

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

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

Prayer. God of Love, God of Passion and Compassion, bless our State Representatives with Your Spirit of Care and Concern for all their constituents who contact their offices.

Yesterday marked our secular holiday of Valentine's Day. We are mindful and grateful to remember that our own city of Worcester had been known for years as "The Valentine Capital of America". It was in 1849 that the first American-made valentines were produced and sold here in Massachusetts.

Esther Howland, the daughter of a Worcester stationer and graduate of Holyoke College, noted the expense of importing fancy Valentines that were produced in England. So with some friends, she began to craft by hand, delicate layers of high-quality paper into personalized romantic greeting cards. Her first valentines were sold for as much as \$50 each, today's equivalent of \$1,400.00! She eventually mass-produced much less expensive cards for the general public and thus created The New England Valentine Company.

We give thanks for the industrial know-how of Esther Howland and for the warmth of romantic expression on a cold winter's day. May God continue to bless our Commonwealth.

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

Joint Session of the Two Houses to Commemorate the 100th Birthday of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Joint Session. At ten minutes after eleven o'clock A.M, the two branches met in

JOINT SESSION

and were called to order by the Honorable Stanley C. Rosenberg, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

Notification of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. On motion of Mr. Tarr,— Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon His Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and other distinguished guests and inform them that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of their presence for the com-

memoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Senators Tarr, Brady, Lovely, and L'Italien were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Speliotis of Danvers, Garbally of Arlington, Stanley of Waltham, Jones of North Reading, Wong of Saugus, Tosado of Springfield, Atkins of Concord and Haddad of Somerset were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Tarr, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor and distinguished guests would immediately attend the convention.

Shortly thereafter, His Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor and distinguished guests entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Students from the Edward Devotion School in Brookline then led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guest.

There being no objection, the President introduced Gunnery Sergeant Brian Downing of Danvers. This past year Gunnery Sergeant Downing was named "Marine of the Year" by the national publication Military Times, for going above and beyond the call of duty to support his comrades in the Marine Corp. Gunnery Sergeant Downing has served 4 tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gunnery Sergeant Brian Downing.

Gunnery Sergeant Downing was accompanied by his mother Andrea Downing, his sister Jenny Corbin and his nephews Graham and Thomas Corbin. He was the guest of Senators Lovely and Rush and Representative Speliotis of Danvers and Naughton of Clinton.

Remarks of Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg.

Senate President Rosenberg then made remarks to the members, guests, employees, and the citizen of the Commonwealth as follows:—

At this critical juncture in our nation's history, where the people and the institutions that have made us great are under attack, there is no better time to remember what President John F. Kennedy stood for: his values, his convictions, his courage, his dedication to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law, to welcome immigrants the way his family had been welcomed, and to raise his voice in hope to help all of us believe that this nation can truly be indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Remarks of Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg.

President Kennedy's words before this legislative body, when he stood right here and spoke on the eve of his inaugural, showed a man deeply aware of what he called "the contribution this state has made to national greatness." As we mark the centennial of the birth of President John F. Kennedy, we must continue to make that contribution.

All of us who work in government, from those in leadership positions to state employees at every level of service, have a responsibility to demonstrate to everyone that this institution, the government, is deserving of their trust, that we are here to serve the people, with transparency

and collaboration, and quickly enough to respond to these rapidly changing times.

Whether we are taking a principled stand in condemning discrimination, erosion of voting rights, or listening to the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts so we understand what they need from our government, at every moment we are sending a message about whether they can trust and believe in their government.

They need to know they can. President Kennedy's soaring rhetoric was grounded in a deeply held conviction that we can do more for people, and that we can include everyone in the American dream of decent housing, a good job, access to health care, and outstanding education for all. President Kennedy took us even farther than that when he took us to the moon, but remember that when the space program began there were doubters, and opponents who simply did not want the President to succeed. It wasn't easy, but he proved them wrong, and his success was the nation's success.

