

STATE OF ILLINOIS
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

117th Legislative Day

1/7/2007

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PRESIDENT JONES:

The regular Session of the 94th General Assembly will please come to order and would the Members please be at their desks? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Rabbi Barry Marks. But, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I -- I would ask that we take a few moments to offer a blessing as we prepare to conduct business for the first time in our newly renovated Senate Chambers. Rabbi Marks for our blessing and prayer.

RABBI BARRY MARKS:

(Prayer by Rabbi Barry Marks)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Rabbi Marks for the blessing.

RABBI BARRY MARKS:

(Blessing of the Chamber by Rabbi Barry Marks)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Thank you, Rabbi. I would like to recognize and thank on behalf of this Body, the work done by the architects, the artisans and the workers and the staff who oversaw this project from beginning to end. Just a few hours after we left this Chamber on May 4th, 2006, demolition began in this Chamber. At one point, all that was left was plywood walkways and a lot of dust. This beautiful tribute to our history portrays the Senate during the time period of the late 1800s to the early 1900s. Hours of research went into the efforts and the hundreds of meetings to ensure that the finished product would uncover this diamond in the rough. To the many who worked night and day over the past seven months to see this through, you have indeed uncovered a spectacular diamond. If I could for a moment point out the care, the craftsmanship taken with this project and the effort to restore this Chamber to its historic time period. The wall covering behind the press - Rick Pearson will like this - boxes on either side of the Chamber and in the back of the Chamber were truly a surprise. When the wood was initially taken off, the workers discovered stencils long ago covered - for

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whatever reason, we don't know. This covering that you see today are almost identical to the original stencils. Many individuals participated in this project. On behalf of all the Members, thank you for your dedication, your professionalism and your very, very, very hard work. I would like to recognize the guests we have in the gallery who represented those who worked on this incredible project: David Hrabal, Vinci Hamp Architects; Rick Schmutde, HDR Engineering; Frank Huschitt, Imperial Woodworking; Ed McGee, Evergreen Studios; Larry DuPont, Evan Lloyd Architects {sic} (Associates); Warren Alberton {sic} (Atherton), B & B Electric; Alan Rumboldt, Morton Automatic; Paul Boland, Henneman Engineering; Jan Grimes, Capitol Development Board; Ron White {sic} (Wright), Capitol Development Board; Mark Flowers, Capitol Development Board; Mark Gerareot, Capitol Development Board; and Don McLarty, Office of Architect; Tim Rice, Executive Director of Legislative Information Service; Mark Wenda, L.I.S. Application Services Manager; Dan Winchester, L.I.S. Systems Service Manager; Jason Montgomery, Team Leader, L.I.S. Voting System; Brian Rumpf, Core Construction; Gary Behm, St. Louis Antique Lighting; Wendell Fritsch, Fritsch and Sons; Scott Williams, Henson Robinson Company. Will our guests in the gallery, in the President's Gallery, please be rise -- please rise and be recognized for the spectacular job that you did? The planning for this tremendous job began several years ago and there was those who doubted that it could be done in seven months, but we got -- we adjourned in time, and as I indicated, the work began and they really restored this Chamber. It's really beautiful. I told Senator Wendell Jones that we did it for him. If he hadn't left, you know... We did it for you, Wendell. WICS-TV, WLS and Fox 32 TV request leave to videotape the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Journal of Sunday, January 7, 2007 {sic} (Thursday, November 30, 2006). Excuse me.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator -- Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Mr. President, I move that the Journal just read by the

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Secretary be approved, unless some Senator has additions or corrections to offer.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Collins moves to approve the Journal just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from Peter Roskam, dated December 15, 2006.

Dear Madam Secretary - It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that effective January 4, at 11 o'clock p.m. {sic} (a.m.), I will be resigning my seat as Illinois State Senator for the 48th District. While I am deeply honored to be elected to represent the Sixth Congressional District of the United States House of Representatives, I will truly miss the Illinois Senate. I count it a -- as a great privilege to have served with a distinguished group of Senators and will always fondly recall my time of service. God bless you.

Very truly yours, Peter J. Roskam, State Senator.

A Message from the Secretary of State, dated December 4, 2006.

