

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

11:52 A.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, as we pause for a moment of silence, let us keep in our thoughts and prayers the victims of the attack yesterday in the Atlanta area, their families, and those who responded and will continue to respond to the community's injuries and needs.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the

Journal of Tuesday, March 16th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 16th and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to certainly welcome folks to Chambers. We do have some work we're going to get done today, but prior to that I would like to begin with a quote and I'll start by saying Happy St. Patrick's Day to my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, this quote is from January the 1st, 1846. It was actually written by Frederick Douglass while he was in Belfast and he was preparing to go to Scotland; he had been in Belfast for four months. And he says, "Eleven days and a half gone, and I have crossed three thousand miles of the perilous deep ocean. Instead of a democratic government, I am under a monarchical government. Instead of the bright blue sky of America, I am covered with the soft gray fog of the Emerald Isle. I breathe, and lo! The chattel becomes a man." Again, Mr. Speaker, these words from Frederick Douglass after he spent four months in Ireland and encountered Daniel O'Connell. They became fast friends and these were his words. I think it's very appropriate that we share them today.

Mr. Speaker, members have on their desks the main

Calendar and after there are any introductions and/or housekeeping, our principal work for the day will be taking up on consent from the main Calendar. We're going to start with Calendar No. 154 and go straight through to Calendar No. 175. Also, members should note that there will absolutely be Budget -- Joint Budget Conference Committees at the completion of our meeting today. These Joint Conference Committees will start at 1:00 or maybe a little later, but the first one is going to be Cycle A and that will be Public Protection, Criminal Justice, and Judiciary, and Mental Health. That will be Cycle 1 will happen at 1:00 or close around that time. Cycle B, which is Environment, Agriculture, and Housing, and Transportation, that will happen at 2:00. The Chairs and participants will be duly-provided with the Zoom information to jump on. Cycle C is Economic Development and Health. Cycle D is Education, General Government, and Local Assistance. And Cycle E: Human Services, Labor, and Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, that's the general outline of where we're going today. If there is any housekeeping that needs to be taken up, it would be a great time to do that. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping, but we will start on page 3, resolution. The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 116, Mr. Cusick.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2021 as Irish American

Heritage Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Cusick on the resolution.

MR. CUSICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honor to sponsor this resolution commemorating Irish Heritage Month in the State of New York, and recognizing the many contributions to this State and country by the Irish people. New York's bond to Ireland and the Irish community grows stronger every day in our shared culture and admiration, and it's an honor to recognize that with this resolution every year to honor Irish Heritage Month in the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the American Irish Legislators to wish all our colleagues a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Cusick.

On the resolution, Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say Happy St. Patrick's Day, and just some thoughts about the holiday. St. Patrick's Day is so much more than strictly an Irish or Christian holiday. Each and everyone of us can learn something from St. Patrick's story. St. Patrick is a shining example of how love and perseverance can bring not only oneself out of the dark, but help others find the light as well.

Patrick's compassion and determination to help the

Irish find salvation was an unlikely path for him to take. Patrick's relationship with the people of Ireland began when he was kidnapped by Irish raiders from his family's home. St. Patrick was held as a slave in Ireland for six years before God spoke to him and commanded him to return home. Upon his escape, he returned and became a priest. His life's work from that point forward became to share the Christian faith that had helped him make it through his captivity with the very people that had held him against his will. Patrick returned to Ireland and dedicated the rest of his life to teaching Christianity to the Irish people while maintaining their culture and heritage. The legend of St. Patrick is that he drove the snakes from Ireland, but the more common version of history is that Patrick used the three-leaf clover to illustrate the Holy Trinity and made the Shamrock the national symbol of faith.

St. Patrick's story is extremely influential to Irish and Irish Americans. He represents the person that we all strive to be; strong, overcoming incredible adversity, and loving thy neighbor. When the Irish arrived in droves to this country, they fought to make the most of this land of opportunity. You see, the Irish did not have the right to vote so they made their voices heard in government, running for office and becoming civil servants like policemen and firemen, something they had not been able to do back home. I urge everyone if you've ever had the opportunity to go visit Ireland. It's a wonderful country.

So from Yates to John F. Kennedy, St. Patrick to James Joyce, I'm glad to have had this opportunity to recognize St.

Patrick's Day and the great lessons and contributions of Irish culture and history has provided to us. Thank you all. God bless, and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Gallahan.

