

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016.

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

Monday, December 19, 2016

Met at four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M.

The Senator from Hampden and Hampshire, Mr. Humason, then led the President, members, guests and staff in the recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.



Reports.

The following reports were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Report of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 23J of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2016 annual report (received December 16, 2016); and

MassCEC,-- FY16 annual report. SD2768

Report of the Department of Veterans' Services (pursuant to Section 16(b) of Chapter 141 of the Acts of 2016) submitting its report on the state of the Commonwealth's two Soldiers' Homes (received December 16, 2016).

DVS,-- Soldiers' homes. SD2769

Petition.

Mr. Brady presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael D. Brady and Michelle M. DuBois for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Shalonda Hall, an employee of the Department of Public Health;

Shalonda Hall,-- sick leave. SD2767

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Reports of Committees.

The following reports were placed in the Orders of the Day, the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10):

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2373) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation to stop human trafficking and enhance the lives of survivors; and

Human trafficking,-- survivors.

On the Senate Bill relative to parole eligibility (Senate, No. 2391);

Parole,-- eligibility.

Of the committee on Public Service, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10):

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2321) of Marc R. Pacheco and Susan Williams Gifford for legislation relative to retirement benefits for Thomas Brian Donnelly; and

Thomas Brian Donnelly,-- retirement.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2349) of Viriato M. deMacedo for legislation to clarify a public service worker's retirement earnings limitation;

Retirees,-- earnings.

Of the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2459) of Marc R. Pacheco and Keiko M. Orrall for legislation to provide for the release of a certain agricultural preservation restriction on a parcel of land in the town of Berkley;

Berkley,-- land.

Of the committee on the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, ought

NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10):

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1747) of Michael J. Barrett, Chris Walsh, Kay Khan, Frank I. Smizik and other members of the General Court for legislation to combat climate change;

Climate change.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1757) of Benjamin B. Downing and Marjorie C. Decker for legislation relative to clean energy resources;

Clean energy resources.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1760) of Benjamin B. Downing and Marjorie C. Decker for legislation to create a clean energy standard;

DEP,-- clean energy standard.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1761) of Benjamin B. Downing, Kevin G. Honan, Stephen Kulik, Chris Walsh and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to home energy efficiency;

Home energy,-- efficiency.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1762) of Benjamin B. Downing and Marjorie C. Decker for legislation relative to energy storage systems;

Energy storage systems.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1763) of Benjamin B. Downing and Marjorie C. Decker for legislation relative to net metering;

Net metering.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1764) of Benjamin B. Downing and Marjorie C. Decker for legislation relative to renewable energy portfolio standards;

Renewable energy,-- portfolio standards.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1774) of Brian A. Joyce, Chris Walsh, Jay D. Livingstone, Frank I. Smizik and other members of the General Court for legislation to fuel job creation through energy efficiency;

Job creation,-- energy efficiency.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1785) of Marc R. Pacheco, Frank I. Smizik, Lori A. Ehrlich, Denise Provost and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect our environment and update our climate action plan;

Climate action plan,-- environment.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1786) of Marc R. Pacheco, Denise Provost, Jason M. Lewis, Marjorie C. Decker and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect our environment and reduce the carbon footprint of the Commonwealth;

Reduce carbon footprint.

On the Message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation to require electric utility companies to solicit long-term contracts for clean energy generation (Senate, No. 1965); and

Hydropower procurement.

On the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2287) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Tackey Chan, Kenneth J. Donnelly and Daniel J. Ryan for legislation to ensure the safety of residents, first responders, and gas workers;

Gas companies,-- projects.

Of the committee on Transportation, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2399) of Richard J. Ross and Kevin J. Kuros for legislation relative to handicapped placards; and

Registration,-- handicapped placards.

Of the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1340) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Benjamin Swan and Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. for legislation relative to age restrictions for veterans applying to be police officers and firefighters.

Veterans,-- age restrictions.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Communication from the Division of Energy Resources of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (under the provisions of section 12 of Chapter 25A of the General Laws) submitting amendments to 225 CMR 2.00, Energy Audit and Energy Conservation Improvement Program, 225 CMR 3.00, Alternative Energy Property Program, and 225 CMR 11.00, Regarding Oversight and Coordination of the Electric Ratepayer Funded Energy Efficiency Activities (House, No. 4762),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on**

Electric Ratepayer Funded Energy Efficiency Activities.

Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4764) of Timothy R. Madden and Daniel A. Wolf (by vote of the town) relative to the water supply in the town of Nantucket,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.**

Nantucket,-- water supply.

Bills

Establishing a sick leave bank for Dek Lee, an employee of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (House, No. 4736,-- on petition); and

Dek Lee,-- sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Francisco Melendez, an employee of the Department of Youth Services (House, No. 4751,-- on petition);

Francisco Melendez,-- sick leave.

Were severally read, and under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

At five minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., Mr. Humason doubted the presence of a quorum. The President having determined that a quorum was not in attendance, then directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to secure the presence of a quorum.

Quorum.

Subsequently, at seven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., a quorum was declared present.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were severally considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely and Mr. Tarr) "congratulating Ronald P. Giovannacci on his retirement"; and

Ronald P. Giovannacci.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Timilty) "congratulating Reverend Alfred James Hicks, S.J. on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination."

Rev. Alfred James Hicks, S.J.

Statement of Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly.

The President read the following statement of Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly. To my Senate colleagues:

Statement of Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly.

First, holiday greetings to all my colleagues, with a special thank you to the Senate President for sharing my thoughts with you all on this special day...

To all my friends who will be leaving today, I send my regrets for not being able to be in the chamber in person to tell you all how much your friendship and counsel have meant to me over the years.

All of us who have shared the special distinction of being elected to serve in this institution, understand what an honor it is to be chosen by friends and neighbors to represent their issues, their values, and their concerns inside this chamber.

Each one of you departing today can leave here knowing in your hearts you performed those tasks required of you with exceptional talent and skill.

To my colleagues whom I will be rejoining next month, I want to thank you for your thoughts and many kindnesses during my period of recovery.

The thought of being back working amongst you is one of the great motivators for me as I continue to fight to get totally well, and I'm pleased to report that the timeframe for my return in on track for the beginning of the next session.

So thank you all for your words, your thoughts, and your prayers, and from

my family to yours, a great holiday season and a healthy and happy 2017!

Mr. Pacheco moved that the remarks of statement of Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly be printed in the Journal of the Senate; and this motion was seconded by Mr. Humason.

Ordered printed.

Remarks of Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan.

Thank you Mr. President and through you to the members, there's always mixed emotions when a colleague has decided to move on from this Chamber. Of course there is the excitement of the new adventures waiting for them, but then there are the times we stop to think back over their tenure, the accomplishments they've achieved, the legacy they'll leave behind and the personal triumphs and tragedies we've experienced alongside them. For Ben Downing the list is long, and there is no way to go into detail all of them all today but I do want to highlight just a few.

Remarks of Senator
Jennifer L. Flanagan.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Ben Downing for the last 10 years, after a chance meeting at the New Legislators Academy at UMass the first year he was elected. I was there to tell the incoming legislators how great their freshman year was going to be at the State House, but before all that started I found myself standing next to the newly elected Senator from the Berkshires. My first impression was that he seemed like a nice guy, a little quiet for my taste, but eager to get started in his new role. We soon realized that we had quite a bit in common, having both served as staff to elected officials before being elected ourselves at young ages. We talked a little bit about his work with Congressman Olver, who at the time was representing my district, but we also discussed being elected at the young age and how interesting it was going to see our lives transpire on Beacon Hill.