Dear Madam Secretary - This office is forwarding herewith copies of the Notice of Vacancy from the Democratic Legislative Committee for the 2nd Legislative District declaring the existence of a vacancy in the Office of Senator of the 94th General Assembly in the 2nd Legislative District, as a result of the resignation of Senator Miguel del Valle. Also enclosed is a copy of the Legislative Committee's Certificate of Appointment, along with the Oath of Office for William Delgado.

Sincerely, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

An additional Message from the Secretary of State, dated December 4, 2006.

Dear Madam Hawker - This office is forwarding herewith the copies of the Notice of Vacancy from the Democratic Legislative Committee for the 46th Legislative District declaring the existence of a vacancy in the Office of Senator of the 94th General Assembly in the 46th Legislative District, as a result of the resignation of Senator George Shadid. Also enclosed is a copy of the Legislative Committee's Certificate of Appointment for Dave Koehler.

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Yours truly, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

An additional Message from the Secretary of State, dated January 4.

Dear Ms. Hawker - This office is forwarding herewith copies of the Notice of Vacancy from the Legislative Committee of the Republican Party from the 42nd General Assembly {sic} declaring the -- the existence of a vacancy in the Office of Senator in the 94th General Assembly in the 42nd Legislative District, as a result of the resignation of Senator Edward Petka, effective December 4, 2006. Also enclosed is a copy of the Legislative Committee's Certificate of Appointment for Phyllis Petka.

Yours truly, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

And a final Message from Secretary of State, dated January 5, 2007.

Dear Ms. Hawker - This office is forwarding herewith copies of the Notice of Vacancy from the Legislative Committee of the Republican Party of the 48th Legislative District declaring the existence of a vacancy in the Office of Senator in the 94th General Assembly in the 48th Legislative District, as a result of the resignation of -- Senator Peter J. Roskam, effective January 4, 2007. Also enclosed is a copy of the Legislative Committee's Certificate of Appointment for Randall M. "Randy" Hultgren.

Yours truly, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

A Message from the President, dated January 7, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Rules 3-1 and 3-2, I hereby appoint Senator David Koehler as a member of the following Senate committees, effective immediately: Insurance, Executive, Executive Appointments, -- and Transportation.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

Message from the President, dated January 7, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Rules 3-1 and 3-2, I hereby appoint Senator William Delgado as a member of the following Senate committees, effective immediately: Education, Executive, Labor and Higher Education.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

An additional Message from the President, dated January 7, 2007.

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Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Rule 3-5(c), I hereby appoint Senator Debbie Halvorson to replace Senator Rickey Hendon as a member of the Rules Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Very truly yours, Emil Jones, Jr., President.

A final Message from the President, dated January 7, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Rule 3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Debbie Halvorson to temporarily replace Senator Rickey Hendon as a member of the following Senate committees effective immediately: Environment and Energy and Labor.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

A Message from the Republican Leader, dated January 5, 2007.

Dear Secretary Hawker - Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Rule 3-5(b) and (c), I hereby appoint Senator Christine Radogno to replace Senator Edward Petka as Minority Spokesman of the Senate Rules Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely, Frank Watson, Senate Republican Leader.

A Message from the Secretary of -- of State, dated January 5, 2007.

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Sir - In compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, I am forwarding herewith the enclosed Senate bill from the 94th General Assembly as vetoed by the Governor, together with his objections:

Senate Bill 380.

Respectfully, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

An additional Message from the Senate Republican Leader, dated January 5, 2007.

Dear Secretary Hawker - Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-2, I am making the following changes to the Minority membership of the Senate standing committees as outlined below:

Environment and Energy - Senator Wendell Jones shall replace former Senator Peter Roskam as a member.

Executive - Senator Dale Risinger {sic} (Righter) shall replace former Senator Peter Roskam as Minority Spokesperson and Senator Steve Rauschenberger shall replace the former Senator Edward Petka as a member.

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Executive Appointments - Senator Phyllis Petka shall replace former Edward Petka as a member.

Insurance - Senator Phyllis Petka shall replace former Senator Peter Roskam as a member.

Judiciary - Senator Randall Hultgren shall replace...

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam Secretary, could you hold one moment? Let's tone it down a little bit, gentlemen. It's very difficult to hear. Madam Secretary, proceed.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Judiciary - Senator Randy Hultgren shall replace former Senator Edward Petka as a member and Senator Dale Risinger {sic} (Righter) shall replace former Senator Peter Roskam as a member.

