

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

JOURNAL
-OF THE-
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the third day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and six.

Volume 133, No. 1

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

First Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, January 3, 2006 and is called to order at 4:08 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable William J. Murphy, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 70 members present and 5 members absent as follows:

PRESENT - 70: The Honorable Speaker Murphy, and Representatives Ajello, Almeida, Amaral, Anguilla, Brien, Caprio, Carter, Church, Coderre, Costantino, Crowley, Davey, Dennigan, DeSimone, Diaz, Ehrhardt, Faria, Flaherty, Fox, Gallison, Gemma, Giannini, Ginaitt, Gorham, Handy, Jackson, Jacquard, Kennedy, Kilmartin, Lally, Landroche, Laroche, Lewiss, Lima, Long, Loughlin, Malik, McCauley, McHugh, McManus, McNamara, Melo, Moffitt, Moran, Moura, Mumford, Naughton, O'Neill, Pacheco, Palumbo, Petrarca, Picard, Rice, Rose, San Bento, Savage, Schadone, Scott, Shanley, Slater, Smith, Story, Sullivan, Trillo, Ucci, Watson, Williams, Williamson, Winfield.

ABSENT – 5: Representatives Corvese, Menard, Singleton, Voccola, Wasylyk.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents the Most Reverend Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of Providence who delivers the Invocation.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

Representative Williamson leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Friday, July 15, 2005 is approved as printed.

RESOLUTION

The Honorable Speaker Murphy delivers his New Year's Resolution

(For the Speaker's Resolution see Appendix of this Journal)

Minority Leader Watson discusses the resolution.

COMMUNICATION

The Honorable Speaker announces the receipt of the following communication:

January 3, 2006

The Honorable William J. Murphy
Speaker of the House of Representative
323 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Today, January 3, 2006, I will not be present at the General Assembly due to illness.

I respectfully request that this be read into today's Journal of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Rene R. Menard
Representative – District 45

Received and placed on file.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative San Bento wishes Representatives Naughton and Fox a Happy Belated Birthday and Representative Kennedy a Happy Birthday.

Representative Naughton wishes Representative San Bento a Happy Belated Birthday.

Representatives Trillo and Gorham congratulate Frank McCabe, newly elected House Clerk, and welcome him to the House.

Representatives Amaral and Moura congratulate Representative Long on his 25 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Representative Moura welcomes back to the House of Representatives former Representative Eugene Garvey.

GUEST

Representative Ajello welcomes to the House Chamber as guest the Honorable Raymond Rickman, former Representative House District 3.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:32 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Giannini, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Barbara Nute; on motion of Representative Ginaitt, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Brian Kennedy; on motion of Representatives Faria and Moran and as a further mark of respect to the memories of Marie Brousseau, and Mary Wonders; on motion of Representative Scott, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Cassandra Duncan; on motion of Representatives Story and Lima, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Albert Primiano; on motion of Representative Mumford, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Stephen Glew; on motion of Representative Moran, and as a further mark of respect to the memories of Rene Desmarais, Donald Plante, and Mary Caharal seconded by Representatives Fox and Watson the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Linda M. McElroy
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****BISHOP THOMAS J. TOBIN**
Bishop of ProvidencePrayer for the Opening of the Legislative Session (January 3, 2006)

Dear God, as we prepare to begin our work for another year, we recall your promise to be with us when we gather in your name.

We are grateful for the privilege to serve our community, and we pray that with your help we will do so with generosity, honesty and humility. The gifts and talents and experiences you have given us, we now offer for your service.

Give us the spirit of wisdom; that we will know what is right. Plant the seeds of your vision in our hearts and minds. Give us the spirit of courage; that we will do what is right. Let us never hesitate to do good because of selfishness, anxiety or fear.

Lord if we are to work together throughout this year we will need a generous portion of humility and humor. Help us to set aside our own needs and agendas in favor of the needs of our brothers and sisters. Inspire us to steadfastly manifest our unity as your children recalling that what we share is far greater than anything that divides us.

Grant us the willingness to be open to each other, to respect each other, to listen to each other, to learn from each other, to be honest with each other, and be supportive of each other for the sake of our community and all those we serve.

Finally, dear Lord, help us to believe that without you, we will labor in vain, but that with you, all things are possible. This is true, Lord, now and forever. Amen

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**Speaker William J. Murphy**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we come together again – in this New Year – to do the people's business, to represent our constituents, to honor their will and their wishes; and to bring to this Chamber a new resolve to put aside petty politics and whatever personal agenda we might have in this election year and get down to doing the work we have been sent here to do.

The issues we will face in this session are the issues every Rhode Islander faces in their day-to-day lives. Energy costs. Taxes. Good jobs and decent wages. Affordable health care. Addressing those issues will demand no less than our undivided attention and our best efforts.

Tackling them will not be easy, but even trying to tackle them will require our willingness to put aside the petty differences that divide us – one party from another, one community from another – And one branch of government from another. They will require that we act on the principles we hold in common and the values that unite us as Rhode Islanders: fairness, justice, equality, community, and a basic belief in the power of individuals united in a common cause.

Benjamin Franklin said in his Autobiography, “Those who govern, having much business on their hands, do not generally like to take the trouble of considering and carrying into execution new projects. The best public measures are therefore seldom adopted from previous wisdom, but forced by the occasion.”

The lessons of what we saw in Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina were clear. Let this House of Representatives resolve to have the wisdom not to wait for a crisis to force us to do what's right. Instead, let's look ahead and act as one body, in unison, with the best interest of every Rhode Islander at heart.

Let us resolve to find consensus on legislation that addresses the real needs of those who can't afford to heat their homes, those who can't afford the price of gasoline... those who can't afford to pay both their health care AND their rent on the meager wages they earn... those who need a decent job and shouldn't have to worry about Rhode Island losing out to China or India when it comes to that job being available.

Let it be our New Year's resolution; let it be our sense of duty to every Rhode Islander struggling to make ends meet that puts Responsible Tax Reform, A Comprehensive Energy Strategy, and A Fair Minimum Wage and to protect identities of individuals and other things that come to the floor front. Let's resolve to make those some of our legislative priorities this year

I call on the Governor to work closely with us and the Senate in this effort, to help us find common ground on these issues and do what's right, not what's politically expedient, not what benefits one Party or one branch of government over another.

To that end, let each of us in this Chamber resolve right here – right now – to put aside personal politics, put aside Party politics, put aside selfish pride and prejudices and spend the next 6 months working toward consensus on these three important issues.