

Journal of the House

Friday, March 16, 2012

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Johanna Leddy Donovan of Burlington, VT.

Memorial Service

The Speaker placed before the House the following name of member of past sessions of the Vermont General Assembly who had passed away recently:

**Gloria Ann Conant Member from Richmond
Sessions of 1979 and 1981**

Thereupon, the members of the House rose for a moment of prayer in memory of the deceased member. The Clerk was thereupon directed to send a copy of the House Journal to the bereaved family

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 771

Rep. Donovan of Burlington, for the committee on Education, introduced a bill, entitled

An act relating to making technical corrections and other miscellaneous changes to education law

Which was read the first time and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice tomorrow.

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 772

Rep. Head of South Burlington, for the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, introduced a bill, entitled

An act relating to allocation of federal rental subsidies

Which was read the first time and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice tomorrow.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**H. 770**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the state's transportation program

Appearing on the Calendar, carrying an appropriation, under rule 35a, was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Zagar of Barnard**, the following remarks by **Rep. Donovan of Burlington** were ordered printed in the Journal:

"Mr. Speaker:

It is said that March 17th is the day that three requests were granted to St. Patrick by an angel of the Lord in order to bring happiness and hope to the people of Ireland.

First, that on that day the weather in Ireland should always be fair to allow the faithful to attend church. Second, that on every Thursday and Saturday twelve Irishman should be freed from the pains of hell. And, third, that no outlander should ever rule over Ireland.

I checked with Yahoo earlier and the weather forecast for tomorrow is fair so all will be able to attend Mass.

And could there be any better evidence that 12 Irishman have been regularly released from the nether world than the fact that Donaghy, McNeil, Donohue and Howrigan are in their seats this morning. And the third promise has been kept for in Ireland they are celebrating this day in freedom and liberty.

Ireland's history is rife with stories of persecution, discrimination and oppression. In 1691, no Irish Catholic could vote, serve on a jury, enter a university, become a lawyer, work for the government or marry a Protestant. Nor could they practice their religion openly. In 1847 it was reported to the House of Commons that 15,000 people a day were dying of starvation as a result of the famine. Queen Victoria was so moved by this sad news that she dug deep into her treasure and contributed five pounds to the society for Irish relief.

Consequently, Ireland's greatest export has been her people who have fought with sword and pen for freedom around the world. Our own history is rich with stories of the Irish fighting for human dignity and social justice. Mary Harris Jones, Mother Jones, was known as the miner's angel for her work as a labor organizer. Her memorable phrase still rings true. "Pray for the

dead, and fight like hell for the living". Al Smith was the Governor of New York who identified with immigrants and considered himself a man of the people. He was the first national political figure to decry publicly lynching and racial violence. And Bobby Kennedy walked with the poor of Appalachia and pointed out their plight to an affluent nation.

This is the powerful tradition of the Irish experience – And one I hope will survive and continue just like the cause of Irish freedom survived the death of Own Roe O'Neil. O'Neil is a great figure of Irish history whose death plunged the nation into grief. He was immortalized with these words.

Sagest in the council was he,
 Kindest in the hall;
 Sure, we never won a battle
 --Twas Owen won them all
 Soft as woman's was your voice, O'Neil:
 Bright was your eye,
 Oh! Why did you leave us, Owen?
 Why did you die?

Your troubles are all over,
 You're at rest with God on high,
 But we're slaves, and we're orphans, Owen,
 ----Why did you die?

We're sheep without a shepherd,
 When the snow shuts out the sky—
 Oh! Why did you leave us, Owen?
 Why did you die?

