

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.
IN JOINT SESSION.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

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

Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Pursuant to assignment, at twenty 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 Harriette L. Chandler, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Boncore,--

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 Gobi, Rodrigues, Lesser, Creem, Ross and Humason were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Donato of Medford, Ferguson of Holden, Viera of Falmouth, Honan of Boston, Wong of Saugus and Smizik of Brookline were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Donato, for the committee, reported that Her Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, 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, and distinguished guests entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Invocation.

The President in the Chair, then introduced Senior Imam Shaykh Yasir Fahmy, of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, who delivered the following Invocation:

Invocation.

In the name of God, the gracious, the merciful; My dear brothers and sisters of this Commonwealth, in the Holy Qur'an, God tells us: "Oh Mankind, we have created you from male and female, and we made you peoples and tribes that you may come to know one another. Surely, the most noble of you before God are those most reverent of you.'

In this verse, God speaks to the essence of the human condition; to the fundamental truth that, despite our differences, which can be profound, we are here, on this earth, to live with, to care for, and to know one another. This sacred

spirit and divine guidance is captured in the works and the work of our own Founding Fathers.

In the year 1776, quoting John Locke, Thomas Jefferson said: “neither Pagan nor Mahamedan [Muslim] nor Jew ought to be excluded from the civil rights of the Commonwealth because of his religion.” Espousing this same sentiment, the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 promised “the most ample liberty of conscience... to Deists, Mahometans [Muslims], Jews and Christians”.

My dear brothers and sisters, these words remind us of the kind of nation our Founding Fathers sought to bequeath us: a nation that upholds freedom of conscience; a nation that embraces religious pluralism, and a nation that calls for the honor and dignity of all.

Yet we also know that even as these visionary words were spoken, slavery raged and the rights of women were ignored. We know that racial and ethnic quotas were implemented in immigration, and that Catholic and Jew, here in our own State, were not welcomed as equals. We understood early on that the vision of America we inherited was in fact a call for action and diligence. A gift, but never one to be taken for granted. A blessing, but not one yet fully realized for all.

Brothers and sisters, this vision and dream we call America calls for principled and courageous leadership, a leadership that embodies the sacred spirit and the divine guidance of our prophets and pious predecessors, from the wisdom and insight of Moses, to the love and the compassionate shepherding of Jesus, and to the mercy and justice of Mohammed, may the peace and blessings of God be upon them all.

Let us pray. O’ God, as we stand before you today in utter humility and with deep gratitude, we pray that you instill a sacred spirit and divine guidance in all of our hearts. O’ God at a moment when our nation seems divided, we seek your aid in bringing our hearts together. Lord, we know at this moment what is called for is courageous leadership. We ask that you bestow that leadership on our Governor Charles Duane Baker. We ask that you guide him to his highest self, inspire him to always practice that which is most beloved to you and to uphold the best of your divinely inspired values and ideals. Guide him and all of our elected officials to help remove the pain and division that beseech parts of our nation. And God we ask you to Allow us to see past our differences; to work with another for the betterment of ourselves, our state and our nation.

Order Adopted.

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

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 DiDomenico, Cyr, Hinds, Donoghue, Tran and O’Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Nangle of Lowell, Mahoney of Worcester, Poirier of North Attleborough, Puppolo of Springfield, Frost of Auburn, Ultrino of Malden, Lewis of Framingham, McMurtry of Dedham and Howitt of Seekonk, were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, would immediately attend upon the convention.

Notification of the
Governor.

The President introduced members of the 2017 National JROTC Champions – the Lynn English High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps who posted the colors.

Lynn English High School JROTC.

The President then introduced Cadet Samantha Parker, accompanied by the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Honor Guard, who sang the National Anthem.

National Anthem.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The President then introduced Ashanti Rosario and Miguel Torres from Puerto Rico and the STEM Middle Academy in Springfield who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag

Pledge of allegiance.

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. 2).

State of the Commonwealth address.

The President in the Chair, then introduced the Springfield Community Chorale directed by Vanessa Ford and Aarif Bradley for a performance of “Oh Give Thanks” and “Bless the Lord With Me”.

Springfield Community Chorale.

Benediction.

The President then introduced Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz of Temple Emanuel in Newton, who gave the following Benediction:

Benediction.

Dear Lord, we pray to you tonight, from a very special place, a place called Beacon Hill. Now a beacon is a source of light that provides warmth when we’re cold, guidance when we’re lost. Lord May we be worthy of our name. May we be here at Beacon Hill a beacon of light. What would that look like? It would look like this.

In a world rent by division, may we be a beacon for collaboration.

In a world where all too often it is my way or the highway, may we be a beacon of the productive conversation, where we listen *to one another*; we work *with* one another; we do some give and take to promote the common good.

In a world that has been soiled by xenophobia, and nativism and hatred, may we be a beacon of inclusion, of love of *all of* your children, made by your in Your image with a divine spark and infinitely loved by you. And because of our great respect for all human beings. May our Commonwealth continue to be what it has been. A beacon of innovation, hard work, productivity and prosperity.

Lord as we conclude the proceedings tonight we pray that you will imbue your holy spirit in the leaders, the elected leaders of our great Commonwealth; that you will inspire

Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Senate President Harriette Chandler and all the members of the Massachusetts Senate, Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo and all the members of the House of Representatives, and all who exercise just and rightful authority in the Commonwealth with Your spirit of decency, soft-spokenness, humility, the ability to work for the common good so that Beacon Hill will continue to be what it has always been: that beacon of light for our Commonwealth and for world, and for this, let us say, Amen.

The President in the Chair, His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the Constitutional officers, the members of

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

the Executive Council and members of the Supreme Judicial Court then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

On motion of Mr. Brady, at eleven 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.