Our success will come when we go somewhere much closer than the moon. It will happen right here, when we do the work we need to do every day to live up to the ideals of our native son President John F. Kennedy, and to give the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts every reason to be as proud of us as we are of him.

Remarks of Speaker Robert A. DeLeo.

Speaker DeLeo then made remarks to the members, guests, employees, and the citizen of the Commonwealth as follows:—

Thank you to my good friend and colleague President Rosenberg. And it's great to be joined here today with Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito for this historic event.

Each time I preside over this Chamber, I am inspired and humbled by the words of President Kennedy that he spoke from this very rostrum. Today that reverence is magnified by the gravity of this moment and the energy in this room.

I sincerely want to thank the JFK Library Foundation and Steve Rothstein for the passion that you've put into today and the entire centennial year celebration. Thank you very much Steve.

Your creativity and patriotism ensures that generations of Americans will feel a personal connection to this great man, and hopefully, find inspiration to serve.

Lieutenant Governor Kennedy Townsend, it's a privilege to have you here today. I am also pleased to welcome Liam and Kyle Kerr, members of the Kennedy family to the Chamber. Welcome. We had another gentleman, who for other reasons, could not be here. A Kennedy confidant and a longtime personal friend of mine, a gentleman by the name of Gerard Doherty. So to those of you who know Gerard Doherty, please make sure that you give him my best.

Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we reflect on President Kennedy's legacy and reaffirm ourselves to the ideals that he held clear.

As the President noted in his City Upon the Hill speech, Massachusetts' principles set the standard for the greatness our nation would soon grow into. That day in 1961, he implored public servants to be mindful

"of the contributions this state had made to our national greatness."

I hope that we'll come away from today's session renewed and reaffirming ourselves to the Commonwealth's values, values which President Kennedy said "guided our footsteps in times of crisis as well as in times of calm."

As we're faced with the presidential mindset that stands in direct conflict with JFK's expansive and inclusive vision for this country, I often find myself thinking of President Kennedy. And I find myself reflecting on some of my personal memories. As I told some of you in the past, my interest in politics extended back when I was eight, nine, maybe even younger, and I can remember so vividly watching the 1960 Presidential conventions, and after I heard President Kennedy speak, would take to my kitchen table, and try to mimic all of his great quotes that he may have had. And we all know that Kennedys are very, very easy to mimic.

I also can think of, as I was telling Kathleen earlier, about being at my grandmother's house, effectually known as, 'nonna,' where the kitchen walls were generally lined with saints and popes. All Italian, of course. And I can remember one exception to that. And that was President Kennedy also lined the walls in that household. My grandmother always said he was Italian anyways—because the vowel, or close to a vowel at the end of his name— it sounded Italian. But in any case, I tell this story because I think that it shows how President Kennedy's character made us a more inclusive nation and just because quite frankly, it's just such a wonderful memory.

So in closing, I want to share my hope for the Massachusetts Legislature with you. For all that President Kennedy did, the thing I'm most awed by is his unique ability to translate the majesty of imagination and idealism into pragmatic policy.

Let us be guided by that as we work to protect our residents and serve as "beacons of lights" to the rest of the nation.

Thank you very much and God bless.

Remarks of Governor Charles D. Baker.

Governor Baker then made remarks to the members, guests, employees, and the citizen of the Commonwealth as follows:—

I still remember the first time I heard the words, "President John F. Kennedy." It was November 22, 1963. I had just turned 7 two weeks earlier. And there was my mom, sitting on the stairs in our basement, head in her hands, watching the news on our black-and-white TV.

I remember it was a Friday, because I came home from school excited for the weekend. Back then, we were allowed to walk to and from school — even when we were in second grade! The basement was our playroom, so there wasn't any furniture down there, just toys and our first TV, which is why my mom was sitting on the stairs.

"They shot the President." That was all she said — but I could tell by the way she said it that it was a very big deal. I sat down in front of her on the stairs. And she grabbed me. I think it was supposed to be a hug, but it was much more intense than that.