Labor - Senator Randall Hultgren shall replace Senator Wendell Jones as a member and Senator Jones will no longer serve on this committee.

Pensions and Investments - Senator Phyllis Petka shall replace Senator Dale Risinger as a member -- pardon me, I'm sorry -- that was Senator Dale Righter as a member and Senator Righter will no longer serve on this committee.

Revenue - Senator Randall Hultgren shall replace Senator Wendell Jones as a member and Senator Jones will no longer serve on this committee.

These changes shall take effect immediately.

Sincerely, Frank Watson, Senate Republican Leader.

PRESIDENT JONES:

I'd like for the Senate to also give a warm welcome to the former President of this Body, who's always been my President - still my President - Phil Rock. Madam Secretary, Motions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

I have a motion on file by -- filed by Senator Dan Cronin, relative to Senate Bill 380.

PRESIDENT JONES:

It shall be reflected on the Calendar, Madam Secretary. Senator Watson, what purpose you rise?

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes, Mr. President, and thank you and I, too, obviously want

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to welcome Phil Rock back to the Senate Chambers and also pass on my congratulations and thanks for those people who -- who did such a great job in the renovation of the Chambers here. It's fantastic and I just want to pass on my thanks to them in getting it done in such a timely manner. I do also want to take the opportunity here, Mr. President, to introduce two new Members to this Body. One maybe most of you know and the other one probably you know, but you don't know, and that's Ed Petka's wife, Phyllis. Please, Phyllis, stand up. Those -- those that have followed Ed's politics over the years knows that this is truly the driving force behind his success and he's gone on to the bench in Will County and Phyllis will be joining us over the next three days, so we certainly welcome you here, Phyllis, and look forward to serving with you. The -- the other gentleman right here is Randy Hultgren. Randy Hultgren was State Representative from DuPage County. Randy is taking Peter Roskam's place, who of course went to Washington to serve that district and follow Henry Hyde, and we wish Peter well, but we're glad to have Randy joining us here and he will continue, obviously, into the next Session. So, thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to introduce our two Members.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Halvorson, what purpose you rise?

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Proceed.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

I, too, would like to introduce a couple new Members on this side of the aisle. We have - used to be Representative William Delgado, now Senator. We're very pleased to have him here. It's always hard for Legislators to come in and fill big shoes, like Miguel del Valle, but I think that our new Senator Delgado will do a great job at that and I'm very -- very lucky to have him as my seatmate, for a few days anyway. The other Member I'd like to introduce is Senator David Koehler, who is taking Senator Shadid's place. The Senator brings a wealth of knowledge with him and we are very, very lucky to have him in this Chamber. So welcome to the two of you and also to our others over there on

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the other side of the aisle. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Yes. Senator Delgado informed me that he had the chip removed. Senator -- Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Yes, I understand. I did stop at Northwestern to have that chip removed and someone said I have looked up what "Emancipation Proclamation" means, and as they say, I'm free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last. It's wonderful to join the Chamber and thank you, Mr. President, for all your help and support with the transition.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Good afternoon, Mr. President. I just want to wish you a very, very fruitful year. I know you'll have it because you are a great guy and I think you've done a great job in this Chambers and I'm so glad to see all of my colleagues. You won't be seeing me after the 10th, but that will be to your benefit. So I just want you to know that I enjoyed my tour of duty here and welcome all of you here, the new ones and the old ones, and I can honestly say to you, it was fun. So, God bless you all and -- give you good health and strength to put up with everything, 'cause it isn't easy. So, I just want you to know, Mr. President, I -- you will have a very fine replacement in Michael Bond - very fine gentleman. And I just want you also to know that we appreciate you. We appreciate all that you do and the many kindnesses that you do for people and I particularly do. So, thank you, thank you, thank you, Mr. President, for being not only the gentle gentleman that you are, but a real gentleman at heart. God bless you and your family and God bless all of you here. And, Linda, congratulations to you. I'm proud of you, very proud of you. You've done a great job for us. And I just want to thank everyone for being so nice to me and I -- you don't have to be after the 10th. So, God bless you all. Love you all.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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Senate Resolutions 915 and 916, offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

Senate Resolutions -- 917, offered by Senator Schoenberg and all Members.

Senate Resolutions 918 and 919, offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

Senate Resolution 920, offered by Senator Petka and all Members.

Senate Resolutions 921 and 922, offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

Senate Resolution 924, offered by Senator Schoenberg and all Members.

