

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

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**Journal of the Senate**

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

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Volume 146, No.1

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

First Legislative Day

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In accordance with Chapter 22-3-2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Honorable Senate is called to order at 4:10 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable Dawn Euer, being the senior member, in continuous service from the City of Newport, on the first Tuesday in January, A.D.2019 (being the first Tuesday of the Month).

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators DiPalma, Goodwin, Lombardo, and Lynch Prata to escort Her Excellency, the Governor, Gina Raimondo, to the rostrum.

The members attend.

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators Cano, Goldin, Picard, and Sheehan to escort the Honorable Nellie Gorbea, Secretary of State, to the rostrum.

The members attend.

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators Archambault, Ciccone, Lombardi, and Sosnowski to escort The Honorable Joseph A. Montalbano, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court to the rostrum.

The members attend.

**SPECIAL GUEST**

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer presents the Honorable Nellie Gorbea, Secretary of State.

As provided in Article III of the Constitution, the roll of the Senate, pursuant to Law, is read by the Honorable Secretary of State as follows:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
STATE HOUSE**

January 1, 2019

To the Honorable Senate:

I, Nellie Gorbea Secretary of State, hereby certify the following list of members elected to the Senate in the General Assembly, in accordance with the certificate of election filed in this office by the Board of Elections on the fourteenth day of December, 2018, as provided by 22-3-13 of the General Laws of Rhode Island:

1. Maryellen Goodwin
2. Ana B. Quezada
3. Gayle L. Goldin
4. Dominick J. Ruggerio
5. Samuel W. Bell
6. Harold M. Metts
7. Frank A Ciccone, III
8. Sandra C. Cano
9. Adam J. Satchell
10. Walter S. Felag, Jr.
11. James Arthur Seveney
12. Louis P. DiPalma
13. Dawn M. Euer
14. Valerie J. Lawson
15. Donna M. Nesselbush
16. Elizabeth A. Crowley
17. Thomas J. Paolino
18. William J. Conley, Jr.
19. Ryan William Pearson
20. Roger A. Picard
21. Gordon E. Rogers
22. Stephen R. Archambault
23. Jessica de la Cruz
24. Melissa A. Murray
25. Frank Lombardo III
26. Frank S. Lombardi
27. Hanna M. Gallo
28. Joshua B. Miller
29. Michael J. McCaffrey
30. Mark P. McKenney
31. Erin P. Lynch
32. Cindy A. Coyne
33. Leonidas P. Raptakis
34. Elaine J. Morgan
35. Bridget G. Valverde
36. James C. Sheehan
37. V. Susan Sosnowski
38. Dennis L. Algieri

In testimony whereof, I have here unto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island on this first day of January, A.D. 2019.

Respectfully Yours,  
Nellie M. Gorbea  
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

**OATH**

The Oath of Office is administered to the foregoing Senators-elect by the Honorable Nellie Gorbea, Secretary of State.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 38 Senators present and 0 Senators absent as follows:

**PRESENT** –38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Nesselbush, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**ABSENT** – 0:

**INVOCATION**

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents the Reverend Bernard A. Healey to deliver the invocation.

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

The Presentation of Colors is performed by members of the Providence Fire Fighters Local 799 Honor Guard.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator McCaffrey, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

The National Anthem is performed by Rescue Lieutenant Joseph Burke.

**RETIREMENT OF COLORS**

The Providence Fire Fighters Local 799 Honor Guard retires the colors.

**INTERIM RULES**

Upon suggestion of Senator McCaffrey seconded by Senator Algieri the Senate will reinstate the 2017-2018 rules, pending the report of the rules committee and the adoption of a resolution embodying permanent rules for the 2019-2020 session,

Senators Nesselbush and Bell discuss the motion.

Upon a roll call vote with 36 Senators voting in the affirmative and 2 Senators voting in the negative as follows the ruling of the chair is sustained as follows:

**YEAS - 36:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Algiere, Archambault, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, De La Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NAYS – 2:** Senators Bell, Nesselbush.

By unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS - 38:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Algiere, Archambault, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, De La Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Nesselbush, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NAYS – 0:**

### **SPECIAL GUEST**

Governor Gina M. Raimondo addresses the Chamber.

