

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023

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Monday, February 13, 2023.

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

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Messrs. Timilty and Brady for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Timilty then introduced, on the Rostrum, David Hallinan of East Bridgewater. Mr. Hallinan was recognized for his contribution to the creation and passage of S2176, An Act relative to the observance of School Custodian Day. This legislation will issue an annual proclamation that will commemorate the contributions provided by school custodians to ensure children of the commonwealth have clean, healthy and safe learning environments. Mr. Hallinan was accompanied by his parents, Paul and Donna Hallinan, his sister, Mandy Martin, Plymouth North High School Principal, Peter Parcellin and the Assistant Director of School Facilities, Keith Malaguti. The Senate welcomed him with applause, he was presented with a Senate and House Citation, and he withdrew from the Chamber. He was also the guest of Senator Moran, and Representatives Muratore of Plymouth, Cassidy of Brockton and Sullivan of Abington.

David Hallinan.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to Section 35 of Chapter 123 of the General Laws) submitting its 2022 annual report on whether a facility other than the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Bridgewater is being used for treatment of males committed to MASAC (received February 9, 2023);

DMH,-- MASAC treatment report. SD2443

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Sections 5, 20 and 21 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws) relative to inspections of Northeastern Correctional Center, Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction and NCCI Gardner (received February 10, 2023);

DPH,-- facility inspections. SD2444

Report of the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee (pursuant to Section 5(d) of Chapter 276B of the General Laws) submitting its 2022 annual report (received February 10, 2023);

RJAC,-- annual report. SD2445

Report of the Department of Correction (pursuant to Sections 1(p) and 6 of Chapter 124 of the General Laws) submitting its 2021 annual report (received February 13, 2023); and

DOC,-- 2021 annual report. SD2446

Report of the Department of Public Utilities (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 25 of the General Laws) submitting its 2022 annual report (received February 13, 2023).

DPU,-- 2022 annual report. SD2447

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating Matthew A.P. Dunn on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”; and

Matthew A.P. Dunn.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Bill and Ann Downey on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of their wedding.”

Bill and Ann Downey.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Order for the adoption of permanent Joint Rules for the 193rd General Court governing the 2023-2024 legislative session (House, No. 2025),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendment striking out the text in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 21, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Moran of Boston, Peisch of Wellesley and Frost of Auburn had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Joint Rules.

On motion of Mr. Rodrigues, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Lovely, Friedman and Fattman were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The order was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

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 Robert D. Whynott.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Timilty,--

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

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Robert D. Whynott.

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in the memory of Robert D. Whynott, 77 of Gloucester.

Mr. Whynott passed away on Friday, February 3, 2023. He was the former City Clerk, Gloucester City Councilor, and Justice of the Peace.

Robert was born in Gloucester, the son of Charles A. Whynott, Sr., and Marie (Zarrella) Whynott, he attended local schools and graduated from Gloucester High School, Class of 1963. Upon his graduation from high school, Bob attended Bryant & Stratton College in Boston.

After college, Robert took a job alongside his brother at the Honeywell Corporation in Newton, Massachusetts, where he worked as a computer programmer. He spent two years there before moving on to several other companies including Raytheon and the Jordan Marsh Company. In 1971, he began working for Sweetheart Plastics as a Computer Operations Manager. This job was one of the fondest of his life; not only was he able to make even more amazing lifetime friends here, but it was during his tenure at Sweetheart when he met and wed the love of his life, Pat. Robert later moved onto G.E. Software International.

In 1992, he was elected to the position of the Gloucester City Clerk, he was always an advocate for anything to improve Gloucester. Robert retired in 2009 as the Gloucester City Clerk and then went on to serve three terms on the Gloucester City Council. He had previously served two terms as a councilman in the 1980's.

Robert was also a longtime member of the Gloucester Lodge of Elks and the DES Club. In his leisure time, he enjoyed having coffee every morning with friends in the local Gloucester establishments, having an occasional cigar, and playing golf. He loved Gloucester's annual traditions and participated in many Fiesta Celebrations and Horribles Parades.

Above all, Robert loved entertaining people and bringing joy and smiles to everyone. He was a talented musician and singer and loved to show off his ability to do a little "soft shoe" on occasion. Bob loved the Christmas season, and he combined that with his love of music. What began in 1971 as three friends singing carols and spreading Christmas cheer around the city grew into a huge annual "Christmas Caroling" event where family and friends would gather, take a trolley to the local nursing homes and elderly housing projects, and sing their hearts out to all the residents. This tradition brought joy and happiness to so many people for nearly 50 years.

Robert was born with a severe asthma condition, doctors predicted that he might not see the age of ten years old, let alone grow into adulthood and have a wife, children, and grandchildren. He was a lover of 1950's music and spent many years "Rockin' and Rollin'" in multiple bands throughout his life.

Robert is survived by his soulmate wife, and companion of 50 years Pat, and their children, son Robert V. Whynott and daughter Cheri A. Spencer, wife of Michael, of Peabody, Massachusetts and their three children, his granddaughters, of whom he absolutely adored. He is also survived by his older sister Gail A. Scola, of Gloucester. He was predeceased by his older brother Charles A. Whynott, Jr. of Gloucester.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Robert D. Whynott, at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Brady, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.