MR. GALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I'd like to thank the sponsor of this resolution. Irish Catholic immigrants came to America during the Colonial times. For example, Charles Carroll immigrated to America in 1706. His grandson, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signed his name to the Declaration of Independence. Ireland's 1845 potato blight is often credited with launching the second wave of Irish immigration to America. The fungus which decimated potato crops created a devastating famine, starvation plagued Ireland and within five years, 1 million Irish were dead with half a million had arrived in America to start a new life.

Living conditions in many parts of Ireland were very difficult long before the potato famine of 1845; however, a large number of Irish left their homeland as early as the 1820s. In fact, Ireland's population decreased dramatically throughout the 19th Century. Census figures show the 19th Century population of 18 -- 8.2 million in 1841, 6.6 million a decade later, and only 4.7 million in 1891. It's estimated that as many as 4.5 million Irish arrived in America between 1820 and 1930. Between 1820 and 1860, the Irish constituted over one-third of all immigrants of the United States. In the 1840s, they comprised nearly half of all immigrants in this nation,

interestingly pre-famine immigrants from Ireland were predominantly male, while in the famine years and their aftermath, entire families left the country. In the years later, the majority of Irish immigrants were women.

What can all these statistics tell us about life in Ireland during this period? The Irish immigrants left a rural lifestyle in a nation lacking modern industry. Many immigrants found themselves unprepared for the industrialized urban centers in the United States. Though these immigrants were not the poorest people in Ireland, the poorest were able to raise the money required in the sum for steerage passage on the ship to America. By American standards, they were destitute. They often had no money beyond the fare for their passage and, thus, settled in the ports of their destinations. In time, the sum of total Irish Americans exceeded the entire population of Ireland. New York City boasted more Irishmen than Dublin, Ireland.

The Irish established patterns that newcomers to the United States continue to follow today: Housing choices, occupants entered -- occupations entered, financial support to families remaining in the homeland, and chain immigration which brought additional relatives to America, and some of these patterns still are here today.

Impoverished American -- Irish immigrants often crowded into subdivided homes that were intended for single families, living in tiny, cramped spaces, cellars, attics, make new spaces in alleys, they all became home. A lack of adequate sewage and running

water in these places made cleanliness next to impossible. Disease of all kinds including cholera, typhus, tuberculosis, and mental illnesses resulted from those miserable living conditions. Irish immigrants sometimes faced hostility from other groups in the U.S., and were accused of spreading disease and blamed for unsanitary conditions many lived in.

Irish immigrants often entered the workplace at the bottom of the occupational ladder, and took on the menial and dangerous jobs that were often avoided by others. Many Irish American women became servants or domestic workers, while many Irish American men labored in coal mines and built railroads and canals. Railroad construction was so dangerous that it was said that there was an Irishman buried under every tie. As Irish immigrants moved inland from the Eastern cities, they found themselves in heated competitions for jobs. The auto recording -- audio recording "Immigrant Laborers of the 20th Century," describes how West Virginia coal operators fired union laborers to give their jobs to the Irish, Italian, and African-American workers. Because over time, many Irish Americans climbed occupational ladders and social ladders through politically-appointed positions, such as policemen, firemen, and teachers. Second- and third-generation Irish Americans were, on average, better educated and more affluent than were their parents. And some, such as the Kennedy family, entered the circles of power. The first Kennedy who arrived in the United States in 1848 was a laborer. His son had modest success, but his grandson, college

educated Joseph P. Kennedy made a fortune that enabled the great-grandsons, one of whom became President, John F. Kennedy, to achieve great political success.

Ill will towards Irish immigrants became -- because of their poorer living conditions and their willingness to work for low wages was exaggerated by religious conflict. Centuries of tension between Protestants and Catholics found their way into the United States in the cities, and verbal attacks often led to mob violence. For example, Protestants burned down St. Mary's Catholic Church in New York City in 1831, and in 1844 riots in Philadelphia claimed over 100 lives.

Anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic sentiments in the 1840s produced groups such as the nativist American Party, which fought influences and promoted traditional American ideas. American Party members earned the nickname "know-nothings," because their standard reply to questions about their proceedings and activities was, "I know nothing about it." And the questions for admittance to the American Party in 1854, inductees committed to elect all offices of honor, profit, or trust, no one but native-born citizens of America of this country, the exclusion of all foreigners and to all Roman Catholics, whether they be of native or foreign birth, regardless of all party affiliations, whatever. This commitment helped elect the American Party and Governors in Massachusetts and Delaware, and placed Millard Fillmore on the Presidential ticket in 1856.