It was also then that I realized just how big Ben's district was. Now, keep in mind that at the time I was in the House representing ONE city... with one mayor and one city council in a very medium sized city in central Massachusetts. Essentially, it was a very easy district. Ben starts to talk about his district and I cannot believe how this guy is about to represent 48 cities and towns in the Berkshires, let alone try to be in Boston and chair his committees. I wanted to tell him that with a district like that he'd probably be pulling his hair out by the second week, but it didn't really pertain to him! Little did I know that the conversation we had would be the beginning of a great friendship, and our friendship would be made even better when I was given the chance to serve with him the "Upper Chamber."

While I was wrong about him being so quiet, because yes, he does come out of his shell occasionally, I was right about him being a nice guy. In this crazy profession we all work in, it's refreshing to see someone like Ben Downing who is one of the most genuine, sincere people I've ever met. I'm fortunate to have learned so much from you over the last eight years and I wish you all the best.

As we know, Ben has taken on some of the toughest issues this Chamber has addressed and he has done it with integrity, grace, and a steady hand on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth. He's worked diligently to address job creation for his district and worked on transportation infrastructure, health care containment, and education throughout his career. And yes, it goes without saying that the work he has done in the area of utilities and clean energy stand out among them all. He has certainly left his mark over 10 years, and one thing's for certain, I will miss him in this Chamber.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Ben's always been great at helping me to keep things in perspective. Whether it's a quick phone call of encouragement, a witty text message somehow resembles exactly what I'd been thinking for the past half hour or that look across the Chamber, when I need it most that keeps me laughing. He knows exactly how to bring levity to any situation. It's just his way... being a great friend who likes to crack jokes at some of the most inappropriate times and believe me there have been many! But during some of the most contentious debates and negotiations I've been involved in, Ben has always been that support system. Thank you for that. You have no idea how much it has meant to me to have you in my corner!

When I ran for the Senate, I was passionate about issues like mental health, substance abuse, transportation, and public safety. NEVER did I expect to have the issue of utilities come before me when all of the sudden my district was thrown into the ice storm of 2008. Ben wasn't the chair at that time, but suddenly I was forced to come up to speed on these issues and it was Ben who helped me along the way. Yet again, offering that steady perspective and an open door. He knew exactly what he was talking about, he knew how to get me through this and he knew how to make sure that my district was represented, and consumer protection was at the forefront of any bill that we had passed. Thank you not only for helping me, but helping the people of my district. It's because of your leadership that this legislature has been able to hold utility companies accountable for their services with as minimal impact as possible to the consumer as possible.

Ben's leadership shines in his district as well. When I asked him to host the Senate Special Committee on Opiate Addiction in North Adams he didn't even think twice before saying yes. Although he didn't tell me how long it was going to take me to get there, but he didn't think twice about saying yes. At the time of the public hearings many communities were hesitant to talk about this issue. It was a time when this was thrown into our face, people were nervous, but steps needed to be taken. Without hesitation Ben helped my staff and I bring together all the stakeholders in western Mass to be part of a very frank and emotional discussion.

I think for many of us, it's safe to say that support from our constituents means the most, and I left North Adams that day realizing that Ben Downing is as highly regarded in his district as he is by many in this Chamber, possibly even more so. Almost everyone I met over the course of the two days had a personal story about help they received by Ben or his office, or how proud they were that Ben Downing was their Senator. Over the course of 10 years it's evident that Ben has made such an impact on his district, I know there will be a void when you're gone.

True friendships are hard to come by in this business but when we create those strong friendships we hold on tight and do whatever we can to sustain them. It's safe to say that all of us in this Chamber, while we sit on one side of the aisle or the other, have a connection that not many other professions can mimic. We take pride in the personal events of our friends and we also grieve when they suffer a loss.

When Ben suffered the loss of his brother Nate, we rallied around him to give all the support that we could. No words could truly express the sympathy we felt for Ben and his family at such a difficult time but he knew we were there for him whatever he needed. We helped out where we could and stood by him as he moved forward.

Equally as important, we embraced the joining of Ben and Michaelah when they wed in 2012. If you've ever been in the company of these two, you will immediately see how happy they make each other and how they are a perfect fit. Who knew something so successful could come from this State House!/? No

wonder why you're getting out while you can!

Now, I can only imagine that you are not going to miss that drive back and forth to the Berkshires! I thought I had it bad going to Central Mass, but taking Route 2 home from your district and let's just say it's more of a roller coaster than state highway! I can't imagine what you'll do with all the extra time on your hands, but I'm sure that will give you just more time for your witty text messages and your simple phone calls.

So then I was thinking, what has your ten years at this State House really taught you? Has it really prepared you for your next step? And then I realized, it perfectly and absolutely has prepared you for the rest of your life. Your ten years in the Senate has prepared you well for your next adventure with Michaelah. The Senate session has given you lots of experience with long nights trying to keep yourself awake. Conference Committees have prepared you for negotiating until you're blue in the face with some people who really don't want to listen to you. Living far from the State House has prepared you for endless drives in the car (although I assume the music you'll be playing when you have your bundle of joy will be a little different than what you listen to now) and chairing a committee hearing has helped build your stamina when it comes to listening to a lot of advice from people you have never met. And most importantly.....you know that with a great supply of Starbursts you'll have enough energy to stay awake and get that baby fed! You're definitely prepared to become a father now, no other training is needed! Michaelah, you're one lucky woman to have a guy with preparation for fatherhood like this!

But Ben, in all seriousness, you will be missed and I wish you all the best! You've been a great friend and confidant and I appreciate all you have done for me. It's been an amazing experience to serve with you and I can't wait to see you succeed in your new position. Good luck my friend, you deserve all the successes the world has to offer.

Remarks of Senator Daniel A. Wolf.

Thank you Mr. President and through you to the members. It is an honor for me to stand today to introduce my good friend and colleague Senator Ben Downing for what will sadly will be his farewell speech-- at least for now... I have coined the term pulling a Barrett, and that means maybe ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty years from now you will book end your career and your children will be escorting you back to this great Chamber.

But it is sad because you are leaving after ten years in my opinion having had earned the standard best in Senate. Ben's intelligence, his eloquence, his compassion and dedication make him one of the best, most effective and talented public servants I have met. The citizens of the Commonwealth and his great district will sorely miss his presence here.

It is rare in life, and the older you get the rarer it is to meet a mentor who is actually young enough to be your son but that is exactly what I found when I arrived here 6 years ago. And it was sort of a 2-for, not only did I have a mentor that was young enough to be my son, I had a mentor that was young enough to be my daughter as well. I got it in both ears because Micaelah was Chief of Staff early on Legislative Director and a real talent, as well. I will say parenthetically, because I wasn't sure if the cat was out of the bag, so I didn't know whether I could say anything about the great news, but since it is on Facebook and social media and since my good colleague has announced it...I just want to say for a minute...I want

Remarks of Senator
Daniel A. Wolf.

to speak to the future child, and say with all sincerity, how fortunate that child is to be coming into a world, where they will have parents who have values and the priorities and the spirit and humor and energy and footwear. That, I have to say when I arrived in my office here, I thought I had gone to Imelda Marcos's office with the amount of shoes that were in the office. But what an absolute blessing, an absolute blessing for this child to be raised in your house.

