

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 forth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and five.

Volume 132, No. 1

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

First Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, January 4, 2005 and is called to order at 3:15 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable Paul W. Crowley, the Senior Member from Newport.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Friday, July 30, 2004 is approved as printed.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Paul W. Crowley presents the Most Reverend Robert E. Mulvee, Bishop of the Diocese of Providence who delivers the Invocation.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

NEW BUSINESS

Representative Fox introduces (05H 5000) JOINT RESOLUTION OF ADJOURNMENT.

Majority Leader Fox requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Fox seconded by Representative Moura and by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

The 2004 Session is adjourned, Sine Die.

Representatives Fox and Watson introduces (05H 5001) HOUSE RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE 2003-2004 RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PENDING THE ADOPTION OF NEW RULES FOR THE 2005-2006 SESSION

Majority Leader Fox requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Fox seconded by Minority Leader Watson and by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

Representatives Fox and Watson introduces (05H 5002) JOINT RESOLUTION OF ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader Fox requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Fox seconded by Minority Leader Watson and by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Representative Landroche introduces his brother, First Sgt. John-Paul Landroche, a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard's 115th Military Police Company, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Honorable Representative Crowley calls on Allyson Marchetti to sing the National Anthem.

COMMUNICATION

The Honorable Representative Crowley announces the receipt of the following communication:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ROOM 217, STATE HOUSE
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903-1105**

MATTHEW A. BROWN
Secretary of State

January 4, 2005

To the Honorable House of Representatives:

I, Matthew Brown, Secretary of State, hereby certify the following list of members elected to the House of Representatives in the General Assembly, in accordance with the certificate of election filed in this office by the Board of Elections on the twenty-sixth day of November, A.D. 2004, as provided by Section 22-3-13 of the General Laws of 1956:

Representative	District
John J. McCauley, Jr.	1
Paul E. Moura	2
Edith H. Ajello	3
Gordon D. Fox	4
John J. DeSimone	5
Peter N. Wasylyk	6
Joanne M. Giannini	7
Steven M. Costantino	8
Anastasia P. Williams	9
Thomas C. Slater	10
Grace Diaz	11
Joseph S. Almeida	12
Steven F. Smith	13
Charlene Lima	14
James F. Davey	15
Peter G. Palumbo	16
Robert B. Jacquard	17
Arthur Handy	18
Joseph McNamara	19

Alfred A. Gemma	20
Eileen Slattery Naughton	21
Peter T. Ginaitt	22
Robert E. Flaherty	23
Joseph A. Trillo	24
Timothy A. Williamson	25
William J. Murphy	26
Norman L. Landroche, Jr.	27
Victor G. Moffitt	28
Raymond J. Sullivan, Jr.	29
Robert A. Watson	30
Kenneth Carter	31
Laurence W. Ehrhardt	32
Donald J. Lally, Jr.	33
David A. Caprio	34
John Patrick Shanley, Jr.	35
Matthew J. McHugh	36
Peter L. Lewiss	37
Brian Patrick Kennedy	38
Joseph H. Scott	39
Nicholas Gorham	40
Carol A. Mumford	41
Stephen R. Ucci	42
Joseph J. Voccola	43

Peter J. Petrarca	44
Rene R. Menard	45
William J. McManus	46
Edwin R. Pacheco	47
Raymond C. Church	48
David E. Laroche	49
Todd R Brien	50
Roger A. Picard	51
Richard W. Singleton	52
Thomas J. Winfield	53
Gregory J. Schadone	54
Arthur J. Corvese	55
Joseph L. Faria	56
Joseph P. Moran, III	57
William San Bento, Jr.	58
J. Patrick O'Neill	59
Elaine A. Coderre	60
Peter F. Kilmartin	61
Elizabeth M. Dennigan	62
Henry C. Rose	63
Helio Melo	64
John A. Savage	65
Susan A. Story	66
Jan Malik	67

Fausto C. Anguilla	68
Raymond E. Gallison, Jr.	69
Joseph N. Amaral	70
John J. Loughlin, II	71
Amy G. Rice	72
J. Russell Jackson	73
Bruce J. Long	74
Paul W. Crowley	75

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island on this fourth day of January, A.D. 2005.