African-American populations, the two groups often pushed into conflict. The Conscription Act of 1863 exaggerated these tense relationships, and this Act made all White men between the ages of 20 and 45 years eligible for the draft in the Union Army. Free American -- free African-American men were permitted to volunteer to fight in the Civil War to the provisions of the Emancipation Proclamation, however the American -- African-American men were not drafted; in other words, forced to fight.

In cutting this short, sir, the Irish immigrants who entered the United States from the 16th to the 20th Centuries were changed by America, and also changed this nation. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Gallahan. And you have used a good Irish minute in that dissertation --

(Laughter)

-- and we do appreciate it, it was quite informative. Thank you so much.

Mr. Lawler.

MR. LAWLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the sponsor for putting this resolution forward. I'm proud to represent and live in one of the largest Irish communities in New York State, the Hamlet of Pearl River, which is also home to the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in our State. Unfortunately for the second year in a row, the parade has been canceled because of COVID, but I'm looking forward to it being back next year and better

than ever. And certainly, extend an invitation to all of my colleagues to join us next year as we march down the street in Pearl River to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

We have many great organizations that celebrate and push forward our rich Irish culture and history in my community, the Rockland County Ancient Order of the Hibernians, of which I am a member, the Rockland GAA, which helps promote Gaelic athletics, the Irish Cultural Center, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and many other organizations which help enrich our community.

I'm a proud grandson and great-grandson and great-great-grandson of Irish immigrants, and the Irish community has enriched our State. They have contributed mightily to it, economically, politically, governmentally, and we are fortunate to have many members of this Body who share in that heritage. I would also like to recognize one of our colleagues who was recognized as one of the top 40 under 40, Mr. Byrne, by the *Irish Echo*, and congratulations to him on this St. Patrick's Day.

And in closing, I want to wish a very happy birthday to our Sergeant-at-Arms, Wayne "O'Jackson," and thank him for all of his service to the people of the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Lawler. You gave Mr. Gallahan back two minutes of the time that he used. Everybody who does that will get a reward.

(Laughter)

Mr. Burke.

MR. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll be quick. I'd like to thank the sponsor for this resolution. You know, I'm from Buffalo, but Buffalo is unique for a mid-sized American city in that we still have our many Euro-ethnic neighborhoods. And I'm fortunate enough to represent and be from South Buffalo which is -- which is the Irish neighborhood of Buffalo. And you know, just to explain what it was like growing up, you know, I went to Catholic school, but I assumed that the whole country got off for St. Patrick's Day and usually the day after, so I don't know why we're at work here today, but I guess we'll keep it moving, that's okay.

So it's just a great point of pride to be a part of this community, my grandfather, you know, emigrated from Ireland in 1950 so understanding the immigrant, you know, life and history, it's certainly deeply ingrained in my family and I know, you know, everyone of Irish descent, you know, feels that in some way. We understand the long history. One of my colleagues just kind of went through a primer in that, but it's something I think we're all sensitive to and understanding the immigrant history and, frankly, how poorly immigrants have been treated when they come here and then make this State a better place for all of us.

So thank you, and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Burke and for your edification, we are actually here because we would be going to the Hibernian Hall for corned beef and cabbage tonight, and so, a traditional Albany celebration.

Mrs. Gunther.

MRS. GUNTHER: Am I un-muted? Yeah?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: You are un-muted.

MRS. GUNTHER: Okay. So I'm going to say a little poem in honor of my grandmother, Mary Hayes; my grandfather, John J. Collins (phonetic); my grandmother, Nora O'Conner (phonetic); my grandfather, Thomas Malone (phonetic); and my parents, Terres and Eugene Malone (phonetic). So it's an Irish blessing, we've all heard it, but we need this right now: "May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door." Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you so much, Mrs. Gunther.

Mr. Sayegh.