Ben has been a shining example to me of how to be idealistic without being an ideologue. He has held true to his principals well at the same time getting great things done. A rare legislator, one that we all aspire to be whose record of accomplishment while holding true to his values.

And I think Ben that is a result of you really looking at things through two different lenses. The First is Ben is a legislator and many of us here inspire to do the same thing. View how we are doing as a government body or how we are doing as a democracy by looking at the world from the bottom up. How the least fortunate are doing, what their lot is and then measuring the rest of everybody above, by how well those folks are doing and Ben I think you have always been a leader in that, and also I think your work in energy is a great example of measuring how we are doing, by the gap where we are today and we could be, where we could be if we really work and strove hard of it. So I think those are two lenses you've worn and had been, it's been a huge example for all of us.

Without reciting a laundry list of Ben's accomplishments I will mention three examples where his success opened doors for huge gains in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. First, is your unflinching leadership in the area of civil rights. In particular, Ben has been an elegant spokesman and leader as the Transgender rights legislation which moved through our body and into law. Thanks in good part to your efforts. Second, a huge leader in expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and because of that many in Massachusetts, along with the raise in minimum wage, has seen legislation that is actually allowing many struggling families to have a better chance at success and a better life and thank you Ben for that as well. Third, as my good colleague discussed was your leadership, advocacy and understanding of the Energy issue, most I'll do a mea culpa, I can do it on the way out. I understood about 10% of what you had actually put into the Energy Bill, as I have learn more and more, two thing have occurred to me. One, it is a really good bill and two, it's amazing you learned and you were able to communicate that through legislation. Through your hard work and leadership Massachusetts has remained a leader in energy and will continue for decades to come. Book ending the country with us and California

Ben I know that one of your political heroes is the late Robert Kennedy. For good reason. You share his passion for service, a compassion for those in need, an intellect second to none, and a profound understanding of the role and capacity of our Democracy to make great things happen.

And I leave you with a favorite quote from Robert Kennedy, and I know it is a favorite of yours.

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Ben, thank you for your leadership, for your mentorship, for your friendship. for creating future generations that we can all benefit from. We know there are many great things ahead but we certainly will miss you here.

Remarks of Senator Benjamin B. Downing.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. First, thank you, to you, Jen and Dan for your all together, too kind comments. Jen, when I was thinking about who I wanted to introduce me on this day, I thought of precisely the moment you referenced, being the only Senator in my class at the legislator's boot camp at UMass, having little idea of what I got myself into, which wasn't exactly on the campaign literature.

You were a calming voice there. I think you described this institution, this Legislature as being a place that is kind of crazy but where you could get a lot of good things done. And I think much of our communication over the years have centered around both those kind of crazy moments and those moments when we break through and we get some good stuff done.

From my district, thank you for your advocacy on mental health and substance abuse. I know talking to the constituents who were there that day and many who have never met you, but have benefited from your tenacious advocacy on these issues, thank you for that kind introduction and for your services.

While I don't know if there is a contract for how we go about doing this, I'm fairly certain that it would have had to be written into mine that I have to be introduced by the senator for the Cape and Islands. Not just because I was lucky enough to meet my wonderful wife Micaelah while she was working for Dan's predecessor, and not just because she served as Dan's first chief of staff but because I feel like on almost every issue, and almost every day that we came together in this body, Dan and I had some form of a running dialogue. We didn't always agree on how we were going to get there but we agreed on the need and urgency of getting there.

A quick story that I need to share about my good friend, Dan Wolf that shows you the kind of man he is. At one of the toughest times in my family's life, we were trying to pull everyone together and part of that included getting some in-laws from one of the islands on the Cape out to Western Mass for my brother's wake and the funeral. You can imagine at the last minute that was rather difficult. We called Dan. We thought he might know someone in the transportation sector in the Cape. And when we called him and just said, hey, they're having trouble getting off the island, can you help? His answer was yes. Well, you might think, well yeah, it should have been. His answer wasn't just yes. The man got in a plane himself, and flew out to the island, picked up the in-laws, and flew them to the Berkshires himself. That's the kind of man Dan Wolf is, and we're lucky to have him here in the Senate.

I want to thank my incredible wife, Michaela. I want to thank my mom, my brother, Nick and my sister, Maggie, who are all here today. Mom, you are the rock that has held our family up through more than we should ever been through. Nick and Maggie, you two impress me more every single day, despite every time you two make fun of me, one way or the other. Michaela, if I am half as good a person as you are, I will have been a great person. I am lucky to be beginning a new adventure and a new chapter in our life together. So please, my family.

To the friends and family who have joined me here today, family who have been there from the start and through everything, friends who became family over the last 10 years when a 24-year-old with a resume that was even thinner than his nonexistent hairline, when he called you 10 years back and said he might want to do a crazy thing and run for office and you didn't question it, thank you from the

Remarks of Senator
Benjamin B.
Downing.

bottom of my heart for your support. I want to thank 2 people who aren't here today. I want to thank my dad and my brother Nate. I lost my dad 13 years ago last week. I lost my brother, Nate, as many of you know and remember, 4 years and 8 months ago. Every time I've enter this Chamber I have touch their prayer cards before our session has begun. We share a great deal in common. They have been there with me through every day of my life whether they were here physically or not, and I want to thank them for the lessons they taught me in their lives. I want to thank them for the lessons they taught me when they weren't here with us. If I have done this job well, I have done it because they have been seated on each of my shoulders.

I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate. The 39 of you I am lucky to serve with here today and the 34 others that I have served with since 2006. There has not been a day in the 10 years that we have served together where I have not been amazed or impressed by the talent that has assembled in this Chamber. There has not been a day where at least one of you has not blown me away with an insight, a speech, with a comment on an issue. There's been a few days where some of you have even made me shake my head from time to time, but all of you have made me better at my job. From my district and from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your service and your support. All of you have helped me serve those 162,000 people across 52 communities that I have had the opportunity and the honor to serve. All of you have made me better at the job and all of you have served them admirably and well. So from my district and from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your service to this Commonwealth, thank you for your friendship, for your mentorship, for your support, thank you all.

I want to thank my colleagues in the Berkshire and Western Mass delegation from the House, with whom I've had the honor to serve the 52 of the 351 cities and towns that make up western Massachusetts and I want to read their names. Dan Bosley and Gail Coriddi, Dennis Guyer and Paul Mark, Christopher Speranzo and Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Peter Kocot and the one I have served with for the entire decade, Steve Kulik and last and certainly not least, someone who beat me up on the basketball court in my backyard growing up, the best Laker fan in the Commonwealth, the one and only, Smitty Pignatelli.

I want to thank the hundreds of local officials who I have worked with as we observed our communities together whether it was serving the 121 people that reside in the town of Monroe in western Franklin country or our 45,000 neighbors in the city of Pittsfield, no work done in this Chamber becomes real without a partnership with those local elected officials. And having represented 52 communities and lots of local officials I should know, so I'd like to thank them for their service, especially coming from those smaller communities, it is difficult and grueling work and people give up their time and talents consistently and it has blown me away from day one.