Senate Resolution 925, offered by Senator Haine and all Members. And actually, that was Senate Resolutions 925 through 928, offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 923, offered by Senator Link and all Members.

They're all death resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Resolutions Consent Calendar. Senator Link. Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask leave to waive all applicable rules for the immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 923. This is a death resolution for the wife of a former colleague, Senator Jim Rea.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Link moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 923. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The rules are suspended. Senator Link -- Link moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 923. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the Antechamber. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the Antechamber. Members of the Rules Committee. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned:

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Refer to Environment and Energy Committee - Committee Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 822; refer to Labor Committee - Committee Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 3752.

PRESIDENT JONES:

All right, Ladies and Gentlemen, you should have on your desks a copy of Supplemental Calendar No. 1. On page one of the Supplemental Calendar, on -- on the Order of Motions in Writing to Override the Total Veto of the Governor, we have Senate Bill 380. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

I move that Senate Bill 380 do pass, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor.

Motion filed by Senator Dan Cronin.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is a bill that passed in the Veto Session with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. It has a number of components in it that impact almost exclusively school districts throughout the State. Village of Forsyth also has a provision in there for a voter-approved non-home rule sales tax for school construction. But this is all about schools and this is all about compelling needs. And Village of Forsyth as well as Oak Park, River Forest, Oswego, Lincoln-Way and Ford Heights are all the communities that are impacted by this bill. As we know, our -- our Governor vetoed this bill and we're here to do the right thing. So I ask for your favorable consideration in moving to override the Governor's veto.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Is there any discussion? Any -- any discussion? Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise in strong support of the Senator's motion. As he mentioned, this includes a provision for Oak Park and River Forest high school and grade school districts. I would just simply ask all Members on -- on my side of the aisle, in particular, to join in supporting Senator Cronin's motion. It

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did pass the Chamber with bipartisan support and more than enough votes to override the Governor's veto. So I would simply ask you, if you voted for this in the Veto Session, to again vote to override the Governor's veto. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Any further discussion? Senator Sullivan. Question is, shall the Senate pass Senate Bill 380, notwithstanding the total veto of the Governor. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. Madam Secretary -- the -- the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question -- on that question, there are 44 Ayes, 7 voting Nay, no one voting Present. Senate Bill 380, having received the required majority -- having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor. Senator John Sullivan, what purpose you rise?

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT JONES:

State your point.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

I have a young man here with me today. His name is Grant Flynn. He's the son of one of our Senate staffers, Jeremy Flynn, and his grandparents are in the -- in the gallery as well, Judge Jerry Flynn and his lovely wife, Luana, over here. I'd like everybody to welcome them here to the Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

CBS in Chicago and the Chicago Tribune have asked for leave to videotape and photograph. Leave granted? Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, are there any resolutions?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Yes, Madam President. Senate Resolution 929, offered by Senators Emil Jones, Watson and all Members.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Excuse me, Mr. Secretary. Could I please have everybody's attention? I'd appreciate it if we could keep it down. We're on the Order of Secretary's Resolution 929. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

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Senate Resolution 929, offered by Senators Emil Jones, Frank Watson and all Members.

(Secretary reads SR No. 929)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 929. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Emil Jones, Jr.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. It's somewhat sad as we stand here today in this newly renovated Chamber and our great Secretary of the Senate has decided to leave us. Years ago when I talked with Linda, when I became the Minority Leader, she said -- she asked me, could she stay on? I said, I couldn't think of anything better but having you stay on, and we talked. She said, "You know, I served under former Senate President Tom Hynes. I served under former Senate President Cecil Partee. I served under your favorite President, Phil Rock, and now I'm serving under you." But Linda is an institution in this Body within herself. She's the person that keep this -- this Chamber functioning in a manner that we all appreciate. She's always been there. She can give you the correct answer. She know what's going on - an institution within itself as it relate to Senate operation. Linda, we really appreciate your many, many hard, long years of working. When you come to this Capitol while we're in Session, the first car you'll probably see here is Linda Hawker's. She stays until we're all gone and continued to work to make sure that when we come back the next time everything will be in its proper place. She's done it for all of us, not on a partisan basis. She's the Secretary of the Senate, who has served us so well. Linda, we wish you well in your future endeavors, whatever that may be, but you will always be my Secretary of the Senate. God bless you and thank you for such a tremendous job you've done for all of us.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 929. Is there any discussion? Unfortunately none of the lights are showing up on my platform here, so you may have to... Okay, now it's starting to work. Senator Ronen.

