

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018.

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Monday, December 17, 2018.

Met at twenty-five minutes before two o'clock P.M.

The President, members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communcations.

Communication from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (pursuant to Section 12A of Chapter 6C of the General Laws) submitting its Annual Progress Report of the Performance and Asset Management Advisory Council (received December 14, 2018),-- **was placed on file.**

MassDOT,-- asset management report. SD2848

Report.

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 60B(f) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its recommendation of the Debt Affordability Committee (received December 14, 2018),-- **was placed on file.**

A&F,-- DAC recommendation. SD2849

Petition.

Mr. Fattman presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2687) of Ryan C. Fattman and Joseph D. McKenna (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Webster to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises [Local approval received];

Webster,-- liquor license.

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Speaker:

Representative Driscoll of Milton to serve as his second appointment to the bail reform special commission established (under Section 220 of the Acts of 2018, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws) to evaluate policies and procedures related to the current bail system and recommend improvements or changes.

Bail system,-- improvements.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Minority Leader:

Representative-elect Mike Soter of Bellingham to serve as his appointment (under Section 188 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015) to the special commission to study new business registration.

New business,-- registration.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fattman and Ms. Spilka) “commending William F. Welch, Clerk of the Massachusetts State Senate, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.”

William F. Welch.

The President recognized the Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr, for the purpose of remarks on the retirement of Senator Kathleen O’Connor Ives.

Remarks of Minority Leader, Bruce E. Tarr

I have the honor to speak about one of the most reserved, quiet members of the Senate. Just kidding. Madam President, the Senate depends on people coming into this body who care about the people they represent; who are passionate about the ideas they bring to the chamber and who are willing to work across the aisle to bring those ideas to fruition. That type of senator is Katie O’Connor Ives.

Remarks of Senator
Bruce E. Tarr.

She came to us with a law degree in environmental law from Pace University; and Madam President she went on to serve since 2007 or from 2007-2012 in one of the most well known preparatory bodies for the Massachusetts State Senate - the Newburyport City Council. On the council, she was known for her independent thought, her willingness to be persistent, and always, always, always putting the needs of the people that she represented first, and that has been no different here.

I have had the honor, Madam President, to work with Senator O’Connor Ives in close partnership because we have shared the community of North Andover but also worked in close collaboration on a whole host of issues particularly through the Merrimack River Beach Alliance, which works on issues that affect Newbury and Salisbury and Newburyport. And every step of the way I have seen her reinforce that notion that when she believes in something there is no turning back.

We have together, Madam President, taken on the Northwest Atlantic Ocean repeatedly with regards to erosion and other matters effecting Plum Island, and let me tell you if you are going to take on the Atlantic Ocean, there could be no better partner than Senator Katie O’Connor Ives. We have seen her work here on a whole host of issues because public safety and public health and safety have been her priorities as they are for state government. And she’s worked on so many things, like the bulk purchase of naloxone, or reducing youth exposure to the dangers of tobacco, or more recently working with a group of us to make sure that we evolved a system of school safety and security that made sure that our public schools are places where learning can take place in a safe, comforting environment, and it wasn’t just in school that she worked on the issue of kids, she has been a champion for the issue of foster care and making sure that we have a good cohort and an expanding cohort of people who are willing to be foster parents for the kids who need them; because that is the kind of senator that Katie O’Connor Ives is. She also has worked on many issues that affect cities and towns never losing that feeling of being a city councilor and understanding that first come the people in the communities that you represent. And so she has worked here passionately, to lead the fight against unfunded mandates and to help us to find a way to deal better with our cities and towns than issuing them constantly dictates that are not accompanied by funding or a way to accommodate those demands. And, Madam President, she has also worked diligently as the chair of the Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, never leaving a stone unturned on issues like making sure the MBTA was living up to its commitment to be able to provide reliable

service on-time and in a cost-effective way.

Katie Ives has never stopped for one minute in her career in public life from being persistent, but being persistent with a purpose. And sometimes that takes us into some very interesting places. Now far be it for me, Madam President, to say that I know what happens in the Democratic caucus, but I have heard that she spends a significant amount of time in each one of them organizing the recyclables so that they can be properly disposed of. And far be it for Katie O'Connor Ives to ever miss an element of detail. And so was it that a couple of years ago when I was referring to ties as haberdashery, I received a note that was passed to me along the aisle saying, "Are ties haberdashery?" But also being a person that always wants to get the right answer, I received another note about 30 minutes later, saying "indeed I have confirmed that ties are haberdashery."

We have been so lucky to have this Senator in our midst. We all know the importance of standing up for what you believe in. We in the minority constellation know that sometimes it's important to do that even when you know the odds are not with you but you believe what you're doing is right; and that is Katie O'Connor Ives. And it has been on more than one occasion when she has been proposed for membership in the minority caucus, but we didn't want to jeopardize her chairmanship of Post Audit and Oversight.

You know, it was a couple of years back when we had the horrendous winter that we did, and we had snow of almost incalculable proportions. And we were summoned to Plum Island by the mayor of Newburyport, and Mayor Holaday told us that the sanitary disposal system was not working. And as we all sat and thought what the next move was going to be, she said I need teams of people to go out into the snowstorm and try to do what you can. Well, Katie very reliably and very intuitively said, "Haley and I will go out and we will check on every residence on Plum Island to make sure that people are OK." And I said, "Katie that's great, what would you like the rest of the legislative delegation to do?" And her response was, "you guys go dig out all the septic systems." Proving that she not only there to help when needed, but she is a good delegator.

And along the way, she has a wonderful family. A new son Ronan, husband Jeff, who she cares for very much and finds a way to spend time with them even as she spends so much time with all of us and with her constituency. It is remarkable. And it's a remarkable shining example for those of us in the Legislature now and those who will follow.

I spoke with Katie on Friday. Frankly, I expected to hear she was doing something in her personal life when we talked. She was not. She said I'm sitting at my desk trying to sort out all of the various priorities that are on the desktop and trying to decide where to go and what to do with the ones that continue to need pursuing. That to me was not only substantive, it was symbolic. Symbolic of our friend and our colleague Katie O'Connor Ives who has never stopped caring about this country, this commonwealth, her neighbors, her friends, her colleagues; and I dare say, at this bittersweet moment when she departs from this body, that she never, ever will.

Katie, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with you and we are so fortunate as a Senate to have had those things. Thank you so very much for everything and your friendship.

The President recognized the Senator from Norfolk and Suffolk, Mr. Rush, for the purpose of remarks on the retirement of Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives.

Remarks of Senator Michael F. Rush

I am honored to stand here today to offer remarks on the achievements and career of my good friend, the gentlelady from Newburyport, Senator Katie O'Connor Ives. It should be noted however, that this task became increasingly difficult as I only learned yesterday

Remarks of Senator
Michael F. Rush.

that I would be following remarks from the gentleman from Gloucester. In fact, this morning I had a conversation with Clerk Welch and he said to me, “You've got your work cut out for you following Senator Tarr.” He said “Senator Tarr is one of the best orators in the Massachusetts Senate”, and I agreed with the Clerk. The Clerk then said to me, “What could you possibly offer that the gentleman from Gloucester could not provide?” I looked back at him and said, “Brevity.”

As I was thinking about my remarks, and what to highlight about someone who has been very quiet and reserved; no one ever really knew what she was thinking about, where she stood on any issues; she kept her opinions to herself; and as we know, none of that is true. She is a fierce and passionate fighter for the causes she cares about and she would let you know. Someone once said to me before I knew you, you know Senator O'Connor Ives is about as subtle as a punch to the face. They were right. The motto of her hometown of Newburyport is Terra Marique, which translated to English means, Powerful by Land or Sea, and those who know her know that she reflects that saying and has worked tirelessly to rely on both the land and the sea.