I want to thank everyone who makes this institution and this building work, many times in spite of our best efforts. I want to thank the court officers for helping the trains run on time, including my namesake Ben for keeping the York peppermint patties flowing in the candy drawer. I want to thank the people from the Clerk's office, Bill and Michael, Andrea and Stacey for putting up with my never-ending commentary on how long session might run and how long that will take me to get back to Pittsfield or wherever I was headed to. I want to thank the counsel's office for their wise support and their wise stocking of Starburst, both at my desk and at their desk. Thank you all very much. You know it's the best way to keep me from saying "is that bill ready yet?" is to say, "did you know that there's

orange Starbursts in the bag?”.

I want to thank my colleagues' staff. We all rely so much on one another, but we all rely so much on our staff, from the Senate President and his staff to each and every one of you talented people who don't get the credit for the work that they do, who put in tireless hours and day to day, make us look better. I want to thank my colleagues' staff. I want to thank my staff, the 15 incredible staffers who have joined my team at one point or another over these last 10 years. You all have made me look good when I didn't deserve to look good. You all have helped me serve those 52 communities. And most importantly, when people called our office, they came away knowing, even if they didn't get the exact answer that they want, or that there isn't a solution right away, they came away knowing that the person on the other end of that letter, the person on the other end of that note, the person on the other end of that email, cared about them, heard them and wanted to make sure that they knew their senator and their state government was working for them. That is a special moment that doesn't happen nearly enough, that moment where the wall between our elected representative and the public large is knocked down and there is shared trust, so I want to thank Bethann Steiner and Chris Gilrein. Elizabeth Mahony and Christina Fisher. Allison Krol and Chris Dunne. Jonathan Butler and Heather Quirk. Laura Teicher and Todd Foy. Annie Rodgers and Liz Connor. Vasundhra Sangar, Dan Wilczynski and Christine Monska. You all have provided an incredible service to the district that has given me the opportunity to serve it and as a resident of that district, I cannot say thank you enough.

I want to thank the 160,000 people of the Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hamden district who gave me the greatest opportunity and honor anyone can have – the chance to give back, to serve the community that gave me every opportunity in life. In particular, I'd especially like to thank the 243 of you who gave me my landslide margin in the Democratic primary of 2006, but I would like to thank all of you, whether you voted for me or you did not, whether you disapproved of everything I did and let me know it or if you supported every last thing I did, which I think that Venn diagram just gets to my mom. I want to simply thank all of you in the district.

I never thought that I would get this opportunity, let alone to get this opportunity for a decade. Pittsfield, not unlike the Senate, has been there for us, for my family. The Berkshires and Western Mass has been there for us. And to be able to give even a little bit back means the world to me and you don't get that without being given the opportunity by the voters.

I love my hometown. I love Pittsfield, the Berkshires and western Mass. I love them for everything that's right with them, which we don't talk about nearly enough. I love them for everything that's wrong with them, which we focus on too often. Like every other community in Massachusetts and the country, we have our strengths and our assets, we have our challenges and our problems. We have gone through tough times and we have begun to rebuild. There is more work to do, but there are special, special places. The special places that I knew to varying degrees were when my Uncle Jack called me on St. Patrick's Day in 2006 to say the Senate seat back home had opened up and that I should run. I thought it was a prank, and I hung up. He called back. After a few times calling people to verify what was going on,

I called my brother Nate, to let him know that the seat was open and to talk through the opportunity. At some point in the conversation, after I listed many of the points why I shouldn't run, I realized that no one was on the other end of the line. I called Nate back and began to complain about my cell service. He quickly

shot back, I hung up on you. Don't be an idiot. You're running. Did I mention this is my younger brother? Nate having convinced me to run, would move to D.C. for an internship. Apparently the Supreme Court topped chicken dinners and pancake breakfast and going door-to-door in July.

I started to learn much about these special places. Visit by visit, door by door, conversation by conversation. And after six months of being called a "nice young man", a Guinness book record number of times, which is code for "you shouldn't vote for a 24-year-old", countless hours – volunteering, phone banking, lift dropping, door to door knocking, sign holding, those 243 votes out of 24,743 cast provided the margin that would lead me here for the next 10 years.

Much like those places in Western Mass are special to me, this Senate is a special place too. It's a special place to me personally.

Other than Pittsfield, I have spent more time here than anywhere else in my life. I met my wife here. I lost my brother and my best friend while here. All of us, no matter the length of time or service from this body, experience some forms of these ups and downs. And like the best community, we rally to one another in those times. We share in our colleagues' success and their times of needs. We don't always agree, nor should we, but we do always look each other in the eye, to the beauty of how this place is built. We look each other in the eye. We make the case the best way we know how and let the chips fall where they may. Sure, there may be more to it sometimes, maybe most time, but at its best, at our best, this place is a community. A community in which we are honored to have the privilege to serve. A community which we have the responsibility of ensuring lives up to its highest value.

Not long after I announced I would not be seeking reelection, I was getting coffee at my favorite coffee shop back home. And a friend came up to me and said, you must be happy to be done with it. Politics – it's so nasty and so tough to get anything done. We've all heard it right, at one point or another. I heard sentiments like this more than a few times in the last few months. To be honest, I've heard sentiments like this more than a few times in the last 10 years. I don't know how you do it, or God bless you. Now, I think half of that was about the drive, more than anything else. And I will be the first to say, that I will not miss the Turnpike or late night drives between community meetings and events stretched out over the Berkshire Hills, no matter how pretty the sunset, the fall foliage or the first snow. But the other half of that, is what I want to respond to. The skepticism at best and cynicism at worst about public service. The thinking of my friend and many others is, you've seen it on the inside, you must be more negative, more jaded, more beaten down... You must not be running because it's so bad. That couldn't be further from the truth.

I am more hopeful today than when I was on the steps of City Hall in Spring 2006 when I announced I was running for office. I am more hopeful today than I was when I was sworn in as a member of this body in January of 2007. I am more hopeful today than any day in the last 10 years. I am more hopeful because of what I have seen and experienced and participated in here, In this Senate, across western Massachusetts and the Commonwealth as a whole. No, I don't think anything is perfect or that our work here is anywhere near done, far from it. We have work to do but thanks to everyone who held a sign or who hosted a coffee hour or who knocked on a door or brought a friend to vote, I've been able to be a part of real progress in all of our communities. I'm hopeful because when I was first sworn in, the downtowns of Pittsfield and too many others were desolate. And now, thanks to streetscapes and historic tax credit, Gateway City and housing programs and

investments and the arts and cultural facilities. Slowly, they are becoming destinations. Our urban centers are attracting tourists and new residents as much as our hillsides are. I'm hopeful because when I first joined this body, there was real skepticism about what any one state could do to combat climate change. Since then, we've lead the nation in energy efficiency. 5 years running we've increased our solar output 800 times. We've spurred new industries and created tens of thousands of jobs in every corner of Massachusetts. And most importantly, we've shown that you don't have to choose between growing the economy and doing what's right for future generations and the environment.

I'm hopeful, because when I first joined this body, we had to fight to protect marriage equality and now it is the law of the land because love is love is love. I'm hopeful because when I first got elected, there hadn't been a new building in MCLA's campus in 3 decades, and Berkshire Community College was in dire need of repairs. Now BCC is busy with upgrades and a center for science and innovation at MCLA stands as a clear statement to every kid in Berkshire County and across the Commonwealth that if you work hard and strive a higher education and a job in the 21st century economy will be there for you.

I'm hopeful because when I first got elected, the state and federal government hadn't invested to solve to broadband access, leaving half than the communities that I represented without an onramp to the modern economy. Now thanks to \$95 million from the state, help from the federal stimulus and countless hours of work by volunteers, locally and Wired West and other organizations, we are close to closing the digital divide.

