Thursday, March 1, 2007.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Petrolati of Ludlow in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

Prayer.

Eternal God, we pause for a moment of reflection and prayer to think about You, our relationship to You and our personal agenda for this day. Your guidance helps us to keep the day's legislative proposals and the needs and concerns of constituents in perspective and clear in our minds. Teach us to develop and sharpen our listening skills, as we try to unite the people in our various communities in pursuing goals which serve the best interest of all people. In proposing programs and legislation may we learn from the legislative successes and failures of our predecessors. In this age of worldwide violence may we continue to respect the dignity and innate rights of all people.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of this House and their families. Amen.

Pledge of allegiance.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Petrolati), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Messages from the Governor.

General Appropriation Bill.

A message from His Excellency the Governor submitting the annual budget of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 (House, No. 1) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, February 28.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying schedules, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Tax laws,—homeowner circuit breaker.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to improving the fairness of the tax laws (House, No. 3756) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, February 28.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Revenue. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Silent Prayer.

Donald White.

At the request of Messrs. Driscoll of Braintree and Mariano of Quincy, the members, guests and employees then stood for a moment of silent prayer in memory of Mr. Donald White, a selectman (elected in April 2006) and retired police officer for the town of Holbrook. Mr. White, who died Sunday at Massachusetts General Hospital, was a life-long resident of the town of Holbrook. A star athlete at

Holbrook High School in baseball and basketball; in 1962 he turned his vast energies to his hometown and joined the Holbrook Police Department. As an officer for Holbrook he was known for his compassion as the court prosecutor for the town at the Quincy District Court where he served with distinction for many years and earned the respect and affection of his fellow officers, court personnel and members of the bar. Mr. White, a heart transplant recipient, was involved with the New England Organ Bank.

Statement of Representative Campbell of Methuen.

A statement of Ms. Campbell of Methuen was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Statement of Representative Campbell of Methuen.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that it has been brought to my attention that I inadvertently missed a quorum roll call vote on Tuesday last. I wish to enter into the record that I was either in the House Chamber at the time of the vote, or in the immediate vicinity of the House Chamber conversing with colleagues regarding the substantive vote soon to follow. While it appears I missed the quorum roll call vote, I was present for the substantive vote taken during the formal session on Tuesday, February 27.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Paul Michael Hodskins.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Flanagan of Leominster) congratulating Paul Michael Hodskins on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

John Sheehan.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Flanagan of Leominster) congratulating John Sheehan on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Kafka of Stoughton and other members of the House) commemorating the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee for twenty years of service;

Mary Josephine McGrath Avellar.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Peake of Provincetown) congratulating Mary Josephine McGrath Avellar on the occasion of her ninety-fifth birthday; and

Robert and Esther Mary Thompson.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Swan of Springfield) congratulating Robert and Esther Mary Thompson on the monumental occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary;

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Kafka, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Petition.

Frances Berghaus,— sick leave.

Mr. Fagan of Taunton presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James H. Fagan for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Frances Berghaus, an employee of the Department of Correction; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Frances Berghaus,— sick leave.

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Kafka of Stoughton, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Reports of Committees.

Burton W. Gerrig.

By Mr. O'Flaherty of Chelsea, for the committee on the Judiciary, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1382) of Robert A. DeLeo and Stephen Stat Smith for payment from the state treasury of a certain sum of money to Burton W. Gerrig for services rendered to the Civil Service Commission,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Ways and Means. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the discharge of the committee.

Karen White,— sick leave.

By Mr. O'Flaherty of Chelsea, for the committee on the Judiciary, on a petition, a Bill relative to a sick leave bank for Karen White (House, No. 1659). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Mr. Donato of Medford, for said committee, reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Driscoll of Braintree, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Raynham,— Borden Colony.

By Mr. Flynn of Bridgewater, for the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, on a petition, a Bill removing an agricultural preservation restriction from a portion of real estate in the town of Raynham known as Borden Colony (House, No. 26).

Grafton,— land conveyance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the conveyance of a certain parcel of land in the town of Grafton (House, No. 3745).

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Winthrop,— Famolare Pier.

By Mr. Pedone of Worcester, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill designating a certain pier in the town of Winthrop as the Charles J. Famolare (House, No. 1931). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Emergency Measures.

Cheryl L. Traina,— sick leave.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Cheryl L. Traina, an employee of the Department of Revenue (see House, No. 3744), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 8 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Registries of deeds,— modernization.

The engrossed Bill relative to the modernization of registries of deeds (see House, No. 3751), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 8 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Bill enacted.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the Commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to convey certain land in the town of Foxborough (see House, No. 2020) (which originated in the House), in respect to which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Id.

The engrossed Bill validating the actions taken at a certain election held in the town of Wareham (see House bill printed in House, No. 3747) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted (more than two-thirds of the members having agreed to pass the same); and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Id.

The engrossed Bill relative to a certain tax exemption in the town of Montague (see House, No. 2027) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

Next sitting.

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

At sixteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford (Mr. Petrolati of Ludlow being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.