### **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

Senator McCaffrey, seconded by Senator Algiere, moves that the floor be open to nominations.

The motion to open nominations prevails on a voice vote.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer declares that nominations for the office of President of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Gallo nominates Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero. The nomination is seconded by Senators Metts, Crowley.

Senators Bell and Nesselbush discuss the nomination.

Senator Sosnowski, seconded by Senator Coyne, moves that nominations be closed.

The motion to close nominations prevails on a voice vote.

The Honorable Senator directs the Reading Clerk, to call the roll of the body.

The motion to elect Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero as President of the Senate is read and passed, upon a roll call vote with 36 Senators voting in the affirmative and 2 Senators voting no as follows:

**YEAS** - 36: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Algiere, Archambault, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NO** – 2: Senators Bell, Nesselbush.

The Honorable Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero announces that Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero has been elected President of the Rhode Island Senate for the years 2019 and 2020.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable Senator Euer introduces the Honorable Joseph A. Montalbano, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, to administer the oath of Office to the Senate President.

### **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS**

The Honorable President, Dominick J. Ruggiero, addresses the members of the Senate and their special guests.

(See Appendix for Presidential Remarks)

### **ELECTION OF THE READING CLERK**

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of Reading Clerk of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Picard nominates John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk for the 2019 and 2020 sessions. The nomination is seconded by Senator DiPalma.

The motion to elect John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the 2019 and 2020 Sessions is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS** - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Algiere, Archambault, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, De La Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Nesselbush, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NAYS** – 0:

**ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE**

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of the Secretary of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Goodwin nominates Robert L. Ricci of Providence as Reading Clerk for the 2019 and 2020 sessions. The nomination is seconded by Senator Goldin.

The motion to elect Robert L. Ricci of Providence as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the 2019 and 2020 Sessions is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS** - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, De La Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Nesselbush, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NAYS** – 0:

**OATH**

The Honorable Nellie Gorbea, Secretary of State, administers the Oath of Office to the Reading Clerk of the Senate-elect, John S. Baxter of Pawtucket, and the Oath of Office to the Secretary of the Senate to Robert L. Ricci of Providence.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of President Pro Tempore of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Lombardi nominates Senator Metts, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2019 and 2020 Sessions. The nomination is seconded by Senator Archambault.

The motion to elect Senator as President Pro Tempore is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS** - 38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Crowley, Coyne, De La Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Nesselbush, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NAYS** – 0:

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Cano nominates Senator Crowley, as Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2019 and 2020 Sessions. The nomination is seconded by Senator Conley.

The motion to elect Senator as Deputy President Pro Tempore is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 38 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS - 38:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, De La Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Nesselbush, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**NAYS – 0:**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
SENATE CHAMBER**

January 1, 2019

The Honorable Senate  
Senate Chamber  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

The is to inform you that the Democratic Senators met in the Senate Lounge in the State House on November 8, 2018 to elect the Honorable Michael J. McCaffrey of the Twenty Ninth Senatorial District as the Senate Majority Leader for the 2019 – 2020 term.

Sincerely,

Maryellen Goodwin  
Senator – District 1  
Democratic Caucus Secretary

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
SENATE CHAMBER**

January 1, 2019

Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President  
Rhode Island State Senate  
318 State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. President:

On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, the Senate Republican caucus held a meeting to elect the minority leadership for legislative sessions 2019-2020. The leadership is as follows:

*Senate Minority Leader, Honorable Dennis L. Algieri  
Senate Minority Whip, Honorable Elaine J. Morgan  
Senior Deputy Minority Leader, Honorable Thomas J. Paolino*

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis L. Algieri  
SENATE MINORITY LEADER

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE NELLIE M. GORBEA**

January 1, 2019

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio  
President of the Senate  
318 State House  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that on this first day of January A.D 2019 the oath of engagement was administered as President of the Senate for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio.

Yours sincerely,

Nellie M. Gorbea  
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE NELLIE M. GORBEA**

January 1, 2019

Mr. John S. Baxter  
Reading Clerk of the Senate  
318 State House  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered this first day of January, A.D. 2019 the oath of engagement to John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the years 2019 and 2020.