MR. SAYEGH: Hello, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also join this morning in celebrating St. Patrick's Day and celebrating the accomplishments of Irish heritage here in my City of Yonkers and New York State and the nation. And I wanted to, you know, elaborate on the tremendous contributions and the accomplishments of Irish Americans here in America. And my first experience as an 8-year-old was helping pass out literature back then in the early '60s for President John F. Kennedy. And as I went on as a social studies student, learned the significance of having a son of Irish immigrants become the President of the United States. And that was a first, and it really opened the door. And I know in my community, the contributions of

Irish Americans in civic life, humanitarian causes, and especially the roles in law enforcement, in fire, civil service, education and health care were truly commendable. And I'd like to also take an opportunity to really thank my Westchester fellow Assemblymember Kevin Byrnes [sic] who continuously entertains us with the bagpipes, which I love tremendously, and it's really symbolic of -- of the Irish culture and also as a native of Jordan, it was -- it was very much acceptable even in my native Jordan where bagpipes were part of every ceremony.

So I congratulate, you know, our Irish American legislators for all they do to continue to help us expand the awareness and understanding of Irish culture and the contributions. So today at St. Patty's Day, each and every one of us that celebrates are honorary Irishmen. So again, best wishes and, again, special birthday greetings to Wayne Jackson. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Fahy on the resolution.

MS. FAHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I think this is my ninth year in the Assembly, but it's my first time I think speaking on this resolution and I think you're right, Mr. Speaker, because we didn't have the dinner. I just thought it was important to chime in here and thank the sponsor, as well, for all he does to keep our heritage alive, to keep the cultural significance of St. Patrick's Day alive. And I just want to speak for a minute about how much it has deeply influenced me.

This is probably the first time that I've spoken about this, but since just before COVID I lost both of my parents, and I'm probably the last generation of those who have had their parents come off the boat, and both my parents came off the boat from Ireland into the New York City Harbor, even though I grew up in Chicago. So while New York is my adopted home, it is where my parents first landed. And I try to never forget the shoulders that I stand on because it is very much a universal immigrant story. They came here so that their children would have a chance at a better education and that they would have a chance at a job. And it is their experiences that remind me all the time that we do stand on their shoulders, the sacrifices they made made it possible for me to go to high school. They never had a chance at high school, they never had a chance at college. And so the fact that their sacrifices, the opportunity that this country gave them, they had a -- they lived a certain version of an American Dream that I know sometimes seems out of reach for so many, and I've always been reminded to never forget where I come from and the fact that this country allowed their daughter to be able to work her way through college has really impacted me in making sure that others have that chance at accessible and affordable college, and it's why I talk so much about jobs, especially in this post-COVID economy on the importance of a job, because it meant so much to my parents. And you heard a reference to domestic servants, that's what my mother did when she came here. She was one of those domestic servants who took care of others and then went to a factory. And my father went

into the Chicago Stockyards, now -- now defunct. But that's what they did and they were so proud to do it because it gave them a sense of identity, it gave them a sense of dignity and it allowed them to earn a paycheck. Both of them had come off of farms and left still struggling times right after World War II when the world was still coming out of a worldwide depression.

So my uncle named the family farm *Fáilte*, which is "welcome" in Ireland, and I just want to read the briefest of poems. I didn't want to delay here, but I want to read the briefest of poems that was sent to me last night, or toast, I should say, that I thought was an important one. And I had it in front of me and now I don't. Oh, well, it's a beautiful one, here we go. It's says, "May your neighbors respect you, may troubles neglect you, the angels protect you, and Heaven accept you." So thank you all, and St. Patrick's Day -- Happy St. Patrick's Day to everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Fahy.

Mr. Rivera.

MR. J. RIVERA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The year was 1917 when America, our country, made Puerto Ricans American citizens, in time -- in time for us to serve in the first war. One Puerto Rican, Pedro Albizu Campos, an Afro-Boricua, became a United States First Lieutenant with great honors. And he then went on to become a student of Harvard University. There he met Éamon de

Valera, I think I pronounced his name correctly, another student who was organizing the committee to free Ireland. Albizu identified with him because while we're American citizens, we're a colony of the United States. We're not free to choose freedom, and we're not free to choose to become a state. They both served very well.

There's a lot of history between Puerto Ricans and -- and the Irish in the Puerto Rican history books. I have traveled with many of you to Puerto Rico and I have shown some of you as we take a tour of Old San Juan, beautiful San Juan, not many are aware that beautiful San Juan and the fortifications in Puerto Rico were built by Irish engineers who were members of the Army with Spain. Why? Because they were common enemies of the oppressor of those days, England.