This body will soon locate back to our Senate Chamber, thank goodness. One important symbol in both the Senate and the House Chambers here in this historic building is the symbol of the hourglass between two birds' wings, as a gentle reminder to all that time does in fact fly and we will be judged on accomplishments made during this time. Senator O'Connor Ives came to Beacon Hill to get things done; and in her three terms she has a remarkable list of accomplishments. Accomplishments affecting and increasing the public health and public safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth; issues on the opioid epidemic. Senator O'Connor Ives advocated for municipal police departments, bulk ordering of Narcan; her advocacy for both veterans and public safety officials, affordable housing has been second to none.

You came to Beacon Hill with a sense of purpose and a desire to get things done and you have succeeded. To quote the official state heroine of Massachusetts, Deborah Sampson, a revolutionary war veteran and pioneer for women's causes, and who was actually born on this day in 1760, she said, “my companions tax me with presumption and folly but I was determined then and always not to be a coward.”

Madam President, I would suggest to you and the Members that there are two key critical questions that every individual who has had the privilege and honor to serve in this legislature must ask themselves as they prepare to depart. Question number one, “did I do my job?” The job that was expected of me by the people who put their solemn trust in me and sent me here to be their voice. Question number two, “did my work and actions make the district that I represent and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a better place?” Madam President, I would suggest to you, and the members of this Chamber, and the people of the First Essex District, that the overwhelming and unequivocal answer to whether Senator O'Connor Ives did these two things is, yes.

As she prepares to depart this Chamber for other challenges and many more accomplishments with her wonderful family, her husband Jeff and her son Ronan who she loves and cares so much. I would like to offer this gentlelady from Newburyport a common departing phrase from those who she represents in the maritime industry, the sea services and a saying of the United States Navy; to the gentlelady of Newburyport, I wish you and your family fair winds and following seas.

The President then recognized Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives for the purpose of giving her final remarks

Remarks of Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives

Thank you, Madame President, and through you to the members.

After those intros, I can just pack up my office and go home now.

Madame President, President Travaglini; Senators Forry, McGee, Baddour and Petrucci.

Welcome to my family and friends. It's great to see so many of my colleagues and former colleagues here. Thank you for taking the time to share this day with me. It means a great deal to conclude my time here in a spirit of gratitude--for the opportunity to represent my District and for a moment of reflection- to take stock of some moments and matters that mean a lot to me.

I'm also honored to share this day with Senators Donaghue and L'Italien.

Thank you Senator Rush and Minority Leader Tarr for those kind introductions. Now it's challenging to be limited to only two colleagues making those intros. We may want to consider a new tradition where each colleague has to approach the podium saying any one noun or adjective that comes to mind that describes the departing colleague and then see where we end up.

Senator Tarr in one word: extraordinary. I have the distinct honor of sharing communities with him in our Districts. That's provided me with the unique opportunity to not only get to work with him in these marbled halls, but I've also gotten the chance to stand shoulder to shoulder with Senator Tarr executing the detailed and demanding task of building ice cream sundaes at our senior socials. We've surveyed beach erosion, shoveled snow and gone before municipal boards together. We've even seriously did one pilot episode of a show called "Our Two Senators." I think it's available on Netflix. He's so special because his incomprehensible comprehension is only outdone by his civility and consideration of others. Most admirably, I believe he lives his life in the spirit of getting to yes, not the negativity of no when working with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Whether doing shuttle diplomacy on Beacon Hill or springing into action during the Merrimack Valley Natural Gas disaster, Senator Tarr is omni-present, and so I leave for him my MassDot reflective vest, in case he needs one other than his own.

Senator Rush: I'm sure we'd all agree...The singular word is hilarious. But, as we also know Senator Rush has a serious side--especially when it comes to advocating for those issues he cares about, and helping his fellow Senators achieve their goals---whenever I needed assistance or advocacy, like helping parents in my district who were working to honor the memory of their deceased veteran daughter by having the U.S.S. Constitution color guard at her bridge-naming dedication, I asked Senator Rush for help and he delivered. When I asked him to come to my district to hear Veterans' Services Officers voice their concerns, he was there. He's there for all of us. Making sure that each and every one of us in the Senate, has the opportunity to be made fun of. And I leave for my Senate colleagues my current responsibility of being in charge of texting Rush what's for lunch every caucus.

It's my honor that you both introduced me today.

Throughout my three terms in the Senate, I served on the Joint Committee on Higher Education and with Senator Moore Presiding as Co-Chair, I saw him work hard trying to get accountability for students who deserve quality, affordable and accessible public higher education. He also had to sit next to me ... for every consecutive year in the Senate Chamber. He is the perpetual contrarian, and I appreciate how he questioned and challenged me on most issues before and after voting. Thank you for friendship. I leave to him my research on the municipal police training committee. Ironically, I did my maiden speech in favor of investing more funding into the municipal police training committee. But, as Chair of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight I've discovered there are problems with instruction, curriculum development, budgeting and communication, which merits oversight before funding is soon to be increased. Officers and chiefs who

seek this critical instruction deserve that.

The Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight was quite busy this session conducting oversight on the MBTA's proposal to privatize the bus machinists. And we prepared a report on the closure of Mount Ida College and their acquisition by UMass Amherst. Our #1 recommendation - that colleges in financial peril or those colleges considering mergers, acquisitions or closure must notify the Board of Higher Education by a date certain - this language was unanimously approved in the Senate as an amendment to the FY19 Budget but did not survive conference. That recommendation is now as relevant as ever with the recent announcement of Newbury College closing.

Over the years, I've also called for the decommissioning of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant - though located in New Hampshire, it affects the health and safety of residents here in the Commonwealth. Its structural integrity is compromised due to a chemical reaction between the concrete of the building and the salty water in where it sits. I want to thank Senator deMacedo for his focus on the important task of ensuring the Pilgrim Nuclear Power plant is properly decommissioned and I hope Seabrook Nuclear Power plant soon follows in Pilgrim's footsteps.

It is indeed a privilege to serve in the Massachusetts Senate, where our state's constitution stands as the foundational document upon which the US Constitution was built - to be one of 40 individuals, working to advance public policies and budget priorities in a place where Presidents John Quincy Adams and Calvin Coolidge debated is a rare opportunity.

However, our charge is not only to advance legislation, but to pass legislation. We work hard to get elected, and we sacrifice precious time away from our families, for the goal of passing laws that make this Commonwealth stronger and safer. Our constituents deserve for us to do this and they voted for us to do this.

My number one legislative priority isn't even my own bill. Massachusetts must pass the hands-free driving bill. It could even get done in the waning days of this legislative session. No matter your race, age, or economic status, we and our loved ones are all equally vulnerable to getting hurt or killed by a distracted driver, and we're all guilty of distracted driving. This bill, once passed, will save lives.

That's not too much to ask for Christmas.

And for my birthday... passage of the bill to ban flame retardants from household goods. I thank Majority Leader Creem for accepting all of my amendments (with a few redrafts) into the bill passed in the Senate and I'm certain that if we follow in California's footsteps and ban the use of these carcinogens, which expose families and firefighters to cancer-causing chemicals, consumers will flock to our state to purchase household items because they know they will be free of these harmful chemicals.

Madame President I want to thank you for hearing me on two points I care very deeply about--the creation of a Narcan Bulk Purchasing Program and Trust Fund through the Department of Public Health and committing monies to replenish the fund, so our cities and towns can access Narcan at a reasonable cost and aren't left with financial strain for doing the right thing and equipping their first responders with Narcan.