Respectfully Yours,

Matthew Brown
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and the Clerk informs the Chair that a quorum is present:

PRESENT - 75: The Honorable Speaker Murphy and Representatives Ajello, Almeida, Amaral, Anguilla, Brien, Caprio, Carter, Church, Coderre, Corvese, 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, Menard, Moffitt, Moran, Moura, Mumford, Naughton, O'Neill, Pacheco, Palumbo, Petrarca, Picard, Rice, Rose, San Bento, Savage, Schadone, Scott, Shanley, Singleton, Slater, Smith, Story, Sullivan, Trillo, Ucci, Voccola, Wasyluk, Watson, Williams, Williamson, Winfield.

ABSENT – 0.

The Honorable Representative Crowley addresses the members of the House.

(For Representative Crowley's address see Appendix of this Journal.)

APPOINTMENTS

The Chair appoints Representatives Edith Ajello, Joseph Almeida, Raymond Gallison, Peter Ginaitt, Arthur Handy, Jan Malik, Joseph McNamara, and Eileen Naughton to escort the Honorable Secretary of State to the rostrum of the House.

OATH OF OFFICE

At 3:35 o'clock P.M. the Representatives-elect rise, as Secretary of State, Matthew A. Brown, administers the Oath of Office.

The Secretary of State, Matthew A. Brown, addresses the House Chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Representative Crowley calls for nominations.

Representative Coderre nominates Representative William J. Murphy of West Warwick, to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. The nomination is seconded by Representatives Faria, Carter, Costantino, Handy, Lima, Fox, Williamson, Pacheco, Gallison, Picard, Diaz, Schadone, Jacquard, Gemma, Church, San Bento, Kennedy, Ginaitt, Jackson, Lewiss, Flaherty, Naughton, Crowley, Coderre, Slater, Corvese, Melo, Malik, McNamara, Dennigan, Anguilla, Almeida, Rose, O'Neill, Sullivan, Shanley, Kilmartin, Moura, Landroche, Ajello, Rice, and Lally.

Representatives Coderre discusses the nomination.

Representative Voccola nominates Representative DeSimone to be Speaker of the House, seconded by Representatives McHugh, Petrarca, Giannini, Smith, Brien, Caprio, McCauley, Menard, Winfield, Palumbo, Ucci, Wasylyk, and Laroche.

Representative Shanley offers seconding remarks for Representative Murphy.

Representative Winfield offers seconding remarks for Representative DeSimone.

Representative Kilmartin, seconded by Representative Williamson, moves that nominations be closed.

The motion to close nominations prevails, on a voice vote.

The election of Representative William J. Murphy as Speaker of the House prevails, on a roll call vote, 45 members voting for Representative Murphy and 30 members voting for Representative DeSimone as follow:

MURPHY - 45: Representatives Ajello, Almeida, Anguilla, Carter, Church, Coderre, Corvese, Costantino, Crowley, Dennigan, Diaz, Faria, Flaherty, Fox, Gallison, Gemma, Ginaitt, Handy, Jackson, Jacquard, Kennedy, Kilmartin, Lally, Landroche, Lewiss, Lima, Malik, McNamara, Melo, Moran, Moura, Murphy, Naughton, O'Neill, Pacheco, Picard, Rice, Rose, San Bento, Schadone, Shanley, Slater, Sullivan, Williams, Williamson.

DESIMONE - 30: Representatives Amaral, Brien, Caprio, Davey, DeSimone, Ehrhardt, Giannini, Gorham, Laroche, Long, Loughlin, McCauley, McHugh, McManus, Menard, Moffitt, Mumford, Palumbo, Petrarca, Savage, Scott, Singleton, Smith, Story, Trillo, Ucci, Voccola, Wasyluk, Watson, Winfield.

The Chair declares William J. Murphy is elected Speaker of the House for the years 2005-2006.