Now I find myself in the great United States and I meet these wonderful people, the Irish people who, when I came to this State, they were still being abused, they were treated like second-class citizens. But I learned from them, we learned from them. We learned that in order to get respect, you need to register and vote. And today, we have learned from them, that's what I've done, and I am proud to run for office in 1982 and I won only because I got 20 percent of the Irish vote. So I want to thank the Irish. This was a bastion of both Irish and Puerto Rican were the two main groups living in this area, and the Irish are still involved in my community. I commend them today. My constituents, I commend one strong up and coming young Irish leader that I hope he runs for some kind of office,

John Doyle from City Island.

So today's a great day, Mr. Speaker. So I join you and my colleagues in wishing everyone Happy Irish Day. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Tague.

MR. TAGUE: Can you hear me, Mr. Speaker?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Yes, sir.

MR. TAGUE: On the resolution, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, Mr. Tague.

MR. TAGUE: First of all, I want to thank my friend and the sponsor of this bill Mr. Cusick, for bringing this resolution to the floor. I also want to thank him for his hard work with our American Irish Legislators organization. I also want to take a moment to thank Mr. Cahill and Mr. Byrne for the music that was provided but most importantly, I want to thank Mrs. Gunther and her staff for the wonderful Irish dance that was done during the playing of the bagpipes. I also want to recognize that the Michael Quill Irish Cultural Centre, which is in the heart my district in Durham, New York, it's a lovely place and a great place for all to visit. As an Irish American, I am proud of my heritage. I'm proud of the effort that my fellow Irish have given to building this country. I want to wish all Irish Americans, as well as those who are Irish today, a great filled day from my Irish American family and to all of yours, Happy St.

Patrick's Day.

And lastly, I want to say happy birthday to my favorite Democrat in the whole world, Mr. Wayne "O'Jackson." Happy birthday, Wayne. Wish I was there in Albany to say hello to you. And in closing, keep those Irish eyes a smilin', Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Gallagher.

MS. GALLAGHER: Hi. I'd like to thank the sponsor of this resolution and I'd like to speak on the resolution, please.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Proceed, Ms. Gallagher.

MS. GALLAGHER: I stand as a Gallagher, the great-granddaughter of John Gallagher who immigrated from County Donegal to Philadelphia. And I also stand as a public historian who once specialized in telling the stories of immigrants who lived in the Lower East Side of New York City where they lived amongst Germans, Chinese and freed Blacks. A key part of the criticisms of the Irish-American people when they came were that they were more loyal to Catholicism than to the United States and could not be trusted for that reason. The fact that they stuck together and tried to help one another survive was seen as evidence that they didn't want to be American. They were also criticized for sending most of their money home to families who were starving there. The high rate of return to Ireland was another criticism of my people, because they missed their home and they wanted to return once they had money. But often, they

were returning to nearly nothing there.

The situations here were often terribly difficult. Many of the folks who came over as men were immediately conscripted into the Civil War Army during the 1860s, and they were offered citizenship as part of this deal. We know that many immigrants today also end up joining Armed Forces, looking for citizenship opportunities. And the -- as a daughter of the Irish, I stand allied with all immigrants and all folks who are coming to New York today as a place of refuge, both those who stay and those who wish to return to their -- their homelands. I also stand allied with immigrants who have stood for the same generations here, but lack opportunities and safety because of White supremacy. I'm blessed with an Irish sense of humor, but also an Irish sense of melancholy, and I'm grateful to be here to help improve the 21st Century for immigrants the same as my Irish ancestors did for me in the past. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Buttenschon.

MS. BUTTENSCHON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to thank the sponsor for this resolution memorializing March Irish American Heritage Month. You have heard the Irish historical, cultural, and religious perspectives from many of my colleagues this morning, including all the challenges and positive insight that our ancestors took part in. I had the opportunity to be raised by the influence of eight strong Irish women who told me of the many journeys that my ancestors and relatives encountered. I am honored

also to represent the many of Irish heritage in the Mohawk Valley, where we have a new beautiful Irish cultural center and museum that is always doing for our community; in fact, today they are hosting a food giveaway at the cultural center in honor of St. Patrick.

In closing, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Griffin.

MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the sponsor of this resolution who also Chairs the Irish American Legislators Society. Thank you for all your hard work. I am a proud Irish American who is 84 percent Irish, and I'm proud to represent so many constituents of Irish descent. I am grateful for the vast contributions Irish Americans have made in Assembly District 21, Long Island, New York City, New York State, and in our country. The town I live in, Rockville Centre, has one of the biggest parades on Long Island and I look forward to marching in it again next year since the last two years obviously we couldn't march.

