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UNCORRECTED PROOF OF THE JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



In Joint Session.

Wednesday, January 18, 2006.

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

JOINT SESSION

In the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of receiving such communication as His Excellency Mitt Romney, Governor of the Commonwealth, may be pleased to make relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth; and were called to order by the Honorable Robert E. Travaglini, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Lees,

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 and inform her that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of her presence.

Senators Tolman, Brewer, Tarr and Chandler were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Rushing of Boston, Harkins of Needham, Coughlin of Dedham, Murphy of Burlington, Smizik of Brookline, Peisch of Wellesley, Speranzo of Pittsfield, Khan of Newton, Rogeness of Longmeadow and Ross of Wrentham.

Subsequently, Mr. Tolman, for the committee, reported that Her Honor Kerry Healey, the Lieutenant Governor, would immediately attend upon the convention. Shortly thereafter, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Kerry Healey entered the Chamber under the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Prayer.

The President in the Chair, then introduced Major Susan Kelly of the Salvation Army, who delivered the following Invocation:

Our Heavenly Father,

We thank You so much for Your love, and mercy, and provision for us each and every day.

We thank You for this great nation, and the freedoms and blessings we enjoy as Americans.

We thank You for the opportunity to gather here this evening to consider the many blessings we enjoy here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to consider all that's happened in the past year, and to look forward to the bright future that is ahead of us in the coming year.

We thank You for your protection for us over the past year, and for the compassionate and generous people of Massachusetts who have opened their hearts to help the thousands of individuals affected by the tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, and fires across this country and around the globe.

We thank You for the freedoms and prosperity we enjoy here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are so grateful for our leaders, and for the decisions they have to make every day to ensure safe and prosperous communities in which we can live and raise our children.

We pray Your wisdom and blessing upon our elected officials and their staffs. Give them clear vision to see the direction in which they should lead this great state into the future.

We pray Your blessing upon our Governor, and we ask that You will continue to use him, guide and direct him, and may his leadership be pleasing in your sight.

We pray Your blessing on all that takes place this evening in this place and across the Commonwealth.

And we pray these things in Your Holy and Matchless Name. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker, having taken the Chair, introduced Justin, William, Melissa, Robert and Zachary Cabino, who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The Lieutenant Governor introduced the Colonial Brass Quintet of the United States Air Force Band of Liberty, who played a service branch medley.

Order Adopted.

The President in the Chair, on motion of Mr. Lees,

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 the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Senators Panagiotakos, Walsh, Tisei and Baddour were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Petrolati of Ludlow, Paulsen of Belmont, Jones of North Reading, Linsky of Natick, St. Fleur of Boston, Costello of Newburyport, Guyer of Dalton, Blumer of Framingham, Broadhurst of Methuen, O'Falherty of Chelsea, Welch of West Springfield and Gomes of Harwich.

Subsequently, Mr. Panagiotakos, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Mitt Romney, would immediately attend upon the convention.

Musical Performance.

While awaiting the arrival of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor introduced the Bay State Stompers, who play a selection of Dixieland music in honor of the Hurricane Katrina evacuees who spent time in Massachusetts.

Shortly thereafter, His Excellency the Governor, Mitt Romney entered the Chamber under the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The President then introduced His Excellency the Governor, Mitt Romney, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2).

The Governor then introduced Ray Greene, who gave a rendition of God Bless America.

The Governor then introduced the Major Larry Bazer of the Massachusetts National Guard, who gave the following Benediction:

O God, our Rock and our Protector:

We thank You for the precious blessings of liberty and democracy that were exhibited here tonight. May the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney and all the public servants continue to serve the needs of the citizens of Massachusetts with utmost loyalty, devotion, and zeal.. May the work of their hands enrich our land so that unity of purpose and harmony of spirit prevails.

In the midst of this joyous night, we paused in solemn testimony as the Governor evokes the names of the brave souls from Massachusetts who gave their lives in supreme sacrifice to our nation in the ongoing War Against Terrorism. From all the

branches of our Country's Armed Forces, they serviced and fought courageously in storms of fire and blood, so that we, the living - here and overseas, -- may enjoy the very same standards that we celebrate tonight.

May the deeds of our fallen heroes always be an inspiration to us and our fellow citizens. Let the reading of the names and the purpose of tonight stimulate us to be mindful of our responsibilities as conscientious citizens of this great Commonwealth and this great Nation.

Continue to be with all our service members of our Armed Forces and our own Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard as they continue to valiantly stand guard against tyranny and terror. Be Thou a shield about them and protect them. May they always be a shining light of liberty for all to see. And, O Merciful God, bring them home sage and sound to their loved ones awaiting their return.

May our Commonwealth of Massachusetts, along with all citizens of our great Nation be forever blessed with your divine light, hope, and spirit.

May the Almighty bless you and guard you.

May the Divine show you favor, and be gracious to you.

May the Lord, show you kindness, and grant you peace. Amen.

God bless Massachusetts and God bless America.

The President in the Chair, His Excellency the Governor, Mitt Romney and Her Honor Kerry Healey, the Lieutenant Governor, then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Lees in the Chair, at five minutes past eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Travaglini, the Convention was dissolved.