APPOINTMENTS

The Chair appoints Representatives Kenneth Carter, Steven Costantino, Elizabeth Dennigan, Joseph Faria, Robert Flaherty, Al Gemma, Brian Kennedy, Norman Landroche, Roger Picard, Henry Rose, Anastasia Williams, and Timothy Williamson as a committee to escort the Speaker-elect, and his family to the rostrum.

The Chair appoints Representatives Fausto Anguilla, Robert Jacquard, William San Bento, and Thomas Slater as a committee to escort the Honorable Joseph F. Rodgers, Jr., Presiding Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court to the rostrum.

OATH OF OFFICE

At 4:03 o'clock P.M. the House attends while the Honorable Justice administers the Oath of Office to the Honorable Speaker.

NOW PRESIDING

At 4:06 o'clock P.M. Representative Crowley turns over the rostrum to the Honorable Speaker Murphy.

The Honorable Speaker Murphy, addresses the members of the House.

(For Speaker Murphy's Address see appendix of this Journal.)

The Honorable Speaker welcomes back Allyson Marchetti, who will sing "God Bless America."

ELECTION OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Speaker declares the election of Clerk is in order and calls for nominations.

Representative Lally, seconded by Representative Shanley and Caprio, nominates Louis D'Antuono of Narragansett to be Clerk of the House for the Session 2005-2006.

There being no further nominations, Representative Lima, seconded by Representative Shanley, moves that nominations be closed.

The motion to close nominations prevails, on a voice vote.

Representative Lewis moves that Representative Lally be directed to cast one ballot for Louis D'Antuono of Narragansett to be Clerk of the House for the 2005-2006 Session, seconded by Representative Shanley. Representative Lally casts one ballot for Louis D'Antuono for the office of the Clerk of the House for the years 2005-2006. The motion prevails by unanimous consent on a voice vote.

Louis D'Antuono is elected Clerk of the House of the Session 2005-2006.

ELECTION OF RECORDING CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Speaker declares the election of a Recording Clerk is in order and calls for nominations. Representative Schadone, seconded by Representative Corvese, nominates Linda McElroy of North Providence to be Recording Clerk of the House for the Session 2005-2006.

There being no further nominations, Representative San Bento, seconded by Representative Corvese, moves that nominations be closed.

The motion to close nominations prevails, on a voice vote.

Representative San Bento moves that Representative Schadone be directed to cast one ballot for Linda McElroy of North Providence to be Recording Clerk for the 2005-2006 Session, seconded by Representative Corvese.

Representative Schadone casts one ballot for Linda McElroy for the office of Recording Clerk of the House for the years 2005-2006. The motion prevails by unanimous consent on a voice vote.

Linda McElroy is elected Recording Clerk of the House of the Session 2005-2006.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Speaker administers the Oath of Office to the Clerk of the House Louis D'Antuono and the Recording Clerk of the House Linda McElroy for the 2005-2006 Session.

BENEDICTION

The Honorable Speaker presents Reverend Charles Downing of St. Joseph's Parish in West Warwick for the Benediction.

(For Benediction see Appendix of this Journal)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Leader Fox congratulates Speaker Murphy and wishes him a very Happy Birthday.

Also:

Majority Leader Fox announces session will convene tomorrow at 4 o'clock P.M.

GUESTS

Representative Kilmartin and the Honorable Speaker congratulate Representative Joe Moran on being sworn in as Chief of the Central Falls Police Department. Representative Kilmartin also extends a hello to his mother, wife and the rest of his family.

Minority Leader Watson welcomes his mother Jane Watson and Louise Smith to the House.

Representative Lima welcomes to the Chamber Representative Rice's family, Paul Rice, her husband, Jane and Roger Rice, her mother and father-in-law, from Cohasset, Pradeep and Anu Wahi, Paul's employer from Maryland, Jean-Marie Napolitano, Vice Pres Newport City Council, Glen Allen, former Portsmouth Town Councilor, Deborah Mitchell Young, a horsewoman from Portsmouth, Carolyn Mannis, fellow attorney.

