
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

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Monday, August 31, 2020.

Met at three minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

Communication from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 23J of the General Laws) submitting a notification relating to its fiscal year 2020 annual report (received August 26, 2020),-- **was placed on file.**

MassCEC,-- annual
report notification.
SD3039

Report of a Committee.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The House bill establishing a memorial bench in Pope John Paul II Park in the city of Boston in memory of Robert M. "Bobby" Mudge (House, No. 4195).

Robert M. Mudge,--
memorial bench.

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

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to the charter of the town of Plymouth (House, No. 4797,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Plymouth,--
charter.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tran, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Comerford,--

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

Time of meeting.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Dr. Frederick Tillis.

Moment of silence.

Adjournment in Memory of Dr. Frederick Tillis.

The Senator from Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester, Ms. Comerford, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it adjourn in memory of Dr. Frederick Tillis.

Dr. Frederick Tillis, an American composer who straddled the worlds of jazz and classical music, died on May 3 at his home in Amherst, Massachusetts. He was 90 and was

a resident of Amherst for 50 years. I join Representative Mindy Domb in offering this adjournment in his memory, both of us extremely proud to have represented Dr. Tillis.

Dr. Tillis directed the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and was the founding director of the Jazz and African American Music program at the University, establishing a number of nationally renowned programs and courses that provided significant enrichment for the student body and community at large.

“I don’t believe in the ivory-tower philosophy of art,” Dr. Tillis said. “If you don’t get with the people, what are you doing to preserve the vitality of art and culture?”

Dr. Tillis wrote over 125 compositions, as well as 15 books of poetry and a textbook on jazz theory and improvisation. His work included compositions for piano, voice, orchestra, chorus and chamber ensembles. A frequent source of inspiration was African-American spirituals.

He pushed for cultural diversity in the music world throughout his academic career. In an interview at the time of his retirement, he said he was most proud of the cultural diversity he brought to the Fine Arts Center. “Along with recognizing our great western tradition, if you look at demographics, we’re browner,” Dr. Tillis said. “Our arts should reflect that.”

Frederick Charles Tillis was born on Jan. 5, 1930, in Galveston, Texas.

He began to play jazz trumpet and saxophone professionally before his teens; known as Baby Tillis. Growing up in a segregated school system, Dr. Tillis enrolled at Wiley College when he was only 16, and earned his bachelor’s degree three years later. Immediately upon graduating from Wiley, he began to teach at the college, beginning a long career in music education. Tillis received his master’s degree from the University of Iowa under Dr. Philip Bezanson in 1952. After a four-year stint in the United States Air Force, where he led the Air Force band, Tillis then resumed teaching at Wiley and North Texas State before returning to the University of Iowa to receive his Ph.D. From 1964 to 1970, Tillis taught at Grambling State University and Kentucky State University until he was recruited by Dr. Bezanson to teach full time at UMass Amherst in 1970.

After retiring in 1997, Dr. Tillis continued writing poetry, composing and playing music professionally until a few years before his death.

Dr. Tillis is pre-deceased by his wife, Louise and survived by his daughters Patricia and Pamela; nieces Edna Louise Richards, Janet Levingston-Williams Lawrence, and Glendra Gunishaw-Johnson; nephew Marshall Gunishaw III; son-in-law Paul Hammacott; and several great nieces and nephews.

Close family friend and Emeritus faculty and Chair of Afro-American Studies at UMass, Dr. Esther Terry offered, “We are saying goodbye to this giant of a man at a time when his influence is most needed in our country and in the world. But we will always have his example.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. Frederick Tillis, at eleven minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tran, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday at eleven o’clock A.M.