Just a little quote from an unknown author: May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all, and an extra happy birthday to our Sergeant-at-Arms, Wayne Jackson. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Byrnes.

MS. BYRNES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, if I might

speak on the resolution.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Please.

MS. BYRNES: As you can probably guess from my name, which is Marjorie Lousie Byrnes, I do tend to have a little Irish in me. And my great-great grandfather Hugh Byrnes actually arrived in Canada in the 1820s. Our family moved to Niagara County in about 1905 and after that gravitated over to Rochester. The Irish heritage is very important to my entire family, and we're very proud of it. I'm very proud to speak on behalf of this resolution today, and I thank my older brother Rob, who has spent many years researching our ancestry to have this information which I'm able to share with you today. I also want to thank Wayne Jackson a very, very happy birthday, also from myself and my brother who used to work in the Assembly with Mr. Jackson about three decades ago. But from both of us Wayne, happy birthday and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Byrnes.

Ms. Kelles.

MS. KELLES: Thank you so much. I find I always have the most difficulty with technology over Zoom, so I'm not exactly sure why these in particular, but thank you so much and on the bill -- on the resolution.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Yes, ma'am.

MS. KELLES: Thank you. For me, I just wanted to for a moment honor someone who has been exceptionally, was

exceptionally important in my life, my grandfather, Jim Daur (phonetic), and I'm sure from my father Dennis Daur (phonetic), this is for you. He stood as a light for all of us. He taught me jigs when I was a kid. He always had the Irish sparkle in his eye and the red nose for all its meaning. One of the kindest human beings, one of the humblest human beings I've ever met, and he has been a North Star for me throughout my life. So these poems, I just wanted to read two poems, these are for you. And these are two poems that are Irish poems or by Irish poets that have meant a lot to me in my life.

So the first is by John O'Donohue: "There's no inner landscape in the invisible world of our souls and hearts but is full of the most melodious and nourishing and wild freedom. And everyone should go there, to the wild place, where there are no cages, where there are no tight rooms without windows and without doors. Everyone should go to the free clearance places in their own hearts."

And the second one is called *Freedom*: "I will not follow you, my bird. I will not follow you. I would not breathe a word, my bird, to bring me here anew. I love the free in me, my bird, the lure of freedom drew; the light you fly towards, my bird, I fly with thee unto. And there we yet will meet, my bird, though far I go from you, wearing the light outpoured, my bird, are love and freedom, too." The freedom of the Irish. Thank you so much. That's George William Russell.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Carroll.

MR. CARROLL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the sponsor of the resolution, Assemblymember Cusick, for bringing this here today. I would like to remind my colleagues that the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City predates the founding of our nation, and is a harbinger for the immigrant experience throughout America. The Irish experience from the potato famine up until today mirrors so many other immigrant experiences from all parts of the world, and it's important to remember that our City, our State, our country is a beautiful mosaic, and what makes our country such a special place is that there are people from around the world who bring their culture, their food, their literature to our shores. And we should be reminded that many times folks -- I have Irish grandparents and great-grandparents who saw persecution or who saw prejudice. There are people in our country today who their parents, their family members are seeing that same kind of prejudice because they may have different customs, different beliefs, but when we get to the root of it, so many of the customs and cultures, customs that Irish Americans and Irish around the world cherish, of course other cultures around the world cherish, as well.

On a personal note, I personally love St. Patrick's Day and I'm happy to celebrate, and I am missing going out with so many of you which we would normally do tonight to have a pint of Guinness and to listen to some music. Happy St. Patrick's Day. Hopefully we will all, again, be able to celebrate this day and so many other great cultural days throughout our State live and in person. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So many of us have spoken, I'll keep it very short, but I, you know, we Irish are known for talking a little bit, so you'll forgive me for just saying that over the last year or so, I've been very, very interested in sitting down with my mom who I've spoken about a lot in the Chamber, she's 94 and getting her, she's the last of 12 in her family, a big Irish family, and getting her remembrances of that side of the family and that Irish side of the family. So I started to do some genealogy research talking to the Last of the Mohegans, as she likes to refer to herself, but I just wanted to mention, my grandmother, Mary Frances Gillick, and my mother's grandmother, my great-grandmother, Martha Hart, two very strong Irish women who helped to raise us all. And on my husband, on the Walsh side of the family, the husbands and the Walsh's, Jim and I have been fortunate enough to spend some time in Ireland and visiting with his family who is still there, and they have just such warm and generous hearts and it's some of the best times that we've ever had. So looking forward to hopefully making that trip with the Irish American Legislators Association in a couple of years and joining with some of my colleagues in hoisting a pint in a few bars in Ireland if we can enjoy that in a couple years, I hope so. So thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Fitzpatrick.