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SENATOR RONEN:

Thank you, Madam President. I'm -- I'm really honored to be here speaking about Linda and it's really with all due respect to all the people who came before her and all that are going to follow. I can't imagine anybody else in the role as Secretary of the Senate. I see her that way. She has really set the -- the bar so high for anybody who comes to -- to try to -- to take her place. And I remember when I first came to the Senate, if it weren't for Linda and Linda's advice and counsel and her -- her great wisdom and steady hand, I -- I think it would have been a lot more daunting for me and I'm sure lots and lots of other -- I'm sure every freshman feels that way as well. So I want to thank you for the wonderful job that you've done, how you've helped me personally, but I also want to say on behalf of -- of women throughout the State what a wonderful, wonderful role model you are and will continue to be - your presence, your stature, your professionalism. It's just you -- you really set a wonderful, wonderful and fine example for young women and young people who are interested in public service. You tell them by your work every day, by your example what it means to be a professional, what it means to be a great public servant and what it means to really care about your job. So thank you for doing all of those things. We're going to miss you very, very much and I'm -- I've got your telephone number in my Palm Pilot, so you're not going to be very far away and I plan on using it a lot. And I look forward to your future professional endeavors. I know they're going to be exciting and interesting.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you very much, Madam President. Personally I could think of someone else I'd rather see up there as Secretary of the Senate. All right, let's relax, we're going to have a good time here. I'm thinking of Scott Kaiser. That means we'd be in charge, right? Okay. But, Linda, you were -- you -- it didn't matter whether you were in the Minority or the Majority. It didn't matter. You were -- you were fair to everybody. Whether it was Jim Harry or Scott Kaiser or whoever it might be, you worked well as a great team and that's important. I think

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those of us, we need to recognize the importance of the two of them working as a team and they did -- they did that and do that. You've been very fair to us - me personally - to all of us on this side of the aisle. We appreciate that. Professionalism was mentioned by Carol and that's -- that's exactly the way I would recognize your work here, is you've been very professional and -- and fair and that's -- that's all that we should ask. And -- and I think all of us -- and I'll have to agree that your car is here often - a lot of times when I come in and when I leave. So you have -- you've -- you've done your work well. This is a difficult time for -- for all of us when -- when we say goodbye. I'm not a good goodbye kind of person. I don't -- I just don't do that well. And I -- but I do appreciate your -- the work you've provided us, and -- and I could tell - and the President mentioned the Chamber here - I can just see a woman's touch in this. It's a beautiful, beautiful facility, fantastic renovation and you should be very proud of that being part of your legacy. To come back here and -- and you can look at this and say I had a big part in this. So, wish you well. I know you'll have success in your next life beyond politics or behind being in the Senate and we all wish you well, Linda, and thank you for your work. And appreciate it very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. I had the privilege of knowing Linda before I got into the Senate, and I got to say, I think the legacy that Linda will hold will be able to be the legacy of taking, as Senator Ronen said, taking freshman Senators and taking their foolish questions and making 'em feel like they weren't stupid, because there were many questions that all of us would ask and I remember even asking, "Where should I sit? How much money do I make?" I mean I -- "Where should my office be?" Various things that I would ask Linda and Linda would never laugh or correct me or do anything of that sort. And she would have a subtle way of saying it to make me feel like I was saying the right thing and doing the right thing all the time, but basically correcting me in a very nice way. And I want to compliment her for doing that, because I never felt foolish after I walked away.

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Maybe a day or two later I would realize how stupid the question was. But Linda never made me feel like that at that time. And I got to say, the direction she gave me was never the wrong direction. She always gave me the advice that was the correct advice for me. And I don't think I would have been able to achieve the things I've been able to achieve in this Senate had not been for her advice. And those were, a lot of times, advice that were not only on the Senate Floor, it might have been off in a room, it might have been off in a parking lot, it may have been off somewhere else, or it may have been a phone call from up north to here, but I always got the right answer. And, Linda, I think your legacy will be of the correct direction for the wayward Senators. And I thank you for that and I thank you for giving me the possibility of giving the right direction for my career and I will always remember that. And I know you will have a great time in retirement. And you did - as Senator Cullerton said, there's four or five ways of getting out of this place - you chose the correct way and I know it will be a great retirement. Thank you for everything.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