Also:

Representative Lima welcomes to the House her husband, Frank Fiorenzano, Catherine Marcello, Aunt, Arthur Jordan, Al DiFilippo, friends and campaign workers, Paul and Eddy DiMuccio, State Committee people, Mike Sepe, Cranston Democratic City Chairman, Mike Sepe, Sr, former Chairman of House Finance.

Representative Gorham welcomes to the House Roseanna S. Gorham, Austin S. Gorham, Alejandra P. Gorham and Jeanne Lavoie.

Representative Handy welcomes to the Chamber his wife, Patricia DiPrete, and Marti Rosenberg, constituent and friend.

Representative Long welcomes to the House Chamber Representative Amaral's guests Alice Silvia, Irene Medeiros, Mike Rego, Geraldine Cunha and Maria Amaral.

Representative Voccola welcomes Representative Ucci's family and friends, his fiancée Dina Roberti, father and mother, Thomas and Connie Ucci and friends Chris Macelli, and Mark DiLeo.

Representative San Bento welcomes to the House Representative Melo's wife Nancy, Maria Racire Mrs. Melo, his son Nicholas and daughter Victoria

Representative Jacquard congratulates Representative Davey and welcomes Representative Davey's wife and family.

Representative Pacheco welcomes to the House Lauren Leone; Cathy Auger; Steve Macedo; Polly Leone; Peter Leone; Kim Ayotte; Chuck Mainville; Glenn Beddiscone; Ray Trinqué; Joan Cote; Loretta Auger; John Auger; Helen Maroney; Ann Fagan Polacek.

Representative Mumford welcomes to the Chamber Thomas Mumford, Katherine Mumford, Richard Mumford, and Aislinn Mumford.

Representative Moran congratulates Representative Kilmartin on attaining rank as Captain in the Pawtucket Police Department.

Also:

Representative Moran welcomes back to the Chamber former Representative and now Mayor David Iwuc, Mayor Charles Moreau, former Mayor Thomas Lazieh, Personnel Director, Gene Nourey, his wife Ann Marie Moran and daughters Shannon and Kelsea Moran.

Representative Gallison welcomes to the Chamber Raymond Gallison Sr., Barbara Gallison, Diane Gallison, Timothy Gallison, and Nathan Gallison.

Representative Moffitt welcomes to the House Bertha Moffitt and Melanie Moffitt.

Representative Amaral welcomes to the House Ruth Long, Jessica Long and Jane Serra.

Representative Diaz welcomes to the House Chamber her mother Mercedes Pegoero, Jose Piccini, brother, Gloria Piccini, sister in law, Carmen Belancourt, sister, Michell Diaz, Gisselle Diaz, daughters, Crislian Feliz, Ruben Feliz, Felix Feliz, sons, Jose Brito, friend, mother's jet sick friends.

Representative O'Neill welcomes to the House Sheri Durigan, Phil Durigan, Jim O'Neill, Paula Parker, Karen Piccolo, Sam Piccolo, Andy O'Neill, Luke O'Neill, Romona Ramos, Joe "The Pie Man" Sadlier.

Representative Landroche welcomes to the House Maureen Sullivan, Raymond Sullivan, Sr. Viola McKennedy, Marissa DelBarrune, Joey Demings, Bill and Tracy Hall, Eileen Hannay, and Frank Sullivan.

Representative McManus welcomes to the House Susan J. Loughlin, Dr. Raymond K. Loughlin, Dr. Diedre Loughlin, Elsa F. Loughlin, Victoria Susan Loughlin, Carrie E. Loughlin and Major Wayne R. Morse USAR.

Representative Davey welcomes to the House his wife Connie Davey , and daughter Lynn Davey.

Representative Ehrhardt welcomes to the Chamber his wife Joan, Kay Cutty and Darlene.