And Madame President, when I came to you in your capacity as Chairwoman of Ways and Means and expressed the need for increased funding for a critical initiative being conducted by the Department of Children and Families called the Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign, a campaign addressing the fact that there simply aren't enough foster homes available for vulnerable children. This campaign, that Senator Flanagan spearheaded to inform the public about the opportunity and need for foster care, as well as help with understanding the process for fostering and adoption. Thank you President Spilka for working with me to raise that line item from \$250,000 to \$750,000. This is a campaign that's working, I know on a personal level because I have a constituent family who attended

a DCF info session on fostering opportunities. This inspiring couple fostered a blind baby, providing him a loving home and access to music therapy and other enrichment so that he now thrives, and this couple worked to find him a permanent loving home. And, so I ask my colleagues to consider championing this line item in the next session.

And in the spirit of maintaining the quorum of mutual respect, I do want to recognize the presence of the locked out National Grid gas workers, I see you, I hear you, I'm with you. I hope you get the job security you and your families deserve.

Maya Angelou said: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

And so, it's the feelings I will leave with and keep with me, the good memories of working with colleagues and constituents fighting the good fight, like when legislators and residents worked together to stop the Kinder Morgan Fracked Gas Pipeline from coming into our districts. I get very emotional about gas pipelines.

I'm proud to say I worked to have the Senate on the record, condemning Trump's Travel Ban and his cruel and child traumatizing family separation policy.

Senator Brownsberger came up to my District to help me campaign. I'll never forget him knocking on doors for me in North Andover, talking me up to residents and planting lawn signs, taking particular care to make sure the wire framing was intact and placed at the right angle.

Sitting next to Senator Keenan at caucus, I was able to parse out complex legislation with a person who was always well-studied and focused on the issues at hand

Senator Jehlen's patient ear listening to my outrage over one thing or another.

Remembering Senator Tommy Kennedy zipping over to me and inviting me to his office for "refreshments" and then zipping away.

Senator Kenny Donnelly became one of my most patient listeners and Kenny would sage counsel when I wanted to know what to do what the right thing was. He never judged me, and I will share with you, even as a Whip, he said, "always vote your district".

There are plenty of things that work and don't work in the Legislature. But I do feel strongly that Senate terms should be for four years. I've never met a constituent who didn't agree. Nomination papers being available every year and a half is a distraction from the people's work and just doesn't make sense if Senators are supposed to learn about and be responsible for so many complex topics. So, I suppose I believe in the opposite of term limits. I think that experience is in fact underrated.

It's a funny business we're in, where people often use the word politician as a pejorative term, like we should be insulted. Whether as a City Councilor, or State Senator, I've always been proud to be called a politician. Being a politician is about diplomacy, negotiation, collaboration, and service.

This is where I get to thank my family. I think they've always thought I was a politician. I don't know if they meant it in a nice way. Today, I get to thank my mother. She loves me so much and so unconditionally, but I'm happy I've gotten this chance to try to make her proud. She'll probably say, "Not a U.S. Senator?" But she's worked to the bone since the age of thirteen, trying to make a better life for herself and her family. And she's achieved that. I thank her.

My Dad is here too, running for office is in my blood, as my Dad has told me about how my Gran ran for Alderman in Dublin. He was a child with her, knocking on doors and seeing her move onto the next door with confidence after some dejecting responses. She didn't win her race, but I've never lost one and I know I carry her spirit in me. Today I get to thank my Dad for standing out in the cold and holding my campaign signs and staying up at night so I could let him know I won. Thank you.

My sister Liz is here today. As the successful mother to 3 phenomenal children, she plays a priceless role for me. She's the one I have on speed dial for any advice on my most

precious endeavor, my son. I call her for guidance if he has so much as a hangnail.

And, I'd like to recognize my brother Shawn, though recently retired, he served our country bravely as a Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force.

I want to thank my brother and sister for taking time out of your busy lives to be here today.

My staff. We here in the Senate, Madam President, know that you're only as good as your staff.

My Chief of Staff Hailey Klein, anyone who knows her, loves her and she stood by my side from our first campaign announcement until the moment we will lock up our Senate doors. She worked particularly hard to advance the Legislature's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech given in our State House. And, it's exciting to see the efforts are currently underway to place a permanent plaque in this building to recognize his message delivered to the Legislature.

My District Director Dennis Marcello - The King of Methuen - who's logged more miles representing our office at events, than anyone could ever fathom. Dennis' limitless energy, enthusiasm and support for me brightened the hardest of days. Thank you Dennis.

Maria Syrniotis, my Legislative Director. Maria's response to most things was either, "I'll take care of it" or "I took care of it." That's music to any Senator's ears.

I also want to thank my former Constituent Services coordinator, Neesha Suarez.

And other former members of team, Michael, Chris, Chris, Emily, Joe and Taylor.

And a special thank you goes to the people of the First Essex District. I thank the residents of the district for their votes of confidence and engagement over the years.

I sincerely appreciate our brilliant Senate Clerk and Assistant Clerk, along with their team. Our reliable Court Officers. I thank Debra, Billy and the team in the Business Office. Bruce our amazing Senate photographer, Senate Counsel, Jay Cincotti, The Rangers, Luz, Romeo and Minerva who cleaned our offices every night over the years.

And, there's one other person in my life I can't "thank" necessarily. My appreciation for him and my love for him can't even be described in words and it goes far beyond thanks. My husband Jeff. He's my sounding board, my confidante, my partner... my soulmate. He's been with me every step of the way throughout this adventure and I am so lucky that I get to be with him on whatever future adventures our life together brings. Thank you.

And so Madam President, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said from the Rostrum of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, "It was from these shores that the vision of a new nation conceived in liberty was born and it must be from these shores that liberty must be preserved". I am proud to have been a part of this effort, and I agree with President Calvin Coolidge who stated, "I have faith in Massachusetts". Thank you.

The President recognized the Senator from Middlesex and Worcester, Mr. Eldridge, for the purpose of remarks on the retirement of Senator Barbara A. L'Italien.

Remarks of Senator James B. Eldridge

Thank you, Madame President. I want to thank the lady from Andover, Ms. L'Italien, for asking me to say a few words about her today.

We both arrived in the Great and General Court in January of 2003. Since then, I have had the pleasure of observing the lady from Andover's deep dedication to public service, partnering with her on issues near and dear to both of our hearts, and becoming good friends, especially over the past year.

Madame President, reflecting back on my time and experience as a legislator, I can think of three main questions that are important to ask when judging, as legislators, our

Remarks of Senator
James B. Eldridge.

effectiveness, our impact, and our hearts.

Did we see an injustice, and stand up against powerful interests, to right it?

Did we take our life experiences, and mold them into making sure that future generations would have a better life?

And did we fight hard for the most vulnerable constituents of our district?

When I think about the work of the lady from Andover, over the past 16 years, the answers to these questions affirm the legacy, values, and personal qualities of Barbara L'Italien.

In our first years together in the House of Representatives, gaining the ire of powerful religious leaders in Massachusetts, and where she herself worshiped, the lady from Andover stood firm on marriage equality, that who you love should not be dictated by the state, or the church. It was a courageous stand that inspired residents from across the Commonwealth, reaffirmed to colleagues what was at stake, and played a key role in protecting same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, so that the protections, rights, and affirmations of love could continue to spread across our country. Madame President, we also know that each one of us brings our lives, our struggles, moments of triumph, and challenges, into a profession that is deeply personal, and can directly impact all of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And often, throughout our time in public office, that we persist in pursuing.

For Barbara, that persistence has been about her son Rudy. Born with autism, Rudy has inspired the lady from Andover to create, from a point of time of zero awareness and support for families with children with autism, to a great awakening of all the powers and abilities of government, to provide proper education, healthcare services, support, and basic respect to tens of thousands of people across Massachusetts.