Respectfully yours,

Nellie M. Gorbea  
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE NELLIE M. GORBEA**

January 1, 2019

Mr. Robert L. Ricci  
Secretary of the Senate  
318 State House  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered this first day of January, A.D. 2019 the oath of engagement to Robert L. Ricci of Providence as the Secretary of the Senate for the years 2019 and 2020.

Respectfully yours,

Nellie M. Gorbea  
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR**

Her Excellency the Governor, transmits the following appointments and requests the advice and consent of the Senate:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

January 1, 2019

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court:

**Keith Cardoza, Jr., Esq.**

VICE

Associate Judge Debra L. Olsson

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Received and ordered to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

January 1, 2019

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court:

**Melissa E. Darigan, Esq.**

VICE

Associate Justice Walter R. Stone

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Received and ordered to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

January 1, 2019

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court:

**Melissa DuBose, Esq.**

VICE

Associate Judge Rafael A. Ovalles

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Received and ordered to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

January 1, 2019

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court:

**Susan Pepin Fay, Esq.**

VICE

Associate Judge Hugo L. Ricci, Jr.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Received and ordered to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

January 1, 2019

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court:

**Richard A. Merola, Esq.**

VICE

Associate Justice John A. Mutter

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Received and ordered to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

January 1, 2019

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court:

**Christopher Knox Smith, Esq.**

VICE

Associate Judge William C. Clifton

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Received and ordered to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator McCaffrey and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Goodwin, Sisters Sheila and Maureen, and their Husbands Paul and Jeff. nieces and nephews Mary grace, Teresa, Jack and Liam. Margret Hurley, and Daughter Maggie and Kevin McCue.

Upon suggestion of Senator Algiere and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Guest of Senator Morgan, Mrs. Joy Eaton, Mr. Edward Eaton, Mr. Ian Morgan, Ms. Tina Lavigne, Ms. Kim DiZigno, Ms. Susan Walsh, Mr. Bernard L. Eaton III, and Ms. Christine Gonsalves.

Upon suggestion of Senator Algiere and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator de la Cruz. David de la Cruz, David de la Cruz Jr., Jonathan de la Cruz, Benjamin de la Cruz, Esther Homer, Jennifer Giles, Zachary Giles, Patricia Trafford, Theresa Martins. Sister Lisa, and her husband Jimmy.

Upon suggestion of Senator Goodwin and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senate President Ruggerio. Charles and Gillian Ruggerio. Daughter of President Ruggerio Amanda and Husband PJ. Three granddaughters Ava, Mia, and Natalie.

Upon suggestion of Senator Morgan and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Guests of Senator Rogers. Heidi Rogers, Ruth Rogers, Tyler Rogers, Jade Poznanski, Michael Boory, Fallynne Boory, Graham Boory, Hayley Rogers, John Wagner, Aubrey Wagner, Rowan Wagner, Jesse Poznanski, and Taylor Smith.

Upon suggestion of Senator Lynch Prata and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator McCaffrey. wife Deirdre, son Michael and daughters Cailyn, Deirdre, and Brenna.

Upon suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Wife of Senator Conley, Norma Conley.

Upon suggestion of Senator Miller and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Goldin, Jeff, Zach, and Jonah Levy.

Upon suggestion of Senator Conley and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Gallo. Russ Gallo, and Vinny and Karen Yachavonnis.

Upon suggestion of Senator Felag and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Husband of Senator Sosnowski Michael Sosnowski.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Valverde. William Valverde, Kate Geraci, Ron Geraci, Oscar Valverde, Elliot Valverde, Chloe Henry, Gabrielle Henry, Huntley Henry, Casey Henry, Caydan Henry, Deb Kopech, Jaimee Roberts, and Charles Roberts.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Euer. Vanessa Soares, Laura Murphy, and Peter Horthy.

Upon suggestion of Senator Cano and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Mayor Donald Grebien, First Lady Lauren Grebien, Louis Yip, and Sunny Ng.

Upon suggestion of Senator Cano and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Wife of Senator Archambault Gigi Archambault.

Upon suggestion of Senator Sosnowski and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Felag. Mary Johns, and Jayne Balasco.

Upon suggestion of Senator Nesselbush and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Lombardi, Antonelia Lombardi.