Thank you, Madam President. To Linda, I just want to say, thank you from the bottom of my heart. When I came here four years ago, I -- I was very scared of just even being in the room, let alone presenting my first bill, and I know that during the time that I was presenting my bill, I kept looking at you for encouragement. I kept looking at you for strength, because I was really scared as a first -- you know, as a freshman. And pity that the new freshmen that are coming in are not going to have that nurturing mother hen type of, "You know, you're going to be okay", and it's really sad that you're not going to be around with us, you know, but I know you're going to be in our hearts always. I want to just say thank you, 'cause you made it possible for me to feel right at home. Yeah. You made me feel like -- that I grew in the last four years, because every time I did go to you to ask you for a suggestion or -- or even encouragement, you were always there and I will never forget that. I know that my time with you also in the IWIL has been a

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great experience because you have been involved in -- in helping women grow their leadership and you are a true gem for women all over the State of Illinois. So, I want to wish you all the luck. I know we're not going to say goodbye, 'cause I know you're not going to retire. I know you're going to just start now living your life and doing all the great things that I know you'll be able to do. So, congratulations and I will miss you dearly.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, first of all, Linda, you're much too young to retire. I can't imagine you retiring at such a young age. Because I am telling you the truth, I'm eighty-eight and I'm still going strong. So, I just want to tell you that I've always enjoyed talking with you. You've always been very fair and very honorable, and one thing I can honestly say about you, you're a truly professional person with a good heart. There are professional people who have no heart, there are professional people who don't know what they have for a heart, and there are professional people who forget -- we forget very well. All I can tell you is that you have made your mark by you being you - a decent, honorable, caring individual who is willing to help anyone, even a Republican. So I just want to tell you, Linda, I love you dearly. I hope to see you after, because I'm going out, too, you know. So we will get together for dinner, because you are one of the nicest people I have ever met in my life. And I congratulate President Jones for having had you appointed, but I'm sorry to see you retiring, but I -- I can't understand why you would retire so young. But knowing you as I do, you will be doing something else, just like I will too. So God bless you and your family, and it's been a real pleasure knowing you and I'll never forget you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President. Like an airplane with nowhere to land, for twelve years I taxied around the other side of the airport. When it was time to come to the Senate, I can think of no one better suited to give me the kind of safe and reassuring

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landing than Linda Hawker. Linda, your sense of grace, your compassion, your sense of helping others, as a mentor and as a friend, do so much to help us all realize our fullest potential as people - not just as professional politicians, but as people. Linda, you have an innate sense of being able to help everyone become a better person no matter what their station is in this building or outside of this building. Those are very rare qualities to have in a person and those are qualities that you've transmitted in your own way to each and every one of us as we've come to work with you, as we've come to befriend you and as we've come to grow to love you. So thank you, Linda, very much on my own behalf and behalf of everyone else for what you've done, not just institutionally, but more importantly how you've helped all of us grow as individuals. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator John Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam President. Linda, about five years ago when I decided to run for the Senate, I sat down with a -- an individual in my home county, somebody who was a good friend of mine and somebody I really respected, and turned out to be a friend of yours, a lady by the name of Judge Alesia McMillen. And Alesia, after I told her that I was going to run for the Senate, almost the first words out of her mouth were, "Find out who Linda Hawker is, get to know her, listen to her advice, what she tells you will be true and you'll never go wrong." And indeed I did find out quickly who Linda Hawker was, and found out that she's a genuine person, speaks from the heart, gives the best advice that she knows how to do and I want to thank you for that. I'm not going to tell you goodbye because I know that you're favorite pastime and hobby is attending auctions and as you well know with my background in the auction business, I'm sure that we will be seeing each other at a -- at an auction somewhere and trying to find those bargains. So, thank you for your friendship, your advice, your guidance, and best to you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. Many of us have talked about

