

State of Rhode Island

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 Twenty-Three.

Volume 150, No. 3

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Third-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, January 10, 2023, and is called to order at 4:11 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 72 members present and 3 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

ABSENT – 3: Representatives Cotter, Marszalkowski, Quattrocchi.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Vella-Wilkinson who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, January 5, 2023, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Megan Cotter is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Speaker Shekarchi has received the following communication:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this tenth day of January 2023, the oath of office to Stephen M. Casey of Woonsocket as Representative of District 50.

Sincerely,

Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore

Received and placed on file.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Phillips congratulates Tarik Robinson-O'Hagan for winning the U20 World Championship in the Men's Six-Kilogram Shot Put and recognizes his coach Mark Piette. The Speaker also congratulates Tarik and his coach on their achievements.

Representative Sanchez would like to recognize the Professional Boxer, Demetrius (Boo Boo) Andrade for winning the 160lb Weight Class Championship.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 5023**

BY Shekarchi, Hull, Noret, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Newberry, Place, Slater, Ackerman, Tanzi
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY" ON JANUARY 9, 2023 {LC453/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Hull requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Hull discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Hull, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5024

BY Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Casey, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Noret, Shanley, Craven, Solomon, Serpa

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY OF 2023, TO BE "FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC313/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Casimiro requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Casimiro discusses the resolution and would like to recognize Joe Hartman, a Fire Fighter of North Kingstown who is battling cancer. Speaker Shekarchi wishes him well on his fight and thanks Joe for his service.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Casimiro, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5025

BY Diaz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Slater, Perez, Batista, Biah, Hull, Chippendale, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOSE A. SEVERINO {LC354/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Diaz requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Diaz discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Diaz, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5026

BY Kennedy, Azzinaro, Spears, Cotter, Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith, O'Brien

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHRISTOPHER THOMAS DIPOLA {LC26/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Kennedy discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Kennedy, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5027

BY Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Kennedy, Abney, Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Donovan, Serpa, Solomon, Fellela

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DONALD M. BROWN {LC22/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Azzinaro requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Representative Azzinaro discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Azzinaro, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5028

BY Messier, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Brien, Kennedy, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith, O'Brien, Fogarty

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ANGELA PANICHAS {LC335/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Messier requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Messier and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Messier, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5029

BY Abney, Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith, O'Brien, Fogarty, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF MARIE E. PAIVA {LC446/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Abney requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Abney discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Abney, seconded Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5030

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Solomon, Chippendale, Alzate, Stewart, Baginski, Casimiro, Kazarian, Casey

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF BEVERLY A. POTTER {LC454/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Solomon requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Solomon discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi on behalf of the entire House of Representatives offers condolences to Representative Potter and his family.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Solomon, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5031

BY Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Kislak, Finkelman, Boylan, Knight, McNamara, Slater

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING ALL RHODE ISLANDERS TO JOIN TOGETHER IN STRONGLY CONDEMNING ANY AND ALL FORMS OF ANTISEMITISM {LC188/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Ackerman requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Ackerman discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Ackerman, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Leader Blazejewski introduces and welcomes Thom Little, of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, to the House Chamber. Thom Little will lead a discussion on “The Case for Civil Discourse” in the House Lounge, at the Rise today. Speaker Shekarchi encourages all members to attend.

Tomorrow at the Rise in the House Lounge, Ethics Training will be conducted by Jason Gramitt, Executive Director of the RI Ethics Commission. Attorneys will be able to receive an Ethics MCLE credit.

As announced last week, the Rules Committee will be meeting next Wednesday, January 18th. If any member has a bill that they would like heard by the Rules Committee, it should be submitted by the end of this week.

Majority Leader Blazejewski would like to congratulate Deputy Whip Mia Ackerman, who is to be presented with the first “Public Service Award” from the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Action Network and Brown University’s Legorreta Cancer Center. She will be honored for her advocacy and successful legislation addressing the prevention and early treatment of cancer.

Speaker Shekarchi thanks Representative Ackerman for her advocacy and particularly on lung cancer issues.

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the clerk’s desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, to the Honorable Senate, and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:37 o’clock P.M. on motion of Representative Abney, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Marie Elizabeth Paiva; on motion of Representative Messier, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Angela Panichas; on motion of Representative Azzinaro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of John T. McErlean; on motion of Representative Azzinaro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Richard Chipperfield; on motion of Representative Azzinaro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Donald M. Brown; on motion of Representative Solomon, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Beverly A. Potter; on motion of Representative Kennedy, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Christopher Thomas DiPaola; on motion of Representative Diaz, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Jose A. Severino; seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE VELLA-WILKINSON

Bless us Lord as we gather today for this session. Guide us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in the face of difficulty, and wise in our decisions. Amen