Upon suggestion of Senator Nesselbush and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Quezada. Lazaro Quezada, Kayomie Polanco, Emanuel Quezada, and Jayden Ovaiez.

Upon suggestion of Senator Nesselbush and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Bell. Samantha Weiser, Camaran Ramsey, and Emily Nunez.

Upon suggestion of Senator Ciccone and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Lombardo, Patty Lombardo.

Upon suggestion of Senator Satchell and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Kayla Satchell and Morgan Satchell.

Upon suggestion of Senator Paolino and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber friends Emilia, Caesar, Cara, Maria Issa, Lov Paolino, Mariah Paolino, and Austin Paolino

Upon suggestion of Senator Goldin and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Guests of Senator Murray. Michael Mineau, John Murray, Audrey Pepin, the Honorable Jerome Smith, Leslie Smith, the Honorable Garrett Mancieri, Mark L. Smith, and Lynda Smith.

Upon suggestion of Senator Goldin and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Miller Nancy Miller.

Upon suggestion of Senator Goldin and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber David Allard, Arianne Corrente, Isla Silva, and Derek Silva.

Upon suggestion of Senator McKenney and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Tricia McKenney, Caitlin Whalleg and her husband Kevin and Sons Owen and Liam. Cara McKenney and Fiance Rich, and son Dan McKenney. Also Bill Muto, and his wife Joann and children Kayla and Alex. Susan Martin-Phillips. Niece Maura McKenney, and Brother Paul and his wife Maryanne.

Upon suggestion of Senator Archambault and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Raptakis, Dr. Donna Raptakis, and Nicholas Raptakis.

Upon suggestion of Senator Archambault and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Cano. Roberto Cano, Isabel Franco, Mayor James Diossa, Marco Cano, Martha Cano, Juan Cano, and Etna Cano.

Upon suggestion of Senator Seveney and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Coyne. Jerry Coyne, Katie Coyne, Ian Coyne, Patrick Coyne, Judy Amour, and Meghan Coyne.

Upon suggestion of Senator Pearson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Mayor-Elect Jeffrey Mutter, and Jenney Mutter.

Upon suggestion of Senator Pearson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Picard. Diane Picard, Caitlyn Picard Kristen Picard, and Robert Shaw.

Upon suggestion of Senator Metts and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Patricia McKinnon, Robin Covington, and Maureen Gomes Lopez.

Upon suggestion of Senator Metts and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Lawson. Janice Lawson, Len Rounds, Ian Gribbin, Kerry Lawson, Steven Lawson, Mitchell Lawson, Kathleen McCabe, Dan McCable, Elizabeth Pascucci, Joseph Pascucci, Barbra Bachard, Kathleen Roposa, and Daniel Gribbin.

Upon suggestion of Senator Coyne and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Seveney, Val Seveney.

Upon suggestion of Senator Crowley and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Moyar Dan Gribien, and James Diossa. And Mrs. Gribbin, and Merideth Sheehan, and children Conan, Liam, and Abigail

Upon suggestion of Senator Euer and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator DiPalma. Margret DiPalma Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Alexander Simeone Abigail DiPalma Isom, Graham Lewis Isom, and Peter Charles Simeone

Upon suggestion of Senator Lawson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the Family of Senator Metts Day-us Metts, Deborah Metts, Anissa Metts, Liliana Metts

Upon suggestion of Senator Quezada and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the guests of Senator Crowley, Cathy Parma, and Betty Lamielle.

Upon suggestion of Senator McCaffrey and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Lynch Prata. Husband Joe Prata, and two sisters Bethany and Kristen. Also Former Senator Smith.

### **BENEDICTION**

The Honorable Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio, by unanimous consent, presents Rabbi Sarah Mack, of Temple Beth-El in Providence to deliver the invocation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Senator Goodwin, seconded by Senator Algieri, and the Senate adjourns at 5:54 o'clock P.M.



**Appendix****PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

January 1, 2019



**Dominick J. Ruggerio**  
*President of the Senate*

It is a pleasure and a true privilege to welcome everyone back to the Rhode Island Senate.

I want to thank my family, my colleagues in the Senate, and my constituents, without whom I would not be here today. My mom can't be here today, but I'm sure she is watching.