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the Clerk's desk are ordered to be transmitted to the Honorable Senate, and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:08 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Handy, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Nancy Gewirtz; on motion of Representative Fox, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Florence Weintraub; on motion of Representative Loughlin and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Jack McKinnon; seconded by Representatives Lima and Watson the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Linda M. McElroy
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****Most Reverend Robert E. Mulvee**

OPENING OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE - 2005

LOVING GOD, IN YOUR GOODNESS YOU HAVE FASHIONED EACH ONE OF US. WE ARE ALL YOUR CHILDREN AND TODAY WE ASK YOU TO BLESS US, OUR WORK, OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES AS WE BEGIN THIS NEW YEAR. WE ASK YOU TO BLESS IN A PARTICULAR WAY OUR STATE LEGISLATORS. GIVE THEM YOUR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE AS THEY REPRESENT AND SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND. MAY THESE ELECTED OFFICIALS BE EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL RESPECT IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS. MAY THEY DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES WITH HONESTY AND ABILITY AND ALWAYS SEEK TO BUILD A JUST AND LIFE-GIVING SOCIETY WHERE FAMILIES MAY THRIVE, THE POOR MAY HAVE HOPE FULFILLED, AND THE SICK, THE AGED AND THE UNBORN MAY BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AS PERSONS. GIVE EACH OF US A TRUE APPRECIATION OF THE BLESSINGS THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO US AND INSPIRE US TO SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS. HELP US ALL TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE AND DISCORD BY PROMOTING HARMONY AND PEACE IN OUR HOMES, OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE WORLD, BLESS ALL THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND. HELP US TO EXERCISE THE JUSTICE THAT YOU DESIRE, DEAR GOD, AND TO BE EVER GENEROUS IN OUR COMMITMENT AND RESPONSE TO THOSE IN NEED. KEEP US IN YOUR PROVIDENCIAL CARE BOTH NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

REPRESENTATIVE CROWLEY'S ADDRESS

Welcome to the House of Representatives and the General Assembly.

I should say the New General Assembly, for rest assured that with the passage of Separation of Powers this legislative body is chartering new waters.

I've had the honor of serving in this House for twenty-four consecutive years. I've seen a lot of change. Most of it in the name of reform. Yet we begin our work today in an institution that some would have you believe is desperately in need of even greater reform.

Let's pause for a moment and recall those past reforms.

The end of the Grand Committee election of justices to the Supreme Court.

The end of Legislative pensions.

The down-sizing of the House and Senate.

The granting of four-year terms to the General officers with term limits while the legislature continues with two year terms and no term limits.

Campaign finance reform.

Ethics reform.

While all these reforms have affected the power of the General Assembly none will come close to the potential impact of SOP.

I say potential impact because none of us here or outside this chamber are quit sure how SOP will play out. Some believe and hope that SOP will result in a vastly more powerful executive branch. Others see the real winners as the judiciary. There are those who pontificate that SOP will finally tame an unruly legislative branch. And there are those who believe in the old adage: "the more things change - the more they remain the same."

I'm not here today to tell you what is in my crystal ball but please grant me a few minutes to speak on behalf an institution I love and which I believe you value...or why would you have invested so much time serving here or campaigning to serve here.

First there is the historic institution. As I said in my reelection campaign: "longevity matters".

Many of our most respected institutions, universities, hospitals, foundations, corporations and political institutions have been around for a long time. They have stood the test of time. Successful institutions both evolve and stand fast. As a rule they improve over time. They didn't just get bigger, they became better.

This General Assembly has served the citizens first as a colony and second as a state for over three hundred and forty years. It is one of the oldest democratically elected representative bodies in existence today. Think about that.

Older than congress and most other national parliamentary bodies.

And while it is not a perfect study in representative government, it is today a much improved body and contrary to its loudest critics, it is one of the most open and publicly accessible legislatures in this country.

Second there is the civic institution. The General Assembly has two basic but profoundly important duties.

First we annually raise and spend the revenue to fund government which serves about a million Rhode Islanders. What the parameters of that government service are is subject to annual debate. But unlike Congress we must balance our budget and we can't print money.

We make the law. While we live and work in the most free and open society in the world we believe in the rule of law. We expect that citizens will obey the laws we pass because they are written to serve the common good. However, like the size of government the concept of the "common good" is also subject to debate.