Our house — like so many across the country — was a very quiet, solemn place for the next few months. For us kids, it was simply a time

Remarks of
Governor
Charles D.
Baker.

to be present, and be quiet. Something very big — and very bad — had happened. And we were expected to respect that.

It was one of the few times I can recall from my earliest days as a child in which the outside world descended with a bang on our house, and into our lives.

As I stand here today, in this hallowed chamber, and think back on those dark days and all that's happened in between, I am left with three impressions.

First — the 60's — and all the cultural, economic, and societal upheaval that came with them — arrived with the election of John F. Kennedy. His election as president was a big surprise. He was just over 40 — our youngest president ever — and the first Catholic to hold the office. The Cuban Missile Crisis, the Bay of Pigs, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Peace Corps, the Space Race, the Berlin Wall, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Trade Expansion Act all happened during that very short 3-year period.

Who knew it was just the beginning?

Second, Kennedy's message, despite the enormity of the breaking waves around him, was about possibility. His manner, his speeches, his words, and his deeds were all about the future — and everything it could be.

His press conferences — even during his most difficult days — were full of wisecracks, self-deprecation, and playful observations.

When asked by the press if he would support legislation imposing term limits on Congress and the US Senate — similar to the term limits applied to the presidency, his answer was vintage JFK. "That's an interesting idea. Maybe I'll take it up after I'm through being president."

He talked about not seeking the Republican or Democratic answer — but the right answer. And urged his colleagues not to fix blame for the past — but instead — to accept "our own responsibility for the future."

Third, he professed a public humility that was endearing and disarming. When he and the First Lady visited Paris for the first time after the inauguration, the crowds were nice to the president, but went wild over Jackie Kennedy. Upon returning to the states and being asked about the trip, the president replied, "I am the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris. And I enjoyed it."

And when asked about how he was finding the job of president shortly after his term began, he said, simply, "The pay is good and I can walk to work."

Finally, I cannot help but wonder what our former president would think of our current state of affairs if he were still alive today. I am sure he would marvel at the impact the investments he championed in science and technology have had on this country and the rest of the world.

He would note the growth of the global economy — and all the positives and negatives that have come with worldwide competition.

But I suspect the coarseness of modern-day politics would disappoint him. And I think he would remind us that in his day, he asked us to focus not on what our country could do for each of us, but instead, on what we could do for our country.

I call those words to live by, now more than ever. Happy Birthday Mr. President!

"City Upon a Hill" Speech.

An audio recording of former President John F. Kennedy's address to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, known as the "City Upon a Hill" speech then was played for the Joint Convention.

"City Upon
a Hill"
speech.

Remarks of Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend then made remarks to the members, guests, employees, and the citizen of the Commonwealth as follows:—

Thank you, Senate President Rosenberg, Speaker DeLeo, Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor, special place in my heart, for Karyn Polito, other Constitutional Officers, legislators and special guests, including my niece, Kyle Kennedy Kerr, and her husband, Liam; they are terrific. I also want to thank Steve Rothstein of the John F. Kennedy Library for all the work that he has done. And my friend, Phil Johnston who's up there returning to where he started here in this House.

Remarks of
Kathleen
Kennedy
Townsend.

It really is an honor and a pleasure to stand with you today. As a former Lieutenant Governor, I worked closely with state legislators and have the greatest respect for the work that each of you do. Thank you for your dedication to public service. This is the first of many occasions to remember my uncle John Kennedy, and to celebrate the centennial of his birth.

Of course, the first event of this centennial year had to be in Massachusetts. This is the state that gave him his start. It is also appropriate to be in this very building where both of his grandfathers served, like you, in the state legislature.

Massachusetts shaped him in many ways. It is on Cape Cod, that he developed his love of sailing and the sea, the knowledge of wind and tides, narrow channels, and his enthusiasm for exploration and adventure.

I can also testify it is where he taught me that I might be good for ballast.

This state nurtured his appreciation for history through his visits to Plymouth Rock, Lexington and Concord, Paul Revere's home, Bunker Hill, Walden Pond. I think his study in that college across the Charles also helped... as his senior thesis did become a best seller!