I'm hopeful because when I first announced my campaign, I said our duty was not just to build the bridge to the 21st century that President Clinton talked about. But to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to cross that bridge. We have helped many of our constituents cross, with increases in the minimum wage and the Earned Income Tax Credit with greater education and higher education affordability, protecting earned sick time and more. We have helped them cross that bridge because in one of the richest states, in the richest country on the planet, if you work hard and play by the rules, you shouldn't live in poverty.

I'm hopeful because when I first joined this chamber, the 33,000 transgender residents of our communities had no protections from being discriminated against in housing and employment and public accommodations, simply because of who they are and now they have that protection.

I'm hopeful because the hundreds of constituents, who over the years, came out to coffee and conversations or public meetings to learn more about what's going on in their state government, to have their voices heard and to be a part of the solution.

I am more hopeful because of every personal letter or email or call that someone ever took the time to write send or make. I am more hopeful for those who said I couldn't be more wrong and I am hopeful for those who said I couldn't be more right. I am just as hopeful for those who wrote and just said they wanted their voices heard. I am hopeful.

I'm hopeful because NONE, none of this progress is mine. It's not any one public official's. It's not yours. This progress is ours. Me, you, the 6.7 million residents of Massachusetts. It is not enough, not nearly enough. But it is real and it is a testament to what we can do when we as a former Governor of the state was fond of saying "hope for the best and work for it, and don't stop working until the job is done". And so as I leave this body, this Chamber, I do so confident that we have done good work and but that we will continue to do good work.

I am confident of that because of what I have seen and I am confident of that because I've had the privilege of coming to know all of you. I know in the face of enormous challenges, this is not a place where we look for an excuse to avoid acting. We might not do it soon enough, the process might be messy, but when the chips are down, we get it right. That's good. Because for all we have done, there is so much work to do. Work to do for the senior in high school who has all her acceptance letters she can get but no idea if she can foot the bill. Work to do for the dad in Pittsfield who worries himself sick each time his son is a minute or two late or that guns and gangs and needles has claimed another victim. Work to do for the unemployed steel worker in Lee, who sees his town's bridges in need of repair and is waiting for a call to get off the bench and make his community a stronger place. Work to do for the senior citizen in Buckland, who isn't sure she can afford her mortgage, prescriptions, heating and food on a fixed income.

Work to do for the young parents, sitting at the dinner table, going over the bills, after the kids have been put to bed, wondering how they will make ends meet, let alone achieve their dreams. We've got work to do. And while I will not be in this Chamber to do it with you, I will be working with you nonetheless. Serving in an elected office has been an honor and a privilege. But one of the great lessons of the last 10 years that has been taught to me is that democracy in our communities doesn't work if it's just elected and appointed officials involved. Every citizen has a responsibility to be involved and engaged in improving their communities and making progress real. You have my word that I plan to fill that responsibility in a different way, from a different position, because I am hopeful and we all know there is still work to do. Thank you all and God bless.

On motion of Ms. Chandler, the above remarks were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preambles Adopted.

An engrossed Bill designating a Certain Intersection Under the Control of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in the city known as the Town of Bridgewater (see House, No. 4607), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 28 to 0.

Bridgewater,--
intersection.

The bill was signed by the President and sent to the House for enactment.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Enise Pierre, an employee of the Department of Public Health (see House, No. 4735), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 30 to 0.

Enise Pierre,-- sick
leave.

The bill was signed by the President and sent to the House for enactment.

Remarks of Senator James B. Eldridge.

Remarks of Senator
James B. Eldridge.

Thank you Mr. President, I rise to speak and pay tribute to a colleague who has established a strong legacy in his short time here in the Senate, and has become a great personal friend, the gentleman from the Cape and Islands.

It is hard to believe that this businessman and community leader from Harwich was elected to the State Senate only six years ago. What he lacked in elected government experience, he more than made up for in passion for helping others, a pride in the unique nature and qualities of his district and constituents, an open heart and love for people and ideas, and an anger at the status quo that kept his fires burning for change that would make a difference in the lives of everyday people.

Our friend and colleague, Dan Wolf, is now leaving the Senate with his voice, fingerprints, and vision having made an impression on all of us, and the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. President, six years ago, who would have thought that Massachusetts would have one of the highest minimum wages, a strong paid sick time law leave, or the model equal pay law of the country? Who would have predicted that a nuclear power plant that many activists had fought for decades, would be on its way to closing? Or that the Cape and Islands would finally be on a path to bringing wind power to Massachusetts residents? And that the words of inequality, and the calls for economic justice, would be on the lips of politicians across the state? And let's not forget that as the Senator from the Cape and Islands spoke passionately from this very Chamber for more fairness in our society, his daughter was proudly carrying on the family tradition of protest, as part of Occupy Wall Street.

Of course, so much of the work that we as Senators do bears directly on our districts. We are all proud of our districts, and the resident of Harwich was no exception when it came to expressing that pride, or fighting for his constituents. Working to protect the environment in one of the most popular vacation destinations in the country, helping protect the fishing industry and oyster beds on the shores of Cape Cod communities, and taking the very first steps to saving this beautiful region of Massachusetts from ecological disaster by investing in water infrastructure. That pride was often heard at the end of the Senate's work week, expressed by, "If you're on the Cape, let's meet up. I'll show you something interesting that we're working on..."

The work and record of the gentleman from the Cape and Islands is a good reminder that our time as legislators on Beacon Hill can pass by quickly, and it is best to make the most of those years, not just for our districts, but for the entire Commonwealth.

These six years, however, were not just about policy and legislation. They were also about reshaping how a legislative body works, and as I refer to it, the New Senate. Mr. President, you have transformed the Senate into a more deliberative, equal body, a change so profound it is difficult to properly describe. I want to thank the gentleman from the Cape and Islands for being a partner in these changes.

From actually discussing bills before they are debated, to working groups that draft complex pieces of legislation that actually tackle deep-seated problems in society, to the caucus policy sessions, to the values and themes that the Senate aspires to reach, the gentleman from the Cape and Islands has helped create a dynamic in this body that helps every single member of the body serve his or her

constituents much better. Process includes, informs and guides policy, and impacts results.

Dan, thank you for caring enough about the Senate, for each member, to put that time and energy, behind the scenes, to help transform this elected body. And I would add, thank you for having the kind of staff who challenged you, for putting your trust in them - it was a beautiful thing to see how you all worked together.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to thank the gentleman from Harwich for being such an incredible friend. Our almost daily check-ins on bills and politics of the day. Being the Jewish uncle I never had, including making sure I was well-fed by inviting me to your staff lunches, and your sense of humor. And of course, our long conversations about what exactly it means to be a Democrat, and what does the Democratic Party exactly stand for? To be continued on that front.

And I will never forget the kindness you provided me, when I finally journeyed to the Cape to visit the house where my dad grew up in, shortly after he passed, the time you spent with me when I came to terms with my loss.

The Senator from the Cape and Islands is leaving the Senate, but I know his passion for public service, his willingness to challenge the status quo, his frustration at seeing people fall behind while the greedy take a bigger piece of the pie, and his commitment to changing that, will go on. Thank you Dan, for giving your blood, sweat and tears on all of these fronts, in this chamber, for your service to your district, and for fighting for people from one corner of the Commonwealth to the other. It has been one of the greatest honors to serve with you, and also just a hell of a lot of fun.

