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UNCORRECTED PROOF OF THE JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



JOURNAL OF THE SENATE IN JOINT SESSION.

Thursday, January 21, 2010.

At four minutes before seven o'clock, the two branches met in

JOINT SESSION

in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of receiving such communication as His Excellency Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth, may be pleased to make relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth; and were called to order by the Honorable Therese Murray, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Berry,

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests of the Governor and inform them that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of their presence.

Senators Menard, Flanagan, Brewer, Downing, Panagiotakos and Hedlund were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Pignatelli of Lenox, Forry of Boston, Arciero of Westford, Callahan of Sutton, Peterson of Grafton and Hill of Ipswich, were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Ms. Menard, for the committee, reported that His Honor, Timothy P. Murray, the Lieutenant Governor, the Constitutional officers, the Executive Council and distinguished guests would immediately attend upon the convention.

Shortly thereafter, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Timothy P. Murray, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and distinguished guests entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Prayer.

The President then introduced Pastor Pierre-Eddy Leguerre, from the Philadelphia: Haitian-American Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Malden, who delivered the following Invocation:

Father in heaven, as the deer panteth after the water brooks, so panteth our souls after Thee. Our lives are thirsty for you Lord. Our lives are restless and they will not find rest until they find it in you! Tonight we stand together as a state within the great United States of America requesting your presence at this august assembly where our Governor Deval Patrick will soon give the State of the State Address.

In your loving kindness bless him while he tackles the affairs of this Commonwealth. Fill him with wisdom and compassion in

the elaboration of plans and programs addressing the needs and wishes of his constituents. Bless his wife and 2 daughters. Lead him in the pathway of righteousness for your name sake. Bless all your public servants – our Senators and Representatives who have dedicated their lives for the betterment and the welfare of the least fortunate among us and for the promotion of education, health and success of their fellow citizens. Bless them as they serve others and remind them constantly that their job is neither profane nor secular. Remind them that the halls of this great edifice, the ground of this magnificent structure are as sacred as the naves and the altars of our Churches, our Cathedrals, our Temples and our Mosques. While they ponder on the future and destiny of other men and women, bring to their memory the solemn reality that their motions and their decisions do impact your children, your creation. Fill their hearts with humility and never allow the viper of arrogance to inject its poisonous venom in their debates, their laws and their amendments. Bless our law enforcement agencies our firefighters and our National Guards whose lives are always on the line for our protection.

May the high ideals upon which our country was founded be the benchmark by which the Legislature measures its successes and assesses its failures.

Heavenly Father while we stand here on this winter night we are also reminded of the plight of the people of Haiti. We are reminded of their nightmare and their suffering and we thank you for the role that American in general and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through our Governor is playing in alleviating the pain and the misery of the earthquake victims. Have mercy on Haiti O'Lord.

And now, oh Lord, please honor us with Your Presence as we listen to the chief Executive of the State. Help us to follow not only with our ears but also with our hearts; and may his report energize us to move forward in faith and in unity with a sense of accountability and justice for all. Once more bless our state and its elected servants and may your will be done in this place today, tomorrow and always because we pray in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus-Christ. Amen.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Berry,

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and inform him that the two branches are now in Convention for the purpose of receiving such communication as he may be pleased to make to them, relating to the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Senators Rosenberg, Chandler, Baddour, Jehlen, Petrucci and Hedlund were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Koutoujian of Waltham, Hogan of Stow, Hecht of Watertown, Atkins of Concord, Jones of North Reading and Poirier of North Attleboro, were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Rosenberg, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, would immediately attend upon the convention.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Lieutenant-Governor then introduced U.S. Army Sergeant Sharee Holmes of Dorchester, U.S. Army Reservist Ichelle Herbu of Marlborough, Retired U.S. Navy Commander Mary Beth O'Sullivan of Brockton and U.S. Coast Guard Member Panayiota Bertzikis of Somerville, who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The Lieutenant-Governor then introduced Kasey Fahy of the Boston Children's Chorus who sang the National Anthem.

Shortly thereafter, His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The President then introduced His Excellency the Governor, Deval Patrick, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2).

Benediction.

The President in the Chair then introduced Reverend Gregory Groover of Charles Street AME Church in Dorchester, who gave the following Benediction:

O Gracious God of all that is good and great, how blessed we've been to have gathered once again in this solemn chamber. God, You have both honored and yet humbled us by making known, through our Governor, the extraordinary challenges that face this Commonwealth. But You have given us Your hope in also knowing that in Your name, through Your power and for Your sake, we can meet and overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

How thankful we are for Your servant and our Governor, Deval Patrick, in whom rests Your call to lead us in times like these. We pray that You will both prosper and protect him, encourage his walk and entrust him Your will, to always govern and guide with courage and compassion. We look to You, O God, to touch the heart of every state officer, state representative and state senator and every local elected official to co-labor with our Governor in leading us through the difficult days ahead.

And it is unto You and You alone, the God of our Governor, the Lord of this legislature, and the Creator-unceasing of this Commonwealth's citizenry that we leave this place both renewed and ready to fulfill Your work. And it's in that name, Your name, the only name that reigns above us all that we all declare together, Amen.

His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, the Lieutenant Governor, the Constitutional officers and the Executive Council then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

At nine minutes past eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Berry, the Convention was dissolved.