MR. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to commend my dear friend and good colleague Mike Cusick, for sponsoring this resolution. He is -- we are very proud of him as the President of our Irish American Legislators Society President. He has done an outstanding job representing all the Irish members of the Legislature in both Houses. You know, I also want to wish a very happy birthday to a dear friend to all of us, our Sergeant-at-Arms, Wayne Jackson. Wayne, we miss you. I haven't been back to Albany in over a year because of the pandemic, but the one thing I miss is walking into that Chamber and seeing your smiling face, especially on St. Patrick's Day, and all the members of your staff.

You know, as the Speaker and others have said many times, it is a special privilege to serve in the New York State Legislature, especially in the Assembly where we're all family. Many folks have mentioned their DNA and, you know, when I had my DNA done yes, I'm predominantly Irish at 79 percent, but I'm also 19 percent Hispanic, believe it or not, and also 2 percent Asian. There's probably a funny story somewhere in there given that -- that makeup, but what makes it so special is that, you know, today we're all Irish, but we're also all a blend. We all are a mosaic when you come right down to it.

So today on St. Patrick's Day, yes, we celebrate Ireland and all the contributions of Irish Americans, but we also celebrate immigration, the immigrants of Ireland, but we also

celebrate the immigrants from all over, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Africa, Europe, wherever they may come from, which is what makes New York State so unique. So I want to wish everyone a very Happy St. Patrick's Day. Thank you to Michael Cusick for everything he does for us in the Irish -- American Irish Legislators Society and, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and let's all have a pint tonight and celebrate life. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Lemondes.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the sponsor. On the resolution, please.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, sir.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you very much. I just wanted to say very simply and very shortly, as a proud Irish American on my mother's side, obviously, representing a large community, a proud community of Irish Americans, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and may days like today bring us all closer together. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

Page 15, Calendar No. 154, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00081, Calendar No. 154, Quart, De La Rosa, Jackson, Vanel, Hevesi. An act to amend the

Social Services Law, in relation to criminal history record checks of certain foster youths.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00255-A, Calendar No. 155, Gottfried, Seawright, Sayegh, Barron, Simon, Steck, Quart, Paulin, Gallagher, Vanel, Hevesi, Otis, González-Rojas. An act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to individuals engaged in prostitution who are victims of or witnesses to a crime.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00479, Calendar No. 156, Rozic, McMahon, Santabarbara, Conrad. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to including the promotion and expansion of cricket in the State of New York to the jurisdiction of the State Athletic Commission.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print A-479. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leaders at the numbers previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00518, Calendar No. 157, L. Rosenthal, Englebright, Otis, Cook, Weprin, Abinanti, Galef, Carroll, Reyes, Epstein, Fahy, Griffin, Colton, Steck, Jacobson, Seawright, Gottfried, Simon, Kelles, Dickens, McMahon. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to prohibiting coal tar in pavement products.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00597, Calendar No. 158, Woerner, Buttenschon. An act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to license and permit applications.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 60th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 597. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the number previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Woerner to explain her vote.

MS. WOERNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to explain my vote. This bill provides some necessary transparency and accountability on the part of the State Liquor Authority. Many of us, on a regular basis, hear complaints from constituents about the amount of time it takes to seek a liquor license, and the unaccountable delays. So the reporting requirements built

into this bill will ensure that there's greater transparency and availability of information about where those -- where that process is and where an application is in the process. So I thank the Speaker for -- and the Chair of the Economic Development Committee for bringing this bill forward, and I look forward to its passage. Thank you so much and I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Woerner in the affirmative.