Thank you.

Remarks of Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg.

Mr. Pacheco in the Chair, the President remarked:

It was an honor when I got the call from my good friend Dan Wolf to add some words that would first be spread here in this Chamber by Mr. Eldridge, and I thank you for your eloquent words and you make it easier for me because you covered so much of the obligatory material and now I can focus a little bit more on the personal.

My first encounter with Dan was in my kitchen in my condo in Amherst when he came out for the new legislator's academy and at that time I was able to host people to come by after the evening's work to have some dessert. As I recall, there may have been a few other things present other than the dessert but what stood out for me was the dessert. But in the kitchen Dan started a conversation with me, introducing himself as one of the founders of Cape Air and at that point I learned that he was a serious business man who had helped develop a business that at that point had about a thousand employees and what really jumped out at me though wasn't just that he was a business man coming into the legislature who had this reputation as a progressive Democrat and I was "how does this all work?" But then he said the magic words to me, he said it was an employee-owned business and when he said that it touched a chord with me because I was at that point thinking about what I might do if I ever had the chance around here, in terms of transforming the institution, in terms of the culture and the way it does business because so many successful businesses of our time, whether they be in the for profit or not for profit world were embracing a whole series of the kinds of changes you would find in a worker-owned business. And so it stuck with me.

And then my next experience with Dan was serving on a workgroup that I

Remarks of Senate
President Stanley C.
Rosenberg.

convened of bringing together what we might call the usual suspects to have conversations about progressive economic policy here in the Commonwealth and what was wrong with what was going on in our society at this point which was adding so much fear and worry among the people of the Commonwealth and as we learned in this last election not just the people in the Commonwealth, but the people all across America and in fact when we look at some of the things going on in some of the European countries, things have been going on in fact all over the world as a result of the changes in our economy, and that income insecurity, and that worry that these families were facing were really fundamental to the conversation and what do we do about that was the whole purpose of more than a year's worth of meetings. So you take those two threads and you start weaving them together and as we approach the transition of leadership here in the Senate, I had the opportunity to think about where Dan might best serve the body and might best serve the purposes for which we were all gathering and putting in so much effort and so much energy and realized that here was an individual whose passions and commitment to progressive values and politics gave us the opportunity not only to have a person who would be chairing a subsequent committee but also who understood the vision for a more shared leadership model that I had in mind that we create here. And so he willingly engaged in a series of conversations with me over a long period of time, months in fact, and I could see that he really understood exactly what I had in mind and what I was hoping we could achieve here by recognizing that we're all first elected to represent our districts, and he's done an exemplary job of that for sure and Senator Eldridge has named just a few of the things that he's done there. But he also understood that we are all elected to be leaders and because we all serve as chair of a committee or sit in a leadership seat in this Chamber, we have that enormous opportunity both to be a representative of the people who elect us but also a statewide leader. And he got it. And that gave me great encouragement that this could work here, because in Senator Wolf, I would have an ally who if given the opportunity and given the permission, if you will, to create the process and to create the dynamic in the body, we could shift the culture in the direction that I was hoping. And so by taking on the task of Steering and Policy, which if you've ever actually read the description of Steering and Policy in the Manual of the General Court, it's a brilliant piece of work. Whoever designed that idea had something really brilliant in mind. I wanted to see that brought to life in our Chamber and under his able leadership as Chair of that committee he engaged every chair; he engaged every member; he took what we learned in Commonwealth Conversations and at our retreat and he hammered out an agenda for five or six major themes, and then working with the members of the Senate, identified within every joint standing committee those elements that could be used to actualize and deliver on that agenda. And so his extraordinary understanding of a truly decentralized system of leadership and engagement allowed us to take this idea, this concept and turn it into a reality. And for that I want to thank you, Senator Wolf, Mr. Chairman, for having a lifetime of values and experience that you brought to the table to help us make this vision of shared leadership a reality. But it obviously didn't stop there, because in your six years as chair of Labor and Workforce Development, you brought forth something like fourteen or fifteen pieces of legislation that made it to the Governor's desk and were signed into law. All of them helping working people of the Commonwealth, with the passion and commitment that you have which again was quite a gift to us because here we had a successful business leader, with a fairly large business saying what workers really needed and what was the fair thing to do and the proper

balance between the employer and the employee and that was another gift that you brought to this Chamber. And the result of that is that working people in Massachusetts have a better life today for that. And not everything that you put your hand on, that you helped us move through, got into law, but you helped us with zoning reform and you helped us with the non-compete issue and you helped us with paid family leave, and these are three themes that we can pick up in the next term and try to move forward and try to get suitable results.

Your leadership, your vision have been enormous. You've contributed enormously in the very short time that you've been here in the Senate, and I trust with your commitment to change and to progressive values that this isn't the last we will hear of you. We're not sure exactly in what way and in what context we'll hear your name, but once you've sprung upon the stage by being a member of the Senate, you've distinguished yourself in such ways that your name has meaning and value in the world of Public Policy engagement and debate. And so I trust that in whatever ways you choose to stay engaged and involved, and I hope they will be many and they will be varied and they will be significant in the months and the years ahead. I want to congratulate and commend you for what you have done. And as I conclude my comments about you I want to also embrace my friend Ben Downing, who after 10 years of extraordinary service in Western Massachusetts and for us here in the State, leaves also all too soon. But again, I hope that your path forward and your career will take many turns and twists and I hope your name will reappear in ways that will be pleasing to many of us because you have so much to contribute. And I'm sure you're going to do a great job in your next chapter and it's time to focus on your family and to turn a page and take another chapter here, but you're a very young man with extraordinary talent. And I'm counting on the fact that your presence will be felt in the years to come. I want to thank both of you for all of your service and I want to thank you very much for all of your engagement in every way in which you have been engaged, and good luck to you both.

Remarks of Senator Daniel A. Wolf.

Senator Pacheco I will take your guidance as to the length of this farewell speech, but I hope everyone is comfortable. Let the stopwatches begin!

Let me just say at the beginning obviously it's a privilege to speak here today. These last six years have been just such an honor and a blessing for me and I'll get into that during the speech, but Ben Downing is a tough act to follow when you got to get up and give a speech. I do want to make this kind of interesting parallel between Ben and myself. I'm somebody who didn't have an aspiration to get into the public sector until I was 53 years old having spent a lot of time in the private sector and that really informed my time here beautifully; and Ben and I are sort of crossing each other at this nexus because having spent the beginning of his career in the public sector serving here, now going into the private sector and will enrich that private sector in so many ways knowing how things worked here. I think it's interesting that you and I are both giving our speeches today, sort of book ending what are potential careers.

I want to thank you Senator Eldridge, it is an amazing friendship. I think when I sat down with Senate President Murray when I first got here and I had about a half an hour talk with her about what my hopes and dreams and aspirations were here she wrote down a name on a piece of paper and handed it to me and said "you got to go see this guy." It was sort of like a doctor giving a prescription but we

Remarks of Senator
Daniel A. Wolf.

have developed an incredible friendship.

Eldridge is a big name on the Cape so I figured I got to get to know the Eldridge in the Senate because there's got to be some connection there, and there clearly was. Jamie's family had a house just a couple of miles from my house when he was growing up. It's been a great friendship. We share so many values even though our backgrounds are different our heads come together around really wanting to see the world a generous and fair place for all of the people living in it.