Now, Madame President, I think it's fair to say, that when you speak with the lady from Andover, or when you speak with people who have met the lady from Andover, that it's very common to hear about her advocacy for children with special needs. What I want to say today, Barbara, is thank you. Thank you for raising the challenges of children who often have lived in the shadows of society, our school systems and our institutions, to a more equal level of dignity, opportunity, and quality of life.

Finally, Madame President, to answer that third question for us as legislators, did we fight hard for the most vulnerable constituents in our districts, it is hard to know where to begin, and how to end, when talking about the lady from Andover.

Whether joining our labor brothers and sisters at a picket line or lockout, providing direct assistance to immigrants targeted by the federal government, fighting budget cuts to seniors and people with disabilities, or standing for a public education system that provides the same quality education to the poorest children in a community as the richest in the Commonwealth, the lady from Andover has shown her fighting spirit, her strong will, and her willingness to go against the odds, even if that cause was not victorious. And that included being an independent voice on Beacon Hill, in this chamber, over the past four years as the State Senator from the Second Essex and Middlesex district.

Madame President, the lady from Andover, Ms. L'Italien, did right injustice, did provide a better life for people in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and did speak truth to power for those who had no or little voice on Beacon Hill.

Barbara, you will be greatly missed in these halls by so many outside of Beacon Hill, and so many inside, and that includes me, too. You are a moral, compassionate, and strong leader for your district, and for the people of Massachusetts.

Thank you, Madame President.

The President recognized the Senator from Essex, Ms. Lovely, for the purpose of remarks on the retirement of Senator Barbara A. L'Italien.

Remarks of Senator Joan B. Lovely

Madam President, I am honored to rise today to salute the gentlewoman from Andover, Senator Barbara L'Italien.

Our departing colleague and friend has a proud record of public service as a member of the Andover School Committee, as a member of the senior staff of State Treasurer Steve Grossman, as a state representative, and, for the past four years, as state senator for the Second Essex and Middlesex District.

On their own, the basics of her biography appear impressive enough, but they fail to give a sense of the driving passions behind her effective work and advocacy. She has never deviated from the core values she has held so dearly.

Combining her experiences as a mom with her power as a legislator, Senator L'Italien showed that how we treat the most vulnerable populations among us demonstrates the truest measure of the worth of a society.

As a rookie legislator, she strongly stood up for marital equality at a time when doing so caused a great deal of controversy.

From her days as a social worker through her leadership as Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, she has long sought to improve the treatment of elders both as individuals and as a class. She believes that elders should be able to stay in their homes, and live lives filled with dignity and purpose.

As both founder of the Special Education Caucus and Chair of the Autism Commission, Senator L'Italien has toiled tirelessly to ensure that the Commonwealth provides the care that people with Autism need and deserve.

We will miss Senator L'Italien for the guidance she has given so many of us as we look to improve our laws in these and other areas.

I know that the people of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence, and Tewksbury will miss her effective advocacy on their behalf.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge her husband Kevin and their four children. Thank you for sharing Senator L'Italien with us and for providing her with the love that has so significantly shaped her public policies that have always put people first.

Madam President, I am proud to introduce an inspiration to us all, Senator Barbara L'Italien.

Thank you.

The President then recognized Senator Barbara A. L'Italien for the purpose of giving her final remarks.

Remarks of Senator Barbara A. L'Italien

Thank you Madame President, and thank you all of you. Just a quick side note, I love Bruce and I served with Bruce when I was a House member, but when he and Mike were going over to that side and Katie was going over to that side, I quickly looked at Jamie and said "you're going to this side, aren't you?", because this is the side typically where the Democrats speak from so it just feels right to be over here. Thank you Madame President. Thank you Jamie, thank you Joan, for your introductions. Jamie has been my partner in this work since we were first elected together in 2002, we came in with Mr. Rush and Mr. Humason as well. I admire your willingness Jamie always to set a pace for progressive values and I've always admired and appreciated that and I know that will not stop. And Joan I know that we've had very similar family circumstances with regard to disability and I'm confident that you'll continue to fight to provide a safety net on behalf of all of those folks, it's critically important. I hope you become the next Ways and Means chair. I don't

Remarks of Senator
Joan B. Lovely.

Remarks of Senator
Barbara A. L'Italien.

know that will be the case but I think if you are fortunate enough to serve you would do a wonderful job. And I thank you again for your remarks.

So as was mentioned, we all bring our upbringing, our work, our life experiences, our interests and our passions to the State House. I have tried to focus on the values of equal opportunity throughout the lifespan, to provide for educational access, meaningful employment with a living wage and support for seniors and those who are challenged by physical, emotional, intellectual and developmental disability. I have been honored to serve the people in the House for 8 years and in fact being in the House was a great proving ground for me because I got to serve with Senator Baddour and Senator Tarr, and in many ways the woman that was my mentor and that was Senator Susan Tucker. I saw Linda Campbell here briefly and have served with Linda as well. And have served here in the Senate for 4 years. This may be my farewell speech today to this body, but in no way is it an end to a career in public service for me.

Instead, I'm initiating a sharp turn onto a different highway because career paths aren't linear - they are full of ups and downs, unexpected twists and turns, smooth roads and rocky terrain. I say goodbye today as Senator L'Italien, but I keep on driving as Citizen Barbara, who takes with her the lessons she learned and the friends she has made, as she embarks on the next journey, with her husband Kevin, family and friends by her side.

My husband is working today and will be here at the Christmas party tonight. My daughter Ali is out in Ithaca pursuing a doctoral degree. My daughter Samantha is doing God's work teaching kindergarteners right now. My son Andrew is in the middle of finals. And my son Rudy who really has been my inspiration, has been struggling of late and is still trying to find his path in life and I know I have been spending a lot of time with him trying to figure that out.

I want to start by telling you a story that only a handful of my staff are aware of and our Senate President are aware of but this has never been shared publicly. What some of you do know is that my dad was an FBI agent; he worked on National Security and International espionage issues. I'm proud that my dad was someone who worked to keep the public safe, and I'm so deeply concerned about how that job has become more difficult for the FBI as our political discourse has become more and more polarized. A few weeks ago, two days before Halloween and right before the general election, I got a call from the FBI because they believed that a credible threat had been made against me. The man who sent pipe bombs to Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Maxine Waters, Cory Booker, and 10 other well-known Democrats had also researched me and had my home address saved on his hard drive. He had this State House office, my city hall office in Lawrence. When asked if I had any possible connection to this man or reason why my name would be there, I knew it was because I had taken the opportunity to go on Fox and Friends to speak truth to power about the reckless acts initiated by our President to separate families at the Mexican border. The FBI, my dad's FBI, worked with local postal departments and the post office here at the State House to make sure that he had not followed through in sending me one of those packages. My staff was directed to keep a careful eye on all incoming mail and I made sure that the Senate President's office was aware of the incident so that no one else's safety was at risk, but otherwise we felt it was best to keep things quiet. There was no benefit to dignify his actions by releasing the story, and I did not want to take away from the general election, but it reminds me of how so frequently in this business the most important work that we do goes unnoticed. We don't know the names of the FBI agents who scanned the hard drive, or the postal employees who checked the packages. They are the reason we are safe. In this building the public doesn't see the hours that we put in to meetings and office hours and community events, but that's where the real work happens to help real people. We do this work despite political and existential risks because it's important to our constituents and vital to our democracy. And in fact because of going on Fox and Friends

we actually made the top of the page that week in Time Magazine and the quote was “that didn’t go as planned” because of my ability to break through and speak on a program that I believe that the President watches every single day.

That incident reminds me of one other I’ve experienced in public life that’s been referenced already this morning, the fight for equal marriage here in Massachusetts that began in my first term in 2003. People like Megan Shannon, Arline Isaacson, and even Richard Ross can tell you that in those days we all were threatened. My kids can tell you about being bullied at school, excluded from activities, and ostracized from their peers because of my full-throated support of marriage equality. As was mentioned, I was removed from my church over this issue. This early lesson was a vital one in leadership. It wasn’t easy and it wasn’t convenient, but we don’t always get to choose the issues that come before us - issues of consciousness find us, and it’s up to us to lean into what we believe, and to be who we are with the limited time we are all in public service.