Ms. Griffin.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00807, Calendar No. 159, O'Donnell, Bronson, De La Rosa, Cruz, Fernandez, D. Rosenthal, Jacobson, Epstein, Vanel, Otis. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to requiring insurance coverage for pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV infection.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 807. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00868, Calendar No. 160, Gottfried, L. Rosenthal, De La Rosa, Walker, Weprin, Dinowitz, Bronson, Abinanti, Joyner, Steck, Simon, Glick, Aubry, Fernandez, Cruz, Epstein, Reyes, Gallagher, Rodriguez, Meeks, González-Rojas, Clark, Forrest, Mamdani, J. D. Rivera, Quart, Kelles. An act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree; to amend the General Business Law, in relation to drug-related paraphernalia; to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to the sale and possession of hypodermic syringes and needles; and to repeal Section 220.45 of the Penal Law relating to criminally possessing a hypodermic instrument.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00903, Calendar No. 161, O'Donnell, Englebright, Abinanti, Otis, Galef, Glick, Gottfried, Epstein, Steck, Reyes, Colton, Griffin, Carroll, Braunstein, Seawright, Simon, Vanel. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to prohibiting the use of drilling fluids, brine, and flowback water from wells, pools or fields on any highway.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01025, Calendar No. 162, Paulin, Otis, Galef, Vanel, Wallace. An act to amend the Business Corporation Law, the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and

the Religious Corporations Law, in relation to allowing corporations to conduct business and meetings electronically for a certain period of time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Paulin, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Senate print 3917-A. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the number previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01073, Calendar No. 163, Abinanti, Jean-Pierre. An act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to the order in which a payor bank shall pay checks.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Abinanti, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01162, Calendar No. 164, Quart. An act to amend the Correction Law, in relation to amending the term residential treatment facility; and to repeal subdivision 10 of Section 73 of the Correction Law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01451-A, Calendar No. 165, Santabarbara, Steck, J. Rivera, Bronson. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to authorizing the delivery of liquefied petroleum gas in times of emergency.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01693, Calendar No. 166, Pretlow. An act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to mail-loan checks.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02189, Calendar No. 167, Dinowitz, Weprin, Walker, Gottfried, Buttenschon, Otis. An act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules, in relation to expediting actions involving insurance claims for damages resulting from a State disaster emergency.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02236, Calendar No. 168, Stern, Otis. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to standards for prompt investigation and settlement of claims arising from states of emergencies.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02547, Calendar No. 169, Weinstein, Weprin, Seawright, Bronson, L. Rosenthal, Taylor. An act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules and the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act, in relation to addressing delay in payment of a

settlement where the settlement requires court approval.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03360, Calendar No. 170, Paulin, Otis, Galef, Vanel. An act to amend the Public Service Law and the Public Authorities Law, in relation to providing rate payers with reimbursement following prolonged power outages.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04177, Calendar No. 171, Lavine, Abinanti, Colton, Gottfried, Quart, Seawright, Taylor, Simon, Stirpe, Barron, Vanel. An act to amend the Public Health Law and the Insurance Law, in relation to health care professional applications and terminations.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04690, Calendar No. 172, Lupardo, Stirpe, Woerner, Thiele, Steck, Williams, Brabenec, DeStefano, Montesano, Schmitt, Angelino, Lemondes, McDonough, B. Miller, Morinello, Tague, Simon. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to the manufacturing, sale, branding and labeling of beech sugar and beech syrup.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote on Assembly print 4690. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05031, Calendar No. 173, Ramos, Weprin, Taylor, L. Rosenthal, Thiele, Colton, Abinanti, Reyes, Griffin, Carroll, Jacobson, Glick. An act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules, in relation to time limitations for filing claims for certain injuries.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05040, Calendar No. 174, Dinowitz, Gottfried, L. Rosenthal, Pichardo, Cook, Benedetto, Perry, Barron, Reyes, De La Rosa, Rodriguez. An act to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of 1974, the Emergency Housing Rent Control Law and the Real Property Law, in relation to prohibiting charges for legal fees.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05765-A, Calendar No. 175, Pretlow. An act to amend the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law, in relation to health insurance for New York trainers at franchised corporation race tracks.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record

the vote on Assembly print A-5765-A. This is a fast roll call. Any member who wishes to be recorded in the negative is reminded to contact the Majority or Minority Leader at the numbers previously provided.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

(Pause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have neither, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir. Now I move that the Assembly stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Thursday March the 18th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Happy St. Patrick's Day.

The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 12:53 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Thursday, March 18th at 10:00 a.m., Thursday being a Session day.)