And Senate President Rosenberg you came down from the rostrum. I know I had to twist arm a little bit because it's a little bit out of tradition to have the Senate President give the introduction but I couldn't take no for an answer in this. Since the day I came into this Chamber; your leadership, your quiet leadership, your belief that leadership is really about serving from behind not cajoling from above, really I think is a sea change here and it set an example for me and a guiding light for me coming out of this Chamber about how I can be a better leader and I thank you for that. I know where your heart is, I know where your head is and you bring them together in such powerful ways in this Chamber and I thank you for your willingness to introduce me. The friendship will continue.

I do want to say that I had a bit of a nightmare last night because we decided to like, hand out pies in the Senate, and so these are from Cape Cod with love but I have to confess I had a dream last night that like, somebody opened the pies and we had a pie fight here. And I promise you if that were to happen it would not be a partisan event. We will do that in good non-partisan spirit.

On my way here today, and I hadn't planned to do it, I am blessed because both of my parents are still alive. They live down in Philadelphia and they couldn't be here today because it would have been too much of a challenge relative to the logistics of it, you know. I guess we could have flown here, but I called them up and just spontaneously said "I want to thank you mom and dad for allowing me, for giving me the values and the family connection; my Dad a businessman and my Mom was a teacher of American History at the University of Pennsylvania. I grew up in a really interesting place and our dinner table conversations were the intersection of business and economy and American History. She taught it at Penn, Colonial American History. And I just took a moment to reflect and to thank them for having giving me the spirit and the values to ultimately serve here in this Chamber; and the education, I got the best education that they could have possibly given me for twenty years, pre-K right through college; and all of that was meaningful and I thanked them and they thanked me back and said "gee, it's nice to have a son like you" and I was like, "no, it's nice to have a parent like you." Someday Ben, you and Michaelah will have that experience with your child.

I want to start off by thanking and recognizing my wife Heidi who is here today. Heidi and I together have raised, I think raised is the right word, three amazing young women; my middle daughter Zoe is with us here today. Zoe I want to recognize you.

Our dinner table conversations growing up always included civics, social responsibility and politics, and the energy and values that I have brought to this body this last six years is really from our entire family, from my parents, but more importantly my wife Heidi; my three daughters Stella, Zoe and Ruby, because we evolved over the years and they are such a part of what I've brought to this and I thank you both for that and by extension your sisters as well.

I want to thank my amazing staff, this is the amazing staff, past and present, so I'm not looking at Micaelah Morrill to see if she's standing but she should be. I've always said if you want to know how you're doing in life look around the

room and see who is in it with you. This is an amazing room to be in but to be able to come here day after day or week after week, year after year and walk into a room to be surrounded by such great spirit and intellect and values of people who truly want to change the world in their lifetime and make it a better place. I have been completely blessed and I thank you for your partnership and friendship over the years.

Our office is an office which is full of love, and laughter and mutual respect and admiration and for those who stop by around lunch time, like Senator Eldridge always did, caught you not listening, but for those who stop by around lunch time you also know that we share in huge affinity for all kinds of ethnically diverse food that includes calories as well, but it has been an amazing blessing.

Any accomplishment, anything that we have accomplished here is really a result of the work of this staff and partnership with others in the building and I can't thank you enough. Chief of Staff now Elysse Magnotto, wave. I'm not big with titles so I had actually had written this and I showed it to Anjali and she said "that's not my title" so it turns out, who would have known, Anjali is my Policy Director and Legal Counsel, and beyond that here also are Anthony Colletti, Jordan Velozo, first Chief of Staff, Seth will you stand up; my dear friend of over 30 years, brother and actually he was Chief of Staff for a few minutes before Micaelah was, I want to thank you very much for being here; and of course Micaelah I've recognized you; who's not here, Sue Rohrbach; and Brian Dunn thinks I'm going to forget about him, but Brian stand up, Brian was also with us at the beginning. I also want to recognize Katie Barry who is back from Ireland. She is at Law school in Belfast, soon to be at some point, Ireland's "Tee-Shuck", which means Prime Minister. She is an amazing young woman and many of you worked with her while she was here. Her family's business is men's clothing and every time she would go back to Ireland and come back she would bring me clothes and also point out how horribly I dressed which... I want to thank each and every one of my colleagues here, there is without exception, this is a room of people who possess a passion to improve the lives of the citizens of the Commonwealth, while protecting the environment. We didn't always agree on everything, in fact I only remember a couple of times there was universal agreement and that was usually because we took a voice vote and there was universal agreement, but I in this body have always felt heard, and I've always felt part of a productive and collaborative team and I thank you for that.

Chairwoman Spilka, my eyes fall on you because you've done an extraordinary job as the leader in Ways and Means in making this a very inclusive process and I know how difficult and challenging that can be.

I already thanked you Stan, so I will skip over the part of the speech where I thank you again, but you have been an amazing leader, friend and mentor.

For the rest of the Senate staff if your staff is here would you raise your hand? I just want to thank you for being partners for my staff and also for being my partner. Work always gets done, great work always gets done by staff and I know it is only a matter of time between now and when you will find yourselves on this side of the rail with your asses in these seats and you will be well prepared. Bill Welch, an amazing job as Clerk and your staff as well. You've kept us on mission, you've kept us focused and you have my undying admiration and appreciation for that. Our gifted Senate Counsel, Jennifer Miller, I thank you; your assistants; you've really taught me what ethics are all about and I appreciate that; how to stay out of trouble going forward, yes. You are the best!

To our wonderful Court Officers, I think you all don't realize that you are the

silent, but persuasive ones who keep the quorum in this room, keep control and it is deeply appreciated, Pages and Court Officers. Paul, I never had, Senate President this is a hint, I never had the honor of walking in one of those processions with you, with the hat and either going to the Corner Office or to the House I never got that opportunity. I will have many dreams of doing that, I don't know if we're doing that today! And if I left anybody out I apologize.

I do want to give a special shout out to Minority Crescent I guess we're called now, correct? Leader Tarr you have done a fantastic job setting an example in this Chamber for bipartisan discussion, conversation and really keeping this body true to what our mission is to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and I thank you deeply for that. We don't agree on all policy issues but you are a true gentleman and by extension all of those in Minority Crescent, I think we really appreciate all the work you've done.

And my special partner on Cape Cod, Vinny deMacedo I promise not to call Vinny unless he calls me first on a Cape Cod issue and I already violated that last week when I asked Vinny to join me in civil disobedience to get arrested at the Gates of Pilgrim, that was powerful. I think the wagon is big enough for three of us.

Mr. President, my first commencement speech, and I do consider this to be a commencement speech of sorts, was to my graduating high school 41 years ago. Hard to believe, the time does go quick. In that speech I leaned on the Greek myth of Daedalus and his son Icarus. And a lot of you know that myth, but I'll just go through it real quick.