Again, what I’ve learned as a woman and a mom in public service and public life, that no career and no life is a linear one. And so many of my colleagues in this work can tell you I don’t believe in giving up. You may have heard me talk during my congressional race that I started this journey in public service as a “mom on a mission” - to help my oldest son Rudy get the services and education he desperately needed and deserved. Prior to being elected, the closest thing I got to politics was being involved with the League of Women Voters in Andover. Little did I expect that soon I would be voting on the issues we talked about in our suburban living rooms. That I would become a leader and a champion on issues like creating an Autism Insurance mandate and an omnibus bill along with activists like Amy Weinstock, Julia Landow and Ann Guay, and I have to mention former Senator Fred Berry, and former Senate President Travaglini and former Senate President Therese Murray and Bob Deleo, who have really helped us to become a national model for how we help people with autism and their families.

Accomplishments are not linear either. True accomplishments take patience, skill and time. This session we passed landmark legislation to help improve the lives of adults with Alzheimer’s, like my mom, who suffered for the last 7 years of her life. So many of us have lost loved ones to this insidious disease, including the Senate President’s beloved sister and recently the Minority Leader’s brother. We are at our best when we are addressing public health struggles such as this and I thank the dedication and passion of Pat Jehlen who I’ve worked with for a long time on elder issues. Jason Lewis and Danielle Gregoire, we all collaborated on getting that Alzheimer’s legislation passed. Similarly we passed the first Dyslexia legislation in the state, that’s been born out of struggles for people like my constituent Ethan and his mom and many others throughout our state who shouldn’t have to fight a legal battle to be able to get the reading help they desperately need. And in fact getting kids diagnosed early, and giving them the evidence-based treatment that they need at a young age, will really pay dividends for their lives without a loss in self-esteem and without having to pay more money in the future on remediation. And I also thank Linda Forry who worked on that with us as well. Bruce Tarr, Jamie Eldridge, Sonia Chang-Diaz, and Alice Peisch, all of you collaborated on this with us and that’s what this is all about, all of this is about collaboration - working with all of you on these bills was an honor and a privilege. Your dedication and passion is unparalleled, and together we are a force to be reckoned with. Collaboration, while difficult to achieve, truly does elicit the best results.

It’s clear that Washington could learn a lesson or two from how we collaborate here in Massachusetts, and that’s part of the reason why I chose to leave this chamber, a job that I truly love, to run for Congress. I believed that we could do more nationally on preserving public education, protecting health care as a right and moving towards the ideal of a universal single payer system and working to ensure economic opportunity and stability

for all. I also firmly believe that we need to do more for the environment. And I will always believe we have a moral obligation to use the power of government to help people, and especially to allow the experiences of ordinary people help us inform how we make government better.

There is another incident that shook our own Senate over the past year and a half that all of us in this room undoubtedly know well. I see people in the audience today who have been brave with their strength, people who are survivors in the Me Too Movement and who have been brave as they told their stories, worried initially if they would be believed, and for a time, were not believed. In this challenging time, I was proud to stand up to shield these quiet heroes. You may be faced with these choices in your political life in the future, I encourage you to always stand with survivors, with the disadvantaged, with working families who take the early bus to work, immigrants, all children, every elder in need, and to stand up loudly.

The stories of the people in our districts are the real stories of our careers as Senators. What we do to help the ordinary citizens, the ones who can never return the favor, is the true testament of our character. Like many of you, I represent a district with both extraordinary privilege, and extreme poverty. In Lawrence, where national, racist, fear mongering came from the Trump Administration and has shaken the community to its core, I have seen a strong, resilient immigrant community rally together and stand up to injustice and confront oppression.

People who embody the spirit and strength of Lawrence are women like Maria de la Cruz, a woman who helped us open a district office in Lawrence, and then followed her own passion and won a seat on the City Council in Lawrence last year. She is a force of nature and an agent for positive change in her community. A teacher by trade, who she would not be embarrassed for me to say lost her position as a teacher when the receivership came into Lawrence. Maria knows how to tap potential in Lawrence's youth, and has brought countless young people to our office, including Adderly, who arrived as a quiet intern, matured as member of my campaign staff and now leads in his community as an elected member of the Lawrence School Committee and as an exceptional organizer with the Mass Nurses Association. I would just like to ask Maria to stand for a second to be recognized.

So early on in my Senate tenure, Dracut, Tewksbury and Andover were confronted with the Kinder Morgan gas pipeline just like Katie because we have adjacent districts. And I was happy to work locally with community activists like Caroline Zook, John Hess and others, and to work with my colleagues here in the building both in the House and the Senate, and to work with state and local environmental activists to push back on attempts to build further fossil fuel infrastructure and to try to pass those costs on to the rate payers. Some local officials couldn't understand why I would work so vigorously on this. One in particular from my home town told me that all gas is completely safe. Ironically, the events of September 13th in my hometown of Andover and my district of Lawrence as well as North Andover, have shown a real need for better rules, regulations and corporate responsibility. I also can't overlook the wrong being perpetrated right now by National Grid with their lock out to the workers who are exhausting their unemployment benefits and have no health care coverage. I joined them many times this summer on the picket lines and in sending and coordinating letters among the Senate, and co-sponsoring the legislation for them and I cannot help but think that my constituents would have been returned to their homes far sooner had they been allowed to help. I thank the Senate President and Senator Barrett for coming up to my district to tour in the aftermath of the gas explosions and for the oversight hearing that was done on safety and on the legislation that Jim O'Day has filed. Let's pass the safety legislation and the bill to extend unemployment for the USW as soon as we possibly can. Katie mentioned it, but I also want

to make mention of Ken Donnelly, who was very much a mentor to me when I first started here. If he were here right now he would be leading the charge on this issue I have no doubt in my mind. And I just have to mention that I think that going forward the body will be very ably served by Senator Feeney who has really stepped up in a very big way on labor issues and I'm very grateful to him. We all have our issues that we specialize in. I know that Paul and others are going to continue to make sure that labor has a voice in this building so thank you.

I'm reminded as I talk about my love of Lawrence about one of my best friends in the Senate who left us last year, Linda Forry, who proves there is life after politics. We bonded about representing diverse communities, rich with immigrant traditions, and being labeled "troublemakers" when we loudly voiced our opinions for what we thought was right. I remember attending her St Patrick's Day breakfast in South Boston and marveling at this proud black woman so ably representing South Boston at the time and me, a white woman representing Lawrence. It may confuse the uninitiated but it proves that what is in your heart, not the color of your skin that matters. Linda is all heart and I love her.

I want to say a thank you to my staff who have been with me on this journey: Wes Richie my Chief of Staff, Erin Riley doing all the committee, budgetary and legislative work with me and has been a true joy to work with, I mentioned Maria who runs our Lawrence office, Joe who did a lot of work here in the State House then left to run the congressional race, Emma who was our communications person here in the building and moonlighted on the campaign, Eric who stepped in for when Joe left, we also had Melissa and Shawn, and I want to mention John Anton, a young man with down-syndrome who's worked in our office for the last year or so. We felt it was really important that we live what we preach and that we employ folks with disabilities in our office actively because it's one of the biggest challenges that people with disabilities have in addition to housing is employment.

