

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.
IN JOINT SESSION.**



TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE
IN JOINT SESSION.**

Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Pursuant to assignment, at twenty-seven minutes past six o'clock P.M, the two branches met in

Joint Session of the two branches.

JOINT SESSION

In the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of receiving such communication as His Excellency Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth, may be pleased to make relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth; and were called to order by the Honorable Stanley C. Rosenberg, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Pacheco,--

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests of the Governor and inform them that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of their presence.

Notification of Constitutional officers, et al.

Senators Pacheco, Forry, McGee, deMacedo and Ross were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Nangle of Lowell, Donato of Medford, Gregoire of Marlborough, Haddad of Somerset, Madaro of East Boston, Peisch of Wellesley, Linsky of Natick, Moran of Lawrence, Pignatelli of Lenox, Meschino of Hingham, Gentile of Sudbury, Keefe of Worcester and Cabral of New Bedford were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Pacheco, for the committee, reported that the Constitutional officers, the Executive Council and distinguished guests would immediately attend upon the convention.

Shortly thereafter, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Karyn E. Polito, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court, Major General L. Scott Rice, Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, and distinguished guests entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Invocation.

The President in the Chair, then introduced Rabbi Yossi Lipsker from Chabad of the North Shore, who delivered the following Invocation:

Invocation.

In chapter 3 of Exodus we read about Moses the Shepherd herding the sheep of Jethro far out into the desolate wilderness. The commentators wonder why he didn't let them graze closer to home. One answer; he wanted to avoid any possibility of grazing on a privately owned meadow.

Another approach. Why was he in the wilderness? He had gone in search of one of his sheep that had strayed and was lost, knowing it would not survive the

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night alone, exposed to the harsh elements and easy prey for any predator. It was in that wilderness that he suddenly came upon the burning bush, it was there that Moses, encountered G-d for the first time.

Moses, arguably one of the most well-known leaders known to mankind, was ironically never called by any leadership title; he wasn't king Moses, Emperor Moses or President Moses.

Instead he was known simply, and lovingly, as Moshe Rabenu; Moses our teacher.

That teachable moment was no exception. By encompassing deep compassion and unflinching integrity, Moses set the highest standards of leadership that have resonated with relevance and meaning throughout history.

Please rise and join me in prayer

Avinu av Harachaman;

Our most merciful father, please bless our beloved leader of this great Commonwealth Governor Charles Baker - with the courage to continue being the existential embodiment of that burning bush; retaining its warmth, by remaining openhearted, embodying a fiery loving concern for the welfare of every single resident of this state, grounded in the ongoing commitment, that no man woman or child fall through the cracks of society and find themselves suddenly alone in the wilderness.

Avinu Shebashamayim - our father in heaven, bless our devoted Governor with the strength to resist being consumed by the destructive characteristics of that very same fire.

To that end I prayerfully offer the words of Theodore Roosevelt. "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and in the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls, who neither know victory nor defeat.

Ribono Shel Olam Master of the Universe, please fill our Governor with your spirit, strengthen him, so that he continue to strike that delicate balance between truth and love, between honesty and empathy in the humble, brilliant ways that have endeared him to the residents of this great state.

I will conclude with the priestly blessing.

May G-d bless you and protect you; May His Countenance shine unto you; May He direct His gaze towards you and grant you peacefulness.

God bless you and your entire family; God bless the State of Massachusetts and God bless America !

On motion of Mr. Lewis, the above Invocation was ordered printed in the Journal of the Joint Session.

Ordered printed.

Order Adopted.

The President in the Chair, on motion of Ms. Gobi,--

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and inform him that the two branches are now in Convention for the purpose of receiving such communication as he may be pleased to make to them, relating to

Notification of the Governor.

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the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Senators L'Italien, Boncore, Donoghue, deMacedo and Cyr were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Jones of North Reading, Poirier of North Attleborough, Ultrino of Malden, Ferrante of Gloucester, Lewis of Framingham and Benson of Lunenburg, were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Ms. L'Italien, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, would immediately attend upon the convention.

The President introduced members of the Grafton Job Corps as the Honor Guard, who were escorted by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from across the Commonwealth. Sergeant Byron Rizzos of the Massachusetts State Police posted the colors.

Grafton Job Corps
Honor Guard.

The President then introduced the Lowell High School Choir, who sang the National Anthem.

National Anthem.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The President then introduced Reisa, Eva, Lily, Noah, Gabryella and Emma Clardy, the wife and children of fallen Massachusetts State Trooper Thomas Clardy who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag

Pledge of allegiance.

Massachusetts State Police Sergeant Rizzos then retired the colors.

Shortly thereafter, His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms

The President then introduced His Excellency the Governor, Charles D, Baker, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 1).

State of the
Commonwealth
address.

The President in the Chair, he then introduced the University of Massachusetts Amherst Chamber Choir who performed "Uncloudy Day".

UMass Amherst
Chamber Choir.

Benediction.

The President then introduced Reverend Shandi Mawokomatanda of Wesley United Methodist Church in Worcester, who gave the following Benediction:

Benediction.

Hear now and receive this blessing.

The scriptures declare that the blessing of God is with the poor, the meek, the grieving, and the pure in heart; the blessing of God is with the merciful, the peacemakers, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

And so, in this light, I declare to you, O people of the Commonwealth:

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you the faith that seeks not to be served but to serve as you offer your lives to make this world a better place!

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you the boldness to stand in solidarity with all who suffer, recognizing that your humanity is inextricably bound with the humanity of others!

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you such courage that brings good news to the poor, that proclaims release to the captives, and liberty for all who are oppressed!

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you the strength to stay the course in the human struggle for justice and for a just-peace in the face of all that is evil!

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you peace that is confident and unshaken when trials, temptations and tribulations come to tear you asunder!

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you such wisdom that

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recognizes that there can be no commonwealth without a commitment to seek common ground for the sake of the common good and, yes, even the *commons* good of our earth and planet!

May the blessing of God be with you to grant you grace so that indeed you can become beacons of hope – a light upon a hill – not only for this Commonwealth of Massachusetts but also for this nation and for the world in which we live!

Go forth, beloved, in this light and be a blessing one to another. Amen.”

On motion of Mr. Fattman, the above Benediction was ordered printed in the Journal of the Joint Session.

Ordered printed.

The President in the Chair, His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, the Constitutional officers, the members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Adjutant General then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

On motion of Ms. Lovely, at three minutes before eight o'clock P.M, the Convention of the Two Branches was dissolved; and the Senate withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.