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Linda's ability here in the Capitol, but my first meeting with Linda was not in the Capitol. It was one of the social establishments that surround the Capitol and it was before I was in the Senate. I was a lowly House Member at the time and we were all discussing political events at that -- that particular event and Linda and I had a little discussion about something. It seems like when Linda got up to go some place, I sat down in her chair, and she came back and says, "Who's that big guy sitting in my chair over here?" Anyway, we got to talking and had a great rapport going and since then, certainly fourteen years in the Senate here, we've done a lot of work together. But, Linda, I want to praise you for your outstanding work as Clerk. You certainly showed bipartisan work for all of us. You were the Clerk for the Senate and we certainly appreciate that. I thank you and I know we all want to give you Godspeed in any ventures that you take on in the future. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam Secretary, I -- I am not surprised that so many speakers have taken as their theme your -- your deft touch in welcoming new Members to the Chamber and it strikes me that I think you have an overwhelming veto-proof majority of Members who were new Members on your watch. So I have little to add, but I wanted to make sure that Oak Park was on record in wishing you God's blessings and Godspeed. We will miss your wisdom. We will miss your judgment. We will miss your temperament and your charm. So, God bless you and I look forward to seeing you often.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate and Linda. I just wanted to quickly say when I arrived here in Veto Session in November of '98, everything was moving so quickly, and coming in so young, I was watching Linda from a seat over there and I was really mesmerized at how fast she was talking. I thought, does anyone ever talk as fast as this woman? What is she saying? And so when the day was over, she approached

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me and said, "Hey, kiddo." And I thought, Hi. And I said, "I am really mesmerized with how fast you're speaking," and she says, "Well, let me give you a suggestion." And I said, "Please." And she says, "Well, if I could, I will let you know not to come down here trying to spread yourself out into many, many, many areas, because you make yourself thin." She suggested that I take one subject that was near and dear to my heart and that I will become good at it. And I believe that Linda gave me the best advice from anyone coming in as a freshman - to be focused and to pick a subject that's near and dear to your heart. And so I want you to know for the past eight years that I've accepted your suggestion and I thank you for it and you're always the person that I call. I know you get tired of hearing from me through the summers, at any time just to call for your opinion, because I value your opinion. And one thing I don't know if I heard anyone say it today, but I just find you to be a very sophisticated lady and... Yes, you are. And I'm just so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve under your capacity and I wish you nothing but God's blessings and thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. I -- I -- so often we work in a place like this and we really don't get to know people personally very well. I -- I would say that Linda -- I know -- I don't know her very well personally. I do -- have watched her now for the last twelve years working in this Body and I -- I guess I would just like to say that she shows a -- unbelievable amount of professionalism. You know, we all have known people that work -- that we've worked with for years and -- and they really -- they -- they're self-motivated. They really don't need someone to tell 'em what to do. They do it and they would do it no matter what. They're there early. They stay late and -- and you are one of those people and that's rare and -- and it -- it's something that you really need to -- to be proud of. You've treated everyone fairly. I suspect you're a Democrat, but you have treated people on this side of the aisle as if we are, you know, are -- as if we are the same as -- on both sides of the aisle. I -- I -- sometime ago, I said to her, "I don't believe

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that the Chamber is going to be ready by the time we meet." She said, "It will be. I'll bet you it'll be ready." And she even wanted to bet money. Can you believe that? But we didn't, we bet -- the spiritual bouquet is what we bet, right? And -- and she won that. One other comment - you know, we do this a lot in this Body. People leave and we give testimony of what -- what great people they are and sometimes I -- I say, "Do I not know that person very well?" Because I hear things that -- that don't sound like I know that fella very well or that gal very well. But let me just tell you, I think today everyone on both sides of the aisle are very sincere about what they're saying, and that you have to feel good about. Congratulations and have a great life from here on out. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Madam President and Members of the Senate. So many of your attributes have already been articulated and I don't know if I have anything else to offer but to say, I felt it would be remiss if I did not stand and acknowledge the beauty of your human spirit. I've found you -- if I -- if I were to put it into a spiritual connotation or context, I would say that you represent the Proverbs 31 woman - a woman of golden and noble character, a woman of personal professionalism and a powerful intellect. I remember coming in as a freshman and just in the way that you gave advice where there's always a kernel of deep-seated knowledge that implied to me that you were not only a woman willing to give so much of her time, patience, perseverance, but also you had a understanding of how we're all connected and how we work together as a group to really perform and to be what we would like to see our public -- servants accomplish in this noble endeavor of governing in a democracy. So, I just thank you so much for being the person that you are. I thank you for all your wisdom. I thank you for your grace. I thank you for your friendship. I thank you for your support and I thank you for gifting me with the beauty of you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