As I mentioned, it was a very difficult decision to run for Congress and I really learned a lot. I gave up what most would consider to be a safe seat in the state Senate. I knew it might be a risk. With the work I do and the circles I run in, I don't know a lot of wealthy people. But I decided to take the risk for one major reason. This was an opportunity to do more. I do believe that a lot of the good things we've done here in Massachusetts, the challenge is how do you export them and have them become part of national offerings. I stand before you now and to the women I encourage you to run for higher office as well. Take the risk. It won't always be easy but believe in yourself. We've come a long long way since I was elected in 2002, whether the blue wave or the year of the women, and reaching milestones that merit recognizing. When President Chandler passed the gavel to President Spilka, it marked the first time in Massachusetts that the leadership of a chamber has passed from one woman to another, and that's really important and that's to be recognized and I wish you all good things in your tenure as Senate President. Nationally, this is the first year where a congressional seat in the Third Congressional District has passed from one woman to another, and the first time we have sent a woman of color to represent us in Congress. There is a lot to be optimistic about.

As I look out from this podium, I see the next generation of female leaders ready to take over. Some of you have already been elected, some of you are working hard as members of your staffs, and some are our young daughters learning from the examples we set for them with our words and actions. I hope some of these girls and women who are entering this body, entering public service, or embarking on any of life's challenges can take this lesson from my adventure in state service: BE BOLD. TAKE RISKS. Choose the challenging path even when you don't quite know where it will lead. Follow your heart, and stand up for what you know is right. At the end of the day you may not be popular, but your own truth is the most important motivation.

So not unlike Katie since it is the season of Hanukah and Christmas, I never shy away for a chance to advocate for something. I still have a few legislative issues on my wish list. First is the Equifax bill. We just had another major incursion into Marriott with a data breach. And this one seems scarily enough to be done perhaps by the Chinese. We need to get that Equifax bill done, we need to get it signed into law. I think it's pretty close. Inclusive concurrent enrollment which we have done here in the Senate, allowing people with disabilities to have lifelong learning experiences on any higher education campus. We have passed it, it's something I worked with Mike Moore on. It's something I would love to see happen. We need to put it into statute. And lastly, Nicky's List which is Mike Moore's legislation, tries to help families who have a child with a disability who is mistreated, we want to have a running list of that so people can't jump from job to job. So I'm hoping that we will do that. Going forward in the future, I had laid out legislation with Secretary Galvin around the census that I hope you all pay attention to next session. The federal government is going to severely underfund the census count and it's going to affect cities and funding formulas for us and potentially how many Congressional leaders we have. I was happy to work with Secretary Galvin on that. I worked on early voting for primaries. We ought to have it for primaries, not just the presidential primary. I'm hopeful that into the next session you will take a serious look. I know you will be grappling with education reform and funding. I wish my successor to my seat Barry Finegold all good luck. We shared a district, our hometown of Andover as Reps at the same time. The one thing I don't wish him luck in is in terms of charter school. He's a big charter school guy, I am not. And so in my mind I don't wish him luck on that.

A few months ago when I conceded my race for Congress, I proudly told my supporters that I wasn't done yet - there was much more work I wanted to do and I still intend to make trouble. After reflecting for a few months, as the pace has changed from a non-stop 24/7 pace for over a year to a much slower pace, I still believe exactly what I said that night. There's more work to be done and I plan to make plenty of trouble. Thank you for this experience. It's been wonderful.

The President recognized the Senator from Norfolk and Plymouth, Mr. Keenan, for the purpose of remarks on the retirement of former Senator Eileen M. Donoghue.

Remarks of Senator John F. Keenan

Back in May, Eileen was giving an interview to the Merrimac Valley Magazine as she was leaving the Senate to become City Manager in Lowell.

She told the story of how one day she was sitting in her office and got a call from Paul Tsongas. He asked her if she had ever thought about running for the city council. She told him, "Paul, I am not political. I'm a lawyer." And he said, "It's because you're not political that you should run."

And so Eileen Donoghue ran, served on the City Council, as Lowell's Mayor and Chair of the School Committee, and then ran for the State Senate. In a Senate campaign ad, constituents said about her: She's honest and I trust her. She's absolutely loyal and dependable. She's a very effective leader. She has the integrity and the knowledge we need. She's trustworthy.

Well she won, and 8 years ago came to Senate, joining Barry Finegold, me, Mike Rodrigues, Mike Rush, Jim Welch and Dan Wolf as new Senators.

It didn't take long for all of us to realize that Eileen came as advertised. She is honest, trustworthy, loyal, effective, and does have the knowledge we need in government.

And as Paul Tsongas said, she's not political. Now, that's not to say she doesn't have great political skills and instincts. She does. It's just that she tended to avoid a lot of the

Remarks of Senator
John F. Keenan.

politics that sometimes takes focus from what really matters. And what has really mattered to Eileen during her years in the Senate is young people. She committed her time here to the young. In her maiden speech on the floor of the Senate, Eileen advocated for an increase in Shannon Grant funding. She talked about how 4 days before she was sworn in as a State Senator, there had been a New Year's Eve Party in Lowell. Teenagers were there, and before the night ended an 18 year old woman was shot and died. Eileen talked about how that young woman's life was more than just a statistic. She talked about investing in our youth, and about how Shannon Grant funding could make a difference. It could fund athletic programs, street outreach programs, truancy reduction programs, neighborhood impact teams, and programs providing guidance to young people.

She talked about a young boy, with a homeless family, who was getting involved with gangs, and how these types of programs had turned his life around.

She knew that young people, needlessly killed, and homeless kids in gangs, were more than just statistics. And although the economy was struggling and the budget was tight, she told us all, "13 and 16 year olds can't wait for times to get better." Her amendment passed, funding was increased, and young lives all across Massachusetts were saved. In Lowell alone, in just that year, 3,000 young people benefitted from the increased Shannon Grant funding. The young people of the Commonwealth had a champion.

Over the course of her time in the Senate, Eileen would continue to lead the fight for UTEC and Youth Build, programs committed to helping the young get ahead, with high school equivalency degrees and skills training.

Eileen recognized as well that for too many families and young people in Massachusetts, the dream of college was slipping away. And so Eileen proposed a new tax incentive for a prepaid tuition or college savings plan, where parents could deduct up to \$2,000 on their state tax returns. But, as she said at the time, "making it a reality is not always so easy." The big question was, how could the state pay for the program? Eileen did what she does best. She worked with advocates and with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and found a way to fund the incentive. Her idea became law.

Again, the young people of the Commonwealth had a champion.

What has struck me most, and indeed all of us, over Eileen's time here in the Senate, is that success for her was never singular, she always made it plural. Success for her, was working with others, for the benefit of a great many. Paul Tsongas was right. For Eileen it wasn't about politics. As she said just after her maiden speech, it was about giving hope.

Eileen, our honest, loyal, trustworthy, dependable, knowledgeable, and effective colleague, our friend,

We thank you for your service, and wish you well.

The President recognized the Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr, for the purpose of remarks on the retirement of former Senator Eileen M. Donoghue.

Remarks of Minority Leader Bruce E. Tarr

Well thank you Madam President and through you to the members, and I am honored as well to be able to offer a few thoughts about our good friend and the very distinguished senator, the gentlelady from Lowell, Eileen Donoghue. And I appreciate the eloquent description of that very fateful moment that was offered by Senator Keenan, about that magical moment in time when another great leader from Lowell, Paul Tsongas made that call. Thank God he did. It has made so much difference for so many people across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Because you see, Eileen Donoghue could have been on another path and done so very successfully. She earned her law degree. She practiced for several years. She started her own law firm, by all counts a great measure of success that

Remarks of Senator
Bruce E. Tarr.

would have continued on and she would have been a great member of the bar, but only a great member of the bar. Thank God. Thank God she was convinced to become part of public service, Thank God for the things that she did in Lowell, a city that has a history of transformations because of great leaders. And she was indeed that.