It is also in Massachusetts that he learned about immigration. Certainly, he knew from his own family how immigrants were gutsy and courageous, as they braved separation from their familiar faces, bore rough seas on a long voyage, and then hard jobs and low pay, if any job at all when they arrived. He heard my grandmother's stories of signs that said, "Help wanted, no Irish need apply."

However, unlike some who have made it big and then forget where they come from. He remembered that immigration was a great way to create a wonderful future for our country and for the immigrants. He wrote a book, called "A Nation of Immigrants", and then he pushed for the changes in the immigration law which opened the doors for people from all over the world, not just his beloved Irish!

This Commonwealth nurtured my family's skills in campaigning and governing, and the appreciation that politics itself was a noble profession. It is, as President Kennedy said, "where the action is." And I think he passed that on to my parents, as my birth certificate says my home address was 122 Bowdoin Street, right next door! I think there

Remarks of
Kathleen
Kennedy
Townsend.

are other Kennedys who live there too. Or at least they voted there. I'm not going any further on that one.

So it is good to be with you today, you daughters and sons of Massachusetts, who know these stories and will have a few of your own!

A centennial is a celebration, not only of a hero's life and contributions, it provides the opportunity to tease out from that life the lessons that can guide us on our journey today.

Just as President Kennedy quoted Pericles about democracy, we too can take a stand for democracy, the rule of law, the value of the press, and freedom from discrimination. And just as he spoke about Winthrop's City Upon a Hill, we too can believe in the mission of this most unique nation. The United States should serve as a model to emulate. We need not succumb to fear, scared by a world of change and difference, turning to autocracy as a safe haven.

His speech asked the timeless questions, what virtues do we hold dearly, and how should we be judged. His answer, Courage, Judgement, Integrity and Dedication.

Why could he do this? Because this state, through its history, its dedication to excellence, and to its sense of itself as a commonwealth, builds confidence in its people.

He learned here the deepest truth of America: We are happy to meet people who share our desire to work hard and make a contribution, who create safe communities for ourselves and for our children, who love to explore new ideas, and who are willing to care for our neighbors and our precious earth. It matters little if they don't look like us, practice our religion or speak English as a first language. What we share is far more important.

President Kennedy had a patriot's faith in America, our people and our future. His vigor and energy inspired us to take on difficult missions that we could do together—whether in the Peace Corps, the race to the moon, the Alliance for Progress, nuclear arms control, civil rights.

New frontiers hazard us all but worth exploring. And so what of today.

I could end on a tentative note saying that I hope that the pilgrim's spirit of exploration and city-building that started here in Massachusetts will stay strong throughout the land. But I have a more powerful faith. I believe that during President Kennedy's Centennial, that courage, integrity, judgement and dedication will remain active in our souls. We won't back down, we will stay true to our legacy. Why? Because this state, this Massachusetts has a love of democracy and like President Kennedy, we will make the work of America our own. Thank you.

Withdrawal
from
Chamber.

His Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and distinguished guests then withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

On motion of Ms. Forry, at three minutes past twelve o'clock noon, the Convention of the Two Branches was dissolved; and the Senate withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

At sixteen minutes after twelve o'clock noon, the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

House
reconvened.

Order.

The House Order relative to the adoption of permanent Joint Rules for the 190th General Court governing the 2017-2018 legislative sessions (House, No. 2019, amended), came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been adopted, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 19.

Joint
rules.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Galvin of Canton, the amendment was considered forthwith.

The same member then moved that the House concur with the Senate in its amendment with a further amendment by striking out the text contained therein (inserted by amendment by the Senate) and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 2020; and the further amendment was adopted.

The House then concurred with the Senate in its amendment, as amended. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the further amendment.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Lisa Eppy, an employee of the Department of Children and Families (Senate, No. 20) (certified by the House Counsel to be correctly drawn), was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

Recess.

At twenty-one minutes after twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at a quarter before two o'clock P.M., the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,—

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

Next
sitting.

At a quarter before two o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.