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Thank you, Madam President. Thought you could sneak out on me, didn't you, Linda? Uh huh, yeah. Well, you know, I can't believe I heard your resume. Everything you've done in public service and you never taught school? Because unlike some of you now, I've seen Linda stand in that Well and look at me with one of these, "now, Senator" looks - that stern look of a schoolteacher sometimes. And certainly those of you that know me, know that I like to have a little fun, sometimes at other's expense, sometimes at my own expense. But certainly, Linda, I really have appreciated getting to know you over the years. And the patience that you have with all of us, as has already been mentioned, when we ask questions about certain things, how to do something. And I'm going to miss seeing your smiling face, because I know that every once in a while when we'd get a little raucous, you would look out here and you'd just kind of put that little stern look, but then you'd smile, too. So I appreciate you for that. I appreciate your years of service and what you've brought to this institution of the Senate as well. And hopefully we can carry those types of things on, too. So we appreciate it, and good luck to you and I hope this isn't the last time I see you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. And, Linda, from the heart, I just want to thank you for all the conversations we've had over the last six years when I've been in the Senate. And just listening to everybody here, it becomes very clear that you are a unique woman and that I really believe you're -- you're indispensable. You know, we all hear that nobody's indispensable, but it's going to be hard to replace your time and your talent and your expertise and all the love that you've given us. And from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank you very much, Madam President. Linda, great day, a great time to honor you for your service in this Chamber and for your -- your respect for the institution, for the process and the

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manner in which we do our work. Heard a speaker or someone said to me one time, "I really don't care how much you know, until I know how much you care." And you're the kind of person, as we've talked about here, that truly cares about each one of us as an individual. So I know how much you care and you show that every day and you've showed that to Members on both side of the aisle and we thank you for that friendship. Those of us that have been speaking today were elected to serve, but, you, my friend, were selected to serve, and served well you have. Some us serve to make a difference, some of us serve to make a positive difference, some of us serve in such a way that we make an everlasting and eternal difference and that's the kind of service you've given us here in this Chamber. God bless you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you, Madam President. I just felt that I had to say something, Linda, because you have been so good to all of us. But most importantly, I wanted you to know something from the bottom of my heart. I just can't wait until tonight when Emil Jones is going to have that reception for you, because I'm going to give you a big hug and a warm kiss to tell you how much we appreciate everything you've done for us. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Linda, thank you for all the advice that you've given me since I've joined the Senate four years ago. I do consider you as -- as a mentor. I know that you've been looking out for the best interests of women since I've been here. I'm sure you've done the same thing prior to my coming here. And I am going to miss you. I've learned a lot from you and I just look forward to staying in contact with you. So, thank you. I wish you the best of luck in whatever you do, because I know that you are going to do a wonderful job. So, thank you and God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 929 be adopted.

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All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is unanimously adopted. Committee announcements. Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Energy and Environment Committee will meet at 4:45, in Room 212.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Collins. Light is on, do you wish to speak?
Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Labor Committee will meet at 5 o'clock, in Room 400 - 5 o'clock.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Madam President. Assuming that Senator Forby's committee will be done with its work at approximately 5:15, there will be a Republican Caucus in Senator Watson's office at 5:15.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator. The Senate will stand in recess to the call of the Chair. After committees, the Senate will reconvene to receive committee reports and other matters not requiring Floor action. There will be no Floor action until the Senate reconvenes at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow. The Senate stands in recess till the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate will come to order. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports. Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Message, dated January 7, 2007.

Dear President Jones - Please let this letter serve as notice of my resignation as a member of the Senate Executive Appointments Committee, effective immediately.

Sincerely, David Koehler, State -- pardon me, State Senator, 46th District.

Message from the President, dated January 7, 2007.

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Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Rule 3-1(d), I hereby appoint Senator Debbie Halvorson to replace Senator David Koehler as a member to {sic} the following Senate Committee, effective immediately: Executive Appointments. Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

Senator Forby, Chairperson of the Committee on Labor, reports House Bill 3752 Do Pass, as Amended.

Senator Clayborne, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Energy, reports House Bill 822 Do Pass, as Amended.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 930 and Senate Resolution 931, both offered by Senator Collins and all Members. They are death resolutions, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Resolutions Consent Calendar. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 8:30 a.m., on Monday, January 8th. The Senate stands adjourned.