First on the city council and then as mayor. She oversaw historic economic development projects, the development of the Tsongas arena, the construction and renovation of 17 schools, and the creation of an overlay district that paved the way for over 800 artist lofts so that the cultural economy in Lowell could thrive as well. And we all know today about the incredible cultural economy that Lowell has in large part due to the leadership of Eileen Donoghue. And so when she came through the front door of the Senate, she was certainly a known quantity, a conscientious, practical, diligent leader, who's focus was not to have philosophical arguments but on getting the job done. And she quickly assimilated into the culture of this chamber and became a respected member of this chamber, who was thoughtful, inclusive, respectful and at all times civil. How many times were all of us in conversation with a number of members around the table about a very controversial and often times a complicated issue and we would look at Eileen, patiently observing, sometimes making notes and didn't we all in those meetings want to know what Eileen was thinking and what she had to say. And so after just about everyone would have offered their thoughts or opinions, myself included, she would tell us what she thought - clearly, concisely, analytically and we would know that, yes, Eileen's wisdom was important to guide us. And along the way in each instance, she became one of those people that you wanted to talk to on almost every issue, because you know, you know where her focus was. And you knew she would help to propel us to a result that will be good not only to the members of this chamber, but for the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is true that her focus often was on young people.

Most recently, I had the opportunity to work with her on something that we very much cared about that should have happened a long time ago, but she knew that we should create a lifeline, in a situation where there was an alcohol overdose and a young person needed to be able to make a call to save the life of another young person without fear of retribution. Eileen knew that that should be law and we were all able to work together with her, and with the help of Senator Brownsberger, it is law. There are so many other examples. Student debt was mentioned. She made sure that people who abused handicap placards in Massachusetts and took away the opportunity of someone having a physical challenge from having a parking spot should be appropriately punished. And when it came to the complicated issues, the pioneering issues, the difficult issues, like how we deal with fantasy sports and online gaming, we turned to Eileen to help us sort it out. And it was so significant, so significant that on the day I believe that the criminal justice bill was signed, Eileen Donoghue was being sworn in as city manager of Lowell. And very close proximity to that was also the signing of a substance abuse bill, a priority to the Senate, but a priority as well for Eileen Donoghue. Because she knew the essence and does know the essence of what makes this body great, not just in having your own opinion but thinking about what someone else's opinion might be.

And what a wonderful role she performed for all of us, in the Steering and Policy role where she reached out to every person in this body to say what do you think we should be doing, and here's what I think you should be doing. And in the wonderful synthesis that she produced through her focus and attention and interaction, we were put on a more clearer path to the successes that we all wanted to have. That was nowhere more evident than in 2016, when we passed a sweeping economic development bill that was enormously complicated, multifaceted, and critically important to the future of our state and she worked with every person in here on things like the Angel Investor Tax Credit, Brownfields Funding, workforce training and the things that all of us brought to her desk and said, in

my part of the state, this is what is important. And she wove them together into a roadmap for the economic prosperity for Massachusetts, not just a roadmap on paper but one that would include people from throughout the state and in different situations so that they can be part of the economic prosperity of our state.

And in another signature achievement for this Senate, one that so many people participated in. Eileen Donoghue was a leader in civic education, to make sure that we could pass a bill to allow students to understand the importance of being involved in the civic life of our state and our democracy, but also to participate in the learning of subjects related to it. Here's what she said when she filed her bill on this subject. "14 months ago, I filed An Act promoting civic education. Anyone that spends time in or follows the news on Beacon Hill or Washington knows that now more than ever, we need people engaged in public life." And thanks to her leadership, they will be. They will be engaged in public life, they will be engaged in the economic life in the Commonwealth. They will be engaged in the art and cultural economy, that not only brings us economics benefits, but brings us quality of life.

So Eileen Donoghue came to us as a proven commodity, well-reasoned, level headed, respected for all the right reasons. She had helped to make Lowell a greater city and she came here to help to make us a better Senate and a better state. Now she goes back to Lowell to make the city she loves a place that is even stronger. We are lucky. Lowell is lucky. The people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are lucky that we have the service of our friend and colleague Eileen Donoghue who I'm pleased to introduce at this time.

The President then recognized former Senator Eileen M. Donoghue for the purpose of giving her final remarks.

Remarks of former Senator Eileen M. Donoghue

Thank you. Thank you so much Madam President. It's really an honor to be here today to bid an admittedly belated farewell to this wonderful body, the Massachusetts State Senate. First, I would like to thank the gentleman from Quincy for his generous and kind introduction. As John mentioned, we came into the Senate together, I think eight of us that term who came in together. I knew right from the start I had much in common with the gentleman from Quincy. For instance, we both represented gateway cities, both had served on the city councils in those cities, both were attorneys. Neither of us had served in the Legislature before, we didn't serve in the House and coming over. Both members of large families. So there were so much in common, but what I soon found out we were both keenly interested in what was being served for dessert at lunch in caucus.

That was our inquiry number one. Senator Keenan has always been passionately committed to his constituents, to the causes, which is one of the reasons why I value so much my membership in this body, because of the integrity that Senator Keenan and all of you bring have brought to this job.

Senator Tarr, thank you for your introduction. I can honestly say though I didn't always agree with you politically, when you would speak, you had my undivided attention. You were inspirational and unwavering in your commitment to your causes. Your oratory skill - second to none, Senator, and we're really truly captivating. I do want to say, we are blessed to have a minority leader in this body that is committed to working across the aisle, working together with colleagues for the betterment of not just the legislation that is passed here, but for the betterment of the entire Commonwealth.

I did want to come by again Madam President I want to thank you for the opportunity to come in and give farewell remarks and I also want to wish you the best of luck. I have

Remarks of former
Senator Eileen M.
Donoghue.

no doubt under your skillful and steady leadership, Massachusetts and the Commonwealth are in very good hands so thank you.

I wanted to come back, it's been eight months since I have left the Massachusetts Senate, and to share with you just a couple of thoughts. And Senator Rush, I will be brief. One of the things I have had the opportunity, when I went to the city of Lowell to be the first woman city manager in the history of the city of Lowell.

It was a bittersweet decision because I totally loved being part of the Massachusetts Senate. In the eight months that had transpired, I can assure you that it has been a whirlwind. I think this is the first time they've let me out of City Hall, so I'm happy to be here with all of you. But I can tell you that when I look back and reflect on my years here in the Senate, I do want to say what many of you already know. I was blessed to be part of this outstanding body. It truly, truly is, it's more than just a historical institution, one that is leading across the world in terms of its history, the legend. Truly, it's so much more than that. It's the people, it's the friendship, it's the commitment. There wasn't a day I came here I wasn't so impressed by the passion and the commitment each and every one of the members of the Senate brought. I learned so much from all of you, I learned so much about your districts. We shared a lot of commonality, and sometimes not always, but it was with commitment, integrity, intelligence and passion that you all brought to the job every single day.