Third, there is the political institution. Representative democracy in Rhode Island is supposed to be a "lively experiment." If we all agreed with each other all the time our experiment would be veiy boring and dangerous. There has to be dissent. There must be an opposition. Political jousting is the life blood of good government. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams knew this. What was said and written between

these two great men by themselves and others was at times very raw. Yet over time their mutual respect grew.

We will have many political battles. And our critics will belittle us for being “political”. “Stop the political bickering and just get the peoples business done” they will write. But the bickering is one way ideas are vetted and tested.

This brings me to the last institution. The General Assembly is a people’s assembly. The members who served here in the past and you who serve here today are all individuals with personal histories, interests, ambitions and faults.

You will make mistakes. We will make mistakes. As Casey Stengle said to the Mets after one of the worst seasons in baseball.

“I don’t want any one of you to feel personally responsible for this disastrous season, after all it was a group effort.”

Separation of Powers.

If it were as simple as passing legislation knocking legislators off boards and commissions then why not just get on with it?

We will do that. And I hope we do it quickly. Because that is when the real work of legislative over-sight will begin.

And make no mistake the real over-sight..... that which protects the public interest and helps the legislature to develop corrective action when required. . . cannot be done cheaply.

Real oversight requires an investment in human resources and support systems. As we develop the necessary oversight structures, be prepared to hear from the critics, that we are involved in empire building and wasting taxpayer’s money.

Currently there are, in the various departments, employees being compensated whose duties include being legislative liaisons, a euphemistic term for lobbyists.

If you supported Separation of Powers, if you truly believe in the importance of over-sight, if you believe that it is the legislative branch, that is closest to the people and if you want to see the General Assembly

move forward in service to Rhode Island then please join in a bi-partisan effort to get Separation of Powers right.

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER MURPHY'S ADDRESS

Thank you, Representative Crowley, for presiding.

To my supporters, I sincerely appreciate your support. This day would not be possible without your faith in my leadership and your belief in me. Thank you!

To my wife Stacey, your understanding and support of me throughout this process is deeply appreciated. Not once did I have to worry about your vote! Thank you, and I love you.

To my sons Ryan and Kyle, may we do great work here in the General Assembly so that when the both of you come of age, your generation will have a bright future in the State of Rhode Island.

To my parents, John and Dorothy, who are at home watching and listening to these proceedings on television, thank you for always being there.

I would like to welcome my brother Mike, sister-in-law Nancy, nephew Sean, nieces Karlah and Sarah and her husband Ahmet.

I would also like to thank three other relatives, Uncle Bill, Aunt Toni and Aunt Sue, who are home watching, for their continued support.

I'd also like to thank Law Partner Mark Fay, Office Manager Donna Rogers, Kendra Lima and Steve Crawford.

Thank you to our honored guests: President Justice Rogers, Bishop Mulvee, Father Downing, Principal Steve Hernandez, a former State Representative; Sam Horn of NESN, Felix Appolonia Jr., my campaign manager Lt. Governor Fogarty, and Attorney General Lynch.

There are also 13 very special individuals sitting in this chamber today that I'd like to ask to stand and introduce to you individually for the first time in this chamber.

These are the freshmen members who worked tremendously hard to earn their seats in this House of Representatives. They are very talented, and they have the potential to be one of the best classes to ever serve in the House of Representatives.

I'd like to ask for a warm round of applause for:

Raymond Church of North Smithfield and Burrillville

James Davey of Cranston

Grace Diaz of Providence

Laurence Ehrhardt of North Kingstown

J. Russell Jackson of Newport and Middletown

John Loughlin of Tiverton, Little Compton and Portsmouth

Helio Melo of East Providence

J. Patrick O'Neill of Pawtucket

Edwin Pacheco of Burrillville and Glocester

Amy Rice of Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport

Richard Singleton of Cumberland

Raymond Sullivan of Coventry and West Greenwich

Stephen Ucci of Johnston and Cranston

Congratulations again, and we certainly look forward to working with all of you.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership teams of both parties in this chamber....