Today let's remember this rich heritage. Let's reach out to those who struggle today---the poor, the oppressed, and the disenfranchised. Let's not leave them "to be sheep without a shepherd when the snow shuts out the sky". Instead let's bring them the constancy, the faith and the hope of the Irish. "

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time and passed:

H. 272

House bill, entitled

An act relating to maintenance of private roads;

H. 600

House bill, entitled

An act relating to mandatory mediation in foreclosure proceedings;

Joint Resolutions Adopted

Joint resolutions of the following titles were severally taken up and adopted on the part of the House;

J.R.H. 30

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution authorizing 2012 Green Mountain Girls' State to conduct a civic education program at the State House;

J.R.H. 31

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution urging Congress to designate March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Message from the Senate No. 27

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 147. An act relating to granting staff of the departments of corrections and for children and families ex officio status for the purpose of obtaining and providing notary public services.

S. 230. An act relating to property and casualty insurers and electronic notices.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a joint resolution originating in the House of the following title:

J.R.H. 29. Joint resolution commemorating Women's History Month, the publication of the sixth edition of *The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont*, and reaffirming continuing support for equal rights for women.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Message from the Senate No. 28

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 136. An act relating to vocational rehabilitation.

S. 152. An act relating to the definition of line of duty in the workers' compensation statutes.

S. 194. An act relating to consolidation of supervisory unions.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 512. An act relating to banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 292. House concurrent resolution designating March 12–18 as Multiple Sclerosis Week in Vermont.

H.C.R. 293. House concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier city clerk and treasurer Charlotte Hoyt for her outstanding public service.

H.C.R. 294. House concurrent resolution honoring and thanking the individuals, institutions, and organizations who lent their assistance so generously during and after Tropical Storm Irene.

H.C.R. 295. House concurrent resolution congratulating Emery Tillman of Cornwall on her kayaking accomplishments.

H.C.R. 296. House concurrent resolution honoring Elizabeth Benedict for her lifelong commitment to educational excellence.

H.C.R. 297. House concurrent resolution honoring Belinda H. Clegg for her outstanding public service to the town of Wolcott.

H.C.R. 298. House concurrent resolution congratulating Marlboro College on its 65th anniversary.

H.C.R. 299. House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding health care services provided by Gifford Medical Center in Randolph.

H.C.R. 300. House concurrent resolution honoring Brattleboro radio station WKVT AM/FM for its outstanding Tropical Storm Irene community support effort.

H.C.R. 301. House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding efforts of those who care for, educate, and advocate for our young children in Vermont.

H.C.R. 302. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Mary Shelby Paull.

H.C.R. 303. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Middlebury Union High School Tigers' 2012 Division II girls' championship Nordic skiing team.

Adjournment

At nine o'clock and fifty minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until Monday, March 19, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted in concurrence.

H.C.R. 292

House concurrent resolution designating March 12–18 as Multiple Sclerosis Week in Vermont;

H.C.R. 293

House concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier city clerk and treasurer Charlotte Hoyt for her outstanding public service;

H.C.R. 294

House concurrent resolution honoring and thanking the individuals, institutions, and organizations who lent their assistance so generously during and after Tropical Storm Irene;

H.C.R. 295

House concurrent resolution congratulating Emery Tillman of Cornwall on her kayaking accomplishments;

H.C.R. 296

House concurrent resolution honoring Elizabeth Benedict for her lifelong commitment to educational excellence;

H.C.R. 297

House concurrent resolution honoring Belinda H. Clegg for her outstanding public service to the town of Wolcott;

H.C.R. 298

House concurrent resolution congratulating Marlboro College on its 65th anniversary;

H.C.R. 299

House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding health care services provided by Gifford Medical Center in Randolph;

H.C.R. 300

House concurrent resolution honoring Brattleboro radio station WKVT AM/FM for its outstanding Tropical Storm Irene community support effort;

H.C.R. 301

House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding efforts of those who care for, educate, and advocate for our young children in Vermont;

H.C.R. 302

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Mary Shelby Paull;

H.C.R. 303

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Middlebury Union High School Tigers' 2012 Division II girls' championship Nordic skiing team ;

S.C.R. 39

Senate concurrent resolution honoring former Representative and Senator Robert T. Gannett on his 95th birthday;

S.C.R. 40

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney on their induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame;

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2012, seventy-second Adjourned session.]