

Wednesday, December 26, 2007.

Met at eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Bosley of North Adams 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.

Gracious God, during this Christmas season of joy and peace, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving to You for our countless material and spiritual blessings. These gifts from You often enable us to organize and set more accurately our personal goals, priorities and principles. Your assistance also helps us to be aware of the purpose for which we have been created by You. As the current year draws to a close, may we continue to be alert to the needs of people in our communities. May the spirit of the season motivate us to help all people to use the talents and gifts which You have given them for both self-improvement and the common good. Teach us to recognize the dignity of each human person, even in this world of much violence.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

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

*Message from the Governor.*

Environmental bonds.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to providing for the preservation and improvement of land, parks, and clean energy in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4446) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Friday, December 21.

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

*Resolutions.*

Joshua James Kruger.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Haddad of Somerset and Fagan of Taunton) congratulating Joshua James Kruger on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

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

*Papers from the Senate.*

A Bill to promote equity in pension benefits (Senate, No. 1672, amended in section 1 by inserting after the year "2004" the words ", and who has since been remarried"; and in section 2 by adding the following sentence: "The employee shall transfer back to the commonwealth all matching contributions which have been made by the commonwealth and any excess interest thereon to the employee's account.") (on a petition), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Pension  
benefits,—  
equity.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2452) of Robert A. O'Leary and Sarah K. Peake (by vote of the town) for legislation authorizing the town of Orleans to operate a sewer system, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Orleans,—  
sewer  
system.

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the petition of Daniel E. Bosley relative to the growth of the commercial cruise ship industry in the designated port area of the South Boston waterfront. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Eldridge of Acton, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

South  
Boston  
waterfront.

*Order.*

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

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

Next  
sitting.

---

At twenty-five minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Turner of Dennis (Mr. Bosley of North Adams being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.