And it's for that, I was honored to be here. I'm thankful to then-President Murray and then-President Rosenberg for their assignments they gave me, for their commitment, for their trust. I think back to the first committee I was ever assigned, Tourism, Arts and Culture, traveling from Provincetown with then Representative Sarah Peake, out to the Berkshires, learning all about everything we could have to do with tourism and arts and culture. To the Economic Development and Emerging Technologies committee, to Steering and Policy, I can tell you that there isn't any assignment that I got that I didn't learn a ton from and I loved every minute of it. But most importantly, I greatly appreciated all of you and your friendship and your camaraderie. But I want to share with you a couple other things in coming back today. That really is what I've learned in the last eight months as the city manager for the city of Lowell. What I want you to know is how important what you do here every day is to every single person out there in the Commonwealth. As the manager, and I know Mayor McGee could agree with me and share all of the important things that matter so much to us, but I wanted to talk about a couple things. What's been mentioned today and Senator Keenan pointed out, I did give my maiden speech on Shannon Grants. And that was important that year, that day and it remains so important today. But now as the manager, I regularly meet with the public safety officials, the superintendent of police, his command staff to look at how are we utilizing these, what better work can we do in the area of Shannon Grants, SSYI, UTEC how can they come on board, how can all of these advocacy groups partner with us, to make Lowell a better city, to give more opportunities to all the kids out there. It's real now. It's not just printed on a page. I know you know that, but I wanted to share with you how important that is. When it comes to economic development, MassWorks is a lifeline for the communities out there, not just a budget line. It makes a huge difference for the infrastructure for the work going on right now in Lowell, in the Hamilton Canal, that's going to create thousands of jobs in the future. People who don't have adequate employment will have that because of you and because of your commitment to MassWorks, and that's important. Working with Middlesex Community College and UMass Lowell looking not just at the funding source but how are we meeting the mark with those companies out there who need skilled workers, and how can we connect the dots. But none of that would be possible if you didn't approve those programs, the funding, so that young person in Lowell instead of being unemployed is going to go to Middlesex Community College and get that training for the company that

is looking for that specific skill and it's going to make an entire difference for that person and so many others.

Housing initiatives. You know that, whether it's through the legislation, but I can tell you, people are struggling for housing all across this Commonwealth. We don't have enough. We don't have enough affordable housing. But programs you've put in place to incentivize development, to incentivize housing opportunities are making a difference. I meet with people every week who want to come in. It's got to be the right project, but if it is right project, the tools are in place through the legislation you have passed to make housing real and to give them an opportunity for safe and secure housing.

The environment. Now who knew that would be one of the first things on my agenda when I went to the Lowell city council? One of the first ordinances we passed, and I do want to take opportunity to introduce my successor, Senator-Elect Edward Kennedy who is here.

I know you will welcome him and I am jealous he will have the opportunity to work with all of you. But one of the first things we passed was banning plastic bags in the city of Lowell. It's a big victory and it's a big victory on a number levels. Because when you're the manager, you have to look at things like contamination and recycling. How do you teach newcomers to our country how to recycle? This is a challenge. Through you and grants that we did get this spring, we have outreach workers, who guess what, are to speak the language and able to instruct people, able to help them so that this is saving the city money. It's also being good to the environment. But we couldn't hire those outreach workers without the grant that you people have put in place.

The opioid crisis. Let me just touch on that. You know we have done a remarkable job in this body on passing legislation, having more opportunities for treatment, getting more beds for opioid treatment, Narcan has been a lifesaver for so, so many. We've been lucky it has worked. Deaths have gone down, fatal overdoses will be down 20% this year in the city of Lowell and all across Middlesex County in fact, over last year but people are still addicted. So what's happening is when we're saving their lives, we are struggling with how do we treat this addiction, which is a huge challenge? I meet on a regular bases with those who are on the front lines, who are working with the dual diagnoses, the mental health diagnosis that are untreated, as well as addiction, and as well as homelessness. It's all going hand in hand. It's something that each one of our communities, and Lowell is no exception, that we're working with. We're trying to resolve, we're trying to strategize, but we try to use the resources that you all put in place so that our job is one we can win the war against addiction.

The list could go on and on, but there isn't a day or an hour that goes by in my crazy schedule that's the city manager's office that that I'm not reminded of all of you, of all the good work that has been done here, of all the great work that you continue to do because you care about everybody that is in the state. I wanted to come back and just say to you, it matters. Every single thing you all do matters, and I wanted to thank you for that. Because you make a tremendous difference. It really is something that I can't say it enough.

I wanted to wrap up with a couple thank yous and acknowledgements in addition to thanking all of you. I certainly wanted to thank the Clerk for your guidance, your patience and your long years of service. May you enjoy many hockey games in your future retirement and your entire office. Senate Counsel I want to thank, who have also, likewise been so patient on so many occasions. Our Court Officers, it's been said, but we'll say it again. Where would we be without you? As well as, Bruce, of course, you're always there at the ready taking important pictures. The rangers keep our lives going so I wanted to acknowledge and thank all of them. I do want to thank my staff. Both my colleagues said it before me, Senator O'Connor Ives, Senator L'Italien, the Merrimack Caucus, once upon a time. Where would we be without our staff? I want to thank mine, so I wanted to

acknowledge my staff who's with me. My chief of staff who's with me from day one, Kara Keefmullan. I'll share a secret, it's not a secret, but she's the assistant city manager for the city of Lowell. First time there's been a woman manager and a woman assistant manager, so there you go, history in the making. My general counsel, Emily Lockhart. Where would I be without Emily, and her guidance, and her persuasion and her very kind advice. Mark Sternman, who I know is currently with the staff of Senator Lovely. Mark was instrumental in direction legislation for me and I wanted to thank you Mark, for all that you've done. And of course Corrine Corcoran and Frank Munro, thank you not only for serving so well but holding down the fort! I know he escaped to Harvard Law School, Garrett Kasey, outstanding legislative director, we wish you the best at Harvard Law School. Outstanding. He's written some outstanding legislation that you may want to pick his brain on because he's just been an outstanding, outstanding legislative director. And then of course, Pete, who was here earlier, oh, Pete, you're still here, you got picked up by the House side, but we wouldn't hold that against you. I couldn't do this job, none of us could have done this job without all of you. And last but not least, my husband John O'Connor who is here, who has put up with a whole lot. And again, we all know that without the support of our families and our loved ones, we couldn't do what we do, so in closing let me just say this.

This is a very, very special place. It is a special place not just because of the special work and important work that you do. It's a special place because of all that you are, each and every one of you. You're committed. You're compassionate. You care. You bring intelligence and integrity to this job that is unparalleled. You make Massachusetts and indeed the world a better place. I'm always going to cherish my time here and my friendship and I will look forward in getting to work with you in the future. Now make no mistake, I'm sure you're gonna hear from me about looking for more money, but I wanted to say that last because the most important things are who you are and what you do. Thank you very much.

The President then recognized Senator Bruce E. Tarr for the purpose of giving the final remarks of Senator Richard J. Ross.

Remarks of Senator Richard J. Ross

Madam President, I regret that I am unable to attend today's formal session to join in hearing the words of my outgoing colleagues, as well as offer my parting words in person, but serious health concerns, and doctor's orders, prevent me from doing so.

Nevertheless, I would like to share a few words of reflection.

It has been my greatest honor to serve my hometown and region in both the House and Senate over the past 14 years. It has been a pleasure to work tirelessly every single day for the people of the 12 communities of my district. The long days in the State House, and long nights at local meetings may have been a challenge, but helping people, all people, has brought me great satisfaction and joy.

I wish to thank all of my colleagues, past and present. You have been my friends and inspiration. The leadership on both sides of the aisle has been outstanding, and your actions of collegiality should be held as a model across our great nation for how a deliberative body should be run.

I also can't thank enough, my family, who has been with me from day one, and supported me throughout my career.

Needless to say, my staff has been indispensable all these years, and I appreciate all their work and dedication. I'd like to especially recognize my chief of staff, Greg Casey, and legislative director, Erin Hearn, for their tremendous service not only to me, but to the

Remarks of Senator
Richard J. Ross.

Senate as a body.

Lastly, to my fellow members of the Republican Caucus, especially my dear friend and leader, Bruce Tarr, we may be small in numbers, but we are mighty in deeds. I am sorry you will be without another member, but I know you will continue to serve as a clear balance and moral compass when it comes to crafting all kinds of policies or budgetary matters. Your jobs have often seemed thankless, but they have always been valuable and appreciated.

Please accept my best wishes for the 2019-2020 legislative session.

May God bless the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its Great and General Court.

On motion of Mr. Moore, the above remarks were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Creem--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Time of meeting.

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