

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Met at twelve minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communications.

The following communications were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 23H of the General Laws) to the Massachusetts State Workforce Board (received March 14, 2023); and

Massachusetts State Workforce Board. SD2506

Communication from the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 9(e) of Chapter 6C of the General Laws) submitting the 2022 annual report of its Internal Special Audit Unit (received March 15, 2023).

OIG,-- ISAU report. SD2510

Reports.

The following reports were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Report of the Tax Expenditure Review Commission (pursuant to Section 14(e) of Chapter 14 of the General Laws) submitting its March 2023 report on its review of tax expenditures adopted by the Commonwealth (received March 13, 2023);

TERC,-- March 2023 report. SD2504

Report of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association (pursuant to item 0340-2100 of Section 2 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its fiscal year 2022 report on Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC) case referrals to district attorneys (received March 14, 2023); and

MDAA,-- DPPC report. SD2505

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting the February 2023 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund report (received March 16, 2023).

DER,-- UI trust fund report. SD2509

Petition.

Ms. Comerford presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joanne M. Comerford and Natalie M. Blais for legislation to exempt Barbara Killeen from certain requirements of the retired municipal teacher program,-- and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Barbara Killeen,-- health coverage. SD2507

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were severally considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Brownsberger, Tarr, Timilty and Brady, Ms. Comerford, Messrs. Crighton, Eldridge, Fattman and Feeney, Ms. Gobi, Messrs. Gomez, Keenan and Kennedy, Ms. Lovely and Messrs. Moore, O'Connor, Pacheco, Rodrigues and Rush) "commending the Admetech Foundation on recognizing the fourteenth annual

Admetech Foundation.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Day on March 30, 2023”; and

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. O’Connor and Timilty) “congratulating Mary Warren on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday.”

Mary Warren.

Report of Committees.

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Edward J. Kennedy and Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Meredith Mingoelli-Cotter.

Meredith Mingoelli-Cotter,-- sick leave.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was then referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Anthony “Tony” J. Verga, Sr.

The Senator from First Essex and Middlesex Mr. Tarr moves that when the Senate adjourns today it does so in memory of former State Representative Anthony “Tony” J. Verga, Sr., 87 of Gloucester, he passed away peacefully on March 10, 2023, at the Beverly Hospital surrounded by his family.

Anthony was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts on April 26, 1935, son of the late Dominic and Giovannina (Nicastro) Verga. He was a graduate and the Class President of Saint Ann's High School, Class of 1954. He also was the Captain of the Basketball Championship team. He proudly served in the United States Navy during the Korean War era.

Tony was a life member of the Capt. Lester S. Wass Post #3, Gloucester American Legion, AMVETS Post #32, DAV Gloucester Chapter #74, Gloucester Lodge of Elks #892, Tin Can Sailor Association, USS Mole 698 Association, St. Peter's Club, Gloucester Fraternity Club, and the Holy Name Society.

He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1994, where his work for military veterans was a labor of love. He was appointed as the first House Chairman of the state Legislature's newly created Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee, for which he would later serve as co-chair. He sponsored and championed "The Welcome Home Bill" that was nationally recognized as the most generous state benefits package in the country for military and veteran families.

Tony was also one of earliest champions calling for better care and resources for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

He is survived by his children, Mick Verga and his wife Ping, Jeanmarie Chartier and her husband Glenn, Peter Verga and his wife Geraldine, Anthony Verga and his wife, Linda Vaughan, Matthew Verga, Kevin Verga and his wife Charlene, Steven Verga and his wife Almiris, Mayor Gregory Verga and his wife Kellie; 14 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Anthony “Tony” J. Verga, Sr., at seventeen minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate

adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