Majority Leader Gordon Fox

Speaker Tempore Charlene Lima

Majority Whip Peter Kilmartin

Deputy Majority Whip Paul Moura

Minority Leader Robert Watson

And Minority Whip Joseph Scott

Ladies and gentlemen of this House: the political season is over. We must now get to work for the citizens of Rhode Island!

It is time to end our divisions and factions, and move forward to accomplish the people's business.

But let me be clear about one thing! This great body - this great institution called the House of Representatives -- will not be held over a barrel - not by any faction, not by any special interest, or not by any other branch of government.

The House of Representatives will continue to stand strong and face all issues that come before us.

We are the body that has daily contact with the citizens of Rhode Island and let us not forget that we work for them.

We must recognize that our state faces real challenges -- in the areas of health care, education, the economy, and our environment.

We should stand here today with pride in all that we've achieved in the last two years, and confidence in the idea that we can come together today, and meet these challenges - delivering real results for the people of our districts, and strengthening the bond of trust between all Rhode Islanders and this government.

We will continue to enact a responsible state budget, one that balances the needs of our most vulnerable citizens with the necessity to streamline government and cut waste.

We will move forward with legislation that provides real property tax relief, realizing that the education funding formula as it currently exists saddles homeowners with far too much burden.

Our children deserve nothing less than a first-rate education, and our public schools will continue to be a top priority, but this chamber will not let another two years go by without initiating a more equitable funding formula that eases some of that burden.

It's time to demand accountability at all levels of public education. This General Assembly has heavily invested in local school districts, but in many areas, our children are still not realizing their full potential. That has to change, but it won't until we require responsibility and results from our school administrators.

We will do all that we can to bring jobs to our state. But not just any jobs, good-paying jobs in a wide variety of industry, ones that provide health care and lend themselves to supporting a family.

It's why we're bringing back the Joint Committee on Economic Development - working hand-in-hand with our friends in the Senate to stimulate this economy, support small business and keep more Rhode Islanders working right here in Rhode Island.

And we've already shown that when we work together, we can deliver real results. The Joint Committee on Health Care Oversight has already enacted landmark legislation in the area of insurance regulation.

This year, the committee will pursue aggressive oversight of Rhode Island's nursing homes and assisted living facilities - addressing the needs of our senior population, and helping to put more life-saving prescription medications in the hands of people that need them the most.

I am asking each and every member to forget all the gamesmanship and rhetorical bitterness that has taken place in the last several months.

All of us, 75 members strong, must rise above it now, and get down to the business of governing.

Today, I extend an olive branch to each and every one in this room. I invite you to join me in making this state a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I'm excited about what the future holds, and hopeful that by working together, we can ring in a new era of prosperity.

Thank you all, and God Bless the State of Rhode Island.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Charles Downing

PRAYER OF BLESSING AT AN INAUGURATION

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, YOU HAVE REVEALED YOUR GLORY TO ALL NATTONS.

GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, WISDOM AND JUSTICE, THROUGH YOU AUTHORITY IS
RIGHTLY ADMINISTERED, LAWS ARE ENACTED, AND JUDGMENT IS DECREED.

WE PRAY TODAY FOR THE GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE OF RHODE ISLAND,
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, ESPECIALLY WILLIAM MURPHY,
FOR JUDGES, ELECTED CIVIL OFFICIALS, AND ALL OTHERS WHO ARE ENTRUSTED
TO GUARD OUR POLITICAL WELFARE.

MAY THEY BE ENABLED BY YOUR POWERFUL PROTECTION TO DISCHARGE THEIR
DUTIES

WITH HONESTY AND ABILITY.

WE LIKEWISE COMMEND TO YOUR UNBOUNDED MERCY ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED
STATES,

ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE SERVING THIS DAY IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM AS
MEMBERS OF

OUR ARMED FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

MAY WE BE PRESERVED IN UNION AND IN THAT PEACE WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT
GIVE:

AND AFTER ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF THIS LIFE, BE ADMITTED TO THOSE WHICH
ARE ETERNAL. WE PRAY TO YOU, WHO ARE LORD AND GOD FOREVER AND EVER.

AMEN