, today, I have a message for every parent working the night shift to give their child a fair shot, every small-town kid looking for a path to make a better life for themselves, or anyone who feels unseen or forgotten across our Commonwealth. I say to you, that you are not alone, that I hear you and understand your concerns, because I have lived them. And as your Lieutenant Governor, I will be your champion. I will work tirelessly to ensure that every child and family in this

Commonwealth has ladders of opportunities to succeed, so that every generation that comes after it can be better off than the one that came before them.

I could not be more honored to take on this fight with anyone else but our next Governor, Josh Shapiro. [Applause.] Josh has become more than just a running mate, but a friend and a partner. I have seen the care in his eyes when talking to Pennsylvanians throughout our Commonwealth, and I have bore witness to the determination and the grit he has to take on the biggest fights. Josh is a fighter, someone who has never backed down in the face of adversity, and I am proud to stand alongside him to make progress on the things that actually matter. Josh and I embarked on this journey over a year ago to make Pennsylvania a fairer, more just, and more prosperous place. Today is another big step in that journey. Here is one more promise that I am going to give you on behalf of Josh and I, and everyone watching at home: we will not let you down as your next Governor and Lieutenant Governor. [Applause.] Now, let us work.

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT. I now call upon the President pro tempore, Senator Kim Ward, to preside.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Kim L. Ward) in the Chair.

BENEDICTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Here comes magic [riser behind rostrum is raised]. [Laughter.] Catherine Baker Knoll is my hero because of this.

To conclude this ceremony, the Chair would call upon Reverend Robert C. Holmes, Christian Life Ministries of Monessen, Pennsylvania, for the benediction.

Please rise.

The Chaplain, Reverend ROBERT C. HOLMES, of Christian Life Ministries, Monessen, offered the following prayer:

Shall we call on the most high God, Jehovah-jireh, our Provider.

Let us pray.

Father, as we look in Thy Holy Scriptures and we see Your holy convocations, we see, Lord, Your holy meeting times, meeting times known as Passover and Pentecost and Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Father, three times a year, You instructed Israel, and all the men were instructed to meet with You. O God, we thank You for meeting with us today, because this is the day that You have made, and only You, Father, could have called and assembled in this place these great men of faith, such as our Governor-elect, Josh Shapiro. Only You, Father, could have called and assembled in this place our now Lieutenant Governor, Austin Davis. Father, as You instructed Joshua through Your Word, Lord, instruct them, that they together will have great success. And we know, O Jehovah, if You be for them, nothing can stand against them.

Lord, we believe this great day is no mistake, but is, indeed, divine purpose and that we are here witnessing great history in the making. The people of this blessed Commonwealth have spoken in a spirit of unity, and we together have elected, for the very first time, an African American as our Lieutenant Governor. We

pray, Father, that our Lieutenant Governor will continue to meet with You, Lord, and pray, as Solomon did, asking for wisdom and great knowledge to lead, beside our Governor, this great State called Pennsylvania. Father, I pray for a double portion of Your spirit to fall fresh and daily upon our Lieutenant Governor, Austin Davis. Bless his help-me, his wife, Blayre Holmes Davis. May Your anointing cover their marriage to continue as one. Lord, we pray and believe that our Lieutenant Governor will help us to protect this great democracy that is no longer taken for granted as many have in the past, as we now can clearly see the opportunity of Thy marvelous theocracy. This day certainly reminds all of us of the song, "How Great is Our God," and we know that all the powers that be are ordained of Thee, Lord, have Thine own way. Please give our Lieutenant Governor great boldness and humility through Your holy spirit as he presides over the Senate, encouraging them to represent all the people, for this is a great land that You have given, representing the birthplace of a nation. Let then this Commonwealth be a shining beacon of hope, leading every State to forget about the past, looking to a new beginning. And as the new beginning begins, let us all press together in great unity towards that mark of the high calling of God in Yeshua.

Lord, we are so thankful for the anointed prayers that have already been offered in this place. As we prepare to conclude this portion of this efficacious celebration called inauguration, we look back to Numbers, the sixth chapter. We see You, Lord, speaking to Thy people through the priests, saying to the people as we say to our Governor, and we say to our Lieutenant Governor, and we say to our First Lady and our second First Lady, to everyone present and throughout this Commonwealth, we say to you all: the Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up his countenance unto thee and give thee peace. And now, unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy to the only wise God, our Savior. Be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Let us say. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Reverend Holmes, who is the guest today of Lieutenant Governor Davis.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be at ease while the Lieutenant Governor and his party leave the Chamber. All Senators and visitors, please remain seated. I now call upon the escort committee to come forward and escort the official party to the rear of the Senate Chamber.

[Applause.]

The Chair will now ask that all guests remain seated while the Members of the Senate prepare to depart the Chamber and move to the inaugural ceremonies for the Governor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

9:30 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bill No. 115; and Senate Resolution No. 9)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:15 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bill No. 155)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 95, 114 and 141)	Rules Committee Conference Room

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 10:58 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.