Thank you, Hanna and Harold, for your very kind words, and thank you to my colleagues for continuing to place your confidence in me. I will do my best to live up to that trust. With all of you working alongside me, I know the Senate will continue to provide the strong leadership needed to continue to move our state forward.

New Year's Day is a time for new beginnings. Last year's elections are behind us. Now it is time to roll up our sleeves and undertake the hard work of governing.

Our state faces many challenges.

We all share a desire to address those challenges: to build a more robust economy, a higher quality education system, and a strong social services safety net to care for those in need.

We all have differences in ideology and perspective ... and that's a good thing. The exchange of our different ideas is the point of this great deliberative body.

It is by working together with each other – by reaching across the table to collaborate on the issues – that we will make our state an even greater place to live and work.

We will get nothing accomplished if we all retreat to separate ideological corners and refuse to listen to each other's perspectives. Rigid inflexibility is a path to gridlock.

I am extremely proud that this Senate has always been able to disagree without being disagreeable. The partisan stalemates that seem to define Washington have not been present here. We have always worked through our differences – and we have accomplished so much.

Among the major initiatives we have enacted are:

- Paid family leave and paid sick leave to protect workers;

- Probation and prison reform, so our prisons aren't filled with individuals better served by treatment;
- Landmark legislation to address the opioid crisis;
- National-model renewable energy laws;
- Effective worker training programs; and
- Tax reform and business regulation reform that positions our state to compete. Working together, we have removed more than 2,700 pages of outdated regulations from the books. We reformed the income tax, reduced the corporate tax rate and the minimum corporate tax, reduced unemployment taxes, and eliminated the tax on energy. We exempted most Social Security taxes and a portion of the retirement income from taxation, and modified the estate tax.

As a result of these efforts, there are more jobs in our state today than at any point in our history, and unemployment hasn't been this low since 1989. Existing companies are growing here, and new companies are investing here. There is much to be excited about.

But we will need to continue to work together if the progress is going to continue. Serious challenges remain, in areas such as:

- Education;
- Our continued economic growth;
- Wage disparities;
- Health care; and
- Caring for vulnerable Rhode Islanders.

Working together, this Senate will lead the way to meeting these challenges.

A quality education system is critical to economic development and quality of life. The Senate is insisting on a meaningful comparison of our education system with the system in Massachusetts.

And the Senate Education Committee, under the leadership of Chairwoman Gallo, hosted its annual Education Summit this fall and discussed additional reforms such as a STEM strategic plan and improving access to adult education.

On the economic front, while there is positive momentum, we continue to hear from developers about the challenges of building new construction. Lack of development is detrimental to job growth, retaining and growing our population, affordable housing, and more.

We will also continue to work towards equal protections in the workplace.

Men and women doing the same work should be paid the same salaries. And no one should be subject to harassment in the workplace. Senator Goldin – and the members of this chamber – have provided strong leadership on both pay equity and sexual harassment legislation, and these bills remain a priority for us.

I want to take a moment to recognize that today the Senate has set a new record as we welcome 16 women to the Chamber. That's 42 percent.

The Senate will also continue to seek enactment into state law of the essential health protections provided through the Affordable Care Act. This legislation is particularly important as the ACA is facing a new challenge in the federal courts.

The Senate is also hard at work looking at ways to better protect seniors from elder abuse. A commission chaired by Senator Coyne began meeting last month to examine this issue. Rhode Island has one of the highest proportions of elderly citizens in the nation. Elder abuse is a growing problem that will only become more prevalent with the anticipated increase of elders in the state.

These are just a few of the many issues we will be working on in the months ahead.

Each of you brings immense talent and ceaseless dedication to the cause of improving our state, and I will do all I can to help in that cause.

My door is always open. I am very fortunate in that I lead a chamber filled with individuals who have embraced the spirit of service to others.

I have tremendous partners in leadership, Majority Leader Michael McCaffrey, Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin, and of course Minority Leader Dennis Algieri.

I know I speak for all of us when I say that we look forward to working closely with each of you to help you achieve your goals on behalf of your constituents.

Welcome to the 2019 Senate session, and Happy New Year!