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## UNCORRECTED PROOF OF THE JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



### JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

*Monday, January 23, 2012.*

Pursuant to assignment, at eight minutes before seven o'clock P.M., 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 Brewer, Chandler, Downing and Tarr were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Haddad of Somerset, O'Day of West Boylston, Peterson of Grafton, Hogan of Stow, Costello of Newburyport, Vieira of Falmouth and Holmes of Boston, were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Brewer, for the committee, reported that His Honor, Timothy P. Murray, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Adjutant General would immediately attend upon the convention.

Shortly thereafter, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Timothy P. Murray, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court and Adjutant General Joseph C. Carter entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

*Prayer.*

The President then introduced Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Senior Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism, who delivered the following Invocation:

In the Torah portion  
That the Jewish people read this week  
We hear the story of the exodus;  
Specifically, the recitation of the plagues  
God brings down upon Egypt  
Calling out to Pharaoh;

How long  
Will you refuse  
To humble yourself  
Before me?  
Let my people go  
That they may serve me ...  
So God we turn to you on the occasion  
Of this assembly  
As our esteemed Governor, Deval Patrick  
And his colleagues  
Here in the chamber of our government  
Gather to reflect on the  
State of the Commonwealth  
Under the hopeful gaze  
Of the women, men and children  
Who live and work here  
In Massachusetts,  
And ask you before God:  
Let us humble ourselves.  
Let us remember  
We are in your service;  
There is a higher purpose;  
In the scripture  
We read of the plague of thick darkness:  
... A darkness that can be touched ...  
That descended upon all the land of Egypt  
For three days  
People could not see one another ...  
While all the Israelites enjoyed light  
In their dwellings  
How could it be  
That for the Egyptians  
It was utter darkness  
But among the Hebrew slaves  
There was light?  
The rabbis teach  
That the darkness was caused  
By the Egyptians' own  
Blindness  
They were blind  
To the suffering of the Hebrews!  
For seeing the pain of others  
Rising up against injustice  
Reaching up for the higher purpose  
Brings light --  
While closing our eyes  
Can only cause darkness ...  
Dear God,  
Much light has burst forth from this chamber  
This room,  
A cradle of American Democracy  
Where courageous representatives and senators  
In which bold governors  
Have championed the rights of all people;  
A body that in recent memory  
Became a model for the nation  
By guaranteeing every person access  
To health care  
By protecting the marriage rights  
Of all people  
By defending our young people  
From bullying and abuse

These lawmakers have blazed  
The flaming light of justice  
And so our eyes are open  
To both the suffering  
And the beauty  
Of one another.  
Please God;  
Let not our eyes begin to close;  
Let not the darkness descend;  
Even during these painful economic times  
When resources seem so scarce  
And politics have become so cruel  
For the need is so very, very real.  
Open up our eyes oh God,  
Open them wide!  
Let us continue to see the truth  
About our sisters and brothers  
Throughout our great Commonwealth;  
And let us continue to be  
A model for our nation  
Unafraid  
Undeterred  
Like the shining dome of this great hall  
Reflecting the midday sun  
From this very street  
So aptly named  
A Beacon –  
A Beacon of shining light  
Across our nation.  
And let us say, amen!

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

*Ordered*, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and 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 Hart, Donoghue, Clark and Tarr were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Rushing of Boston, Beaton of Shrewsbury, Mahoney of Worcester, McMurtry of Dedham, Brady of Brockton, Wong of Saugus and Henriques of Boston were appointed on the part of the House.  
Subsequently, Mr. Hart, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick would immediately attend upon the convention.

*Moment of Silence.*

The President then introduced Lieutenant-Governor Timothy P. Murray, who requested a moment of silence to the memories of Worcester Firefighter Jon D. Davies and Peabody Firefighter James Rice who died in the line of duty last month.

*Pledge of Allegiance.*

The Lieutenant-Governor then introduced Worcester Deputy Fire Chief Geoffrey Gardell and Peabody Fire Chief Steven Pasden, who led the convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

*National Anthem.*

The Lieutenant-Governor then introduced 12 year old Emma Henderson of Northampton, who sang our 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 L. Patrick, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 5).

The President in the Chair, she then introduced Bishop John M. Borders, III, of the Morning Star Baptist Church who delivered the Benediction.

The President in the Chair, His Excellency the Governor, Deval L. Patrick, the Lieutenant Governor, the Constitutional officers, the members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Adjutant General then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

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