King Minos of Crete had imprisoned father and son in a tall tower, thinking it was not possible to escape from such a height. Daedalus, being an inventor and an artist, was able to craft wings of wax and feathers so that he and his son could escape and fly to safety from the tower. But before departing he gave his son, what probably was the first aviation safety briefing in the history of humanity. He told his son: "don't fly too low when we jump out of this tower or your wings will get bogged down from the salt spray from the ocean and you will fall into the sea and drown. But do not fly too high because if you fly too high you will get close to the sun and the sun will melt the wax in your wings, and the wings will come apart and you will plunge to your death in the sea." As we all know what ultimately happened is when they departed they left out of the tower, the son Icarus enthralled by the experience of flight, something that I know very well at this point, soared too high and the wax from his wings melted and he plunged into the sea. And I'm struck. There's two things that strike me as I look back as having given that as my graduation speech. First of all at that point I had absolutely no idea I was going to get into aviation; I had never flown an airplane. So the fact that I was a huge advocate for aviation safety back then certainly struck me. The other thing that strikes me about using that myth, is that is a myth when you think about it about moderation. It's about; I was preaching to my graduating class, don't fly too high because your wings will melt and you'll die; don't fly too low; so fly that life of constant moderation. Also, I was an incrementalist at that point too, Jamie. And when I look back at that I think, really? I mean I was preaching moderation. Sometimes having a memory doesn't serve you well; but actually when I reflect back on that, my time here and what I think we're doing here, it actually makes a lot of sense.

If I've have learned anything in the 41 years since delivering that speech and raising a family and being fortunate enough to be successful in the business world, it's that balance, moderation and balance is necessary if anything we are to do is

going to be successful and sustainability. Riding a bike, Senator Brownsberger, you would agree, correct; need that balance or we will fall off. As an airplane mechanic, if the wheel's not balanced, if the propeller is not balanced, there will be disastrous consequences; if the airplane is not loaded in a way that it is balanced, it will not fly and it will not maintain flight. Our own bodies; the way we feed ourselves, and the health of our body depends on us maintaining a balance in that body and it's certainly true of our environment. And when systems get out of balance such as the environment it sends back, there are all kinds of signals that come back to us saying that in this case climate change and other undesirable outcomes.

It's also true of the economy, and others have mentioned it here today, but as we all know an economy that gets as out of balance as this one no longer provides for low and moderate wage earners. So, any system, whether it's mechanical, biological, environmental, economic or political will not be healthy or sustainable if it is out of balance, and is allowed to remain out of balance.

So, in spite of some of the labels I've acquired here - progressive, liberal, radical, extremist; I will say that my work collaboratively with all of you, I really think is work that has been to achieve or maintain balance in areas where not doing so has already had, or will have, continually truly negative consequences.

So let me say, as far as balance, that there's nothing radical about working to balance an economy so that, while living in the most prosperous society, as Senator Downing pointed out, in the history of the world, we share that prosperity in ways that allow our citizens the dignity of a self-sufficient life, the ability to provide for themselves a home to live in, and the opportunity to share in the promise of the American Dream.

There is nothing extreme about believing that our workplaces must be balanced between the need to deliver profits, which is a need for business in our economy to survive, with our shared belief that profits must not come at the expense of our worker/citizens, or our environment. Nothing radical about understanding that balancing power in the workplace might include shared ownership, it might include organized labor. There is nothing radical about believing that the interests of large corporations need to be balanced against the interest of small businesses and working families; nothing radical at all.

There is nothing radical about making sure our electoral system is balanced so that power is not expressed through the wallet, but power is expressed through the voting booth.

There is nothing extreme or radical about making sure that our methods of producing energy or providing transportation are balanced with our environmental needs around sustainability and addressing climate change.

Nothing radical about a healthcare system that balances the financial needs of the provider and innovator with the wellness needs of our citizens or an education system that provides quality education from pre-kindergarten through college.

Certainly nothing extreme or radical about the desire to rewrite a tax code so that it reflects the imbalances in this economy today and, in doing so, allows us to derive the revenue we need to invest in our children, our grandchildren and in our shared, exciting vision of the future.

When Heidi and I were married 30 years ago, over 30 years, our procession song was the song Imagine by John Lennon. And as I depart this Chamber I will imagine. I will imagine an economy that is fairer and works for everyone and denies opportunity to no one. Imagine a healthcare system, cradle to grave that is simple, affordable and offering better and better outcomes. Imagining a better

environment understanding that future generations depend on us acting NOW, today! Imagine a truly modern and forward looking transportation system, including a modernized functional MBTA, new rolling stock, improved and expanded Blue and Green line service, South Coast Rail, better rail service to Western Massachusetts, while eliminating that “rush hour” that we all sit in that actually is no longer a “rush hour” it’s all day. Imagine a fully funded educational system that keeps Massachusetts at the leading edge while breaking cycles of poverty by creating true opportunity for all. Imagine a Massachusetts that beats back the crisis of substance abuse not by victimizing the victims by locking them up in a racist and arbitrary criminal justice system, but instead creates hope and opportunity and also holds pharmaceutical companies accountable for the role that they’re playing in this. Imagine a diverse society in which we all live side by side as equals, regardless of race, gender or class.

Some of the greatest visionaries in the history of our nation have walked in the halls of this great building and have served in this Chamber. What an amazing thought that is. They imagined a great “City upon a Hill” whose government exists, “of the people, by the People and for the people.” They imagined future generations who would deliver on the promise that they created, and we are one of those generations. Our legacy is their legacy, bounded only by our imagination and our capacity to be bold. And I trust that in this Chamber, given the climate change in Washington, the creativity and courage here will inspire and drive policy far beyond our borders.

In closing, let me circle back to where I began. Several years after delivering that speech about “living that life of moderation” boring moderation, I found myself living here in the Boston area as a citizen activist, and where else would you live as a citizen activist but the great City of Cambridge and in Central Square in a rent controlled unit. I was working as a community organizer, knocking on doors up and down Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan and in Roxbury and I was also working in the factories of Alston as a labor organizer. My yellow VW Bug, I’ll tell you it doesn’t get any more stereotypical than this, my yellow VW, boy, living the stereotype, not as a Jewish uncle mind you, but as a organizer. I had three bumper stickers on that VW back then, this was 1981. One of them was “Another Man Against Violence Against Women”, another of them was “Question Authority” and the third was “Stop Proposition Two and a Half”. I should have a picture in the back of my car “And how’s that Prop Two and a Half working out for us?” As I leave the Chamber today and return to my family and my business full time, and I do want to recognize that my colleagues at Cape Air as well as my family at home have really given me the opportunity to be here and have really given me the inspiration and the ability to understand a lot of these issues better, so I thank my colleagues at Cape Air.

As I return to that life, I will resume the life, this is my pledge, as a citizen activist, as a CEO, husband and father continuing to work for a fairer and more just society. I hope to see many of you, and you, and you at the next rally, or protest, or perhaps a hearing here at the State House; a State House that I have over the last six years, have truly come to love. Thank you very much.

On motion of Ms. Spilka, the above remarks were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Recess.

There being no objection, at twelve minutes before one o'clock P.M., the Chair, Mr. Pacheco declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twenty-four minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Pacheco in the Chair (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (the first of which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Pacheco) and laid before the Governor for his approbation, to wit:

Bills laid before the Governor.

Designating the commission on postpartum depression as the Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression (see Senate, No. 2458);

Relative to firefighters in the town of Concord (see House, No. 3878);

Relative to the assessment of local property taxes in the town of Westwood (see House, No. 4573, amended);

Providing for recall elections in the town of Bolton (see House, No. 4602, amended);

Designating a Certain Intersection Under the Control of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in the city known as the Town of Bridgewater (see House, No. 4607);

Exempting the position of deputy superintendent of police in the city of Lowell from the civil service law (see House, No. 4714); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Enise Pierre, an employee of the Department of Public Health (see House, No. 4735, amended).

A Bill facilitating urban redevelopment in the city of Quincy (House, No. 4739,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Quincy,- urban redevelopment.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Brady,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-nine minutes before two o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.