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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

SESSION OF 2003 187TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 56

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2003

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend STAN WILLIAMS, of New Life Assembly of God, Lancaster, offered the following prayer:

Father in heaven, we come to You today in full recognition of our need for Your help. You are the God who made the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them. Thank You for Your ear that is attentive to our prayer, for what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him. Scripture tells us that there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

I thank You for each Member of this Senate, for their willingness to serve. I pray for the needs that are represented here, and look to You for healing and strength for each Member. I pray for wisdom. Again, you have instructed that wisdom is supreme. Therefore, get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding. We ask for Your wisdom and acknowledge our need for understanding, that we may do the thing that is wise and just, my God.

I pray for Senator John Pippy serving in Iraq, that Your hand of protection will rest upon him and all that he leads. Bring him home safely. Indeed, bring each of our men and women home soon from that place of war. I pray for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and acknowledge Your blessing on this State. There are many reminders of the living God written on the walls and displayed in this edifice of government. We acknowledge that You are God. We give You praise and welcome Your presence in this room.

Thank You, Father, for hearing our prayer. I ask these things in the name of the living God, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Williams, who is the guest today of Senator Wenger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of the preceding Session of September 9, 2003.

HOUSE MESSAGE

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
TO HOUSE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 276**.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I ask for a legislative leave for Senator Rhoades.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill requests a legislative leave for Senator Rhoades. Without objection, that leave will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator O'PAKE asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator BOSCOLA and Senator TARTAGLIONE, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

Senator PIPPY remains on military leave pursuant to Senate Rule XXI(3).

CALENDAR

SB 264 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 264 (Pr. No. 281) – Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 8 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator BRIGHTBILL, as a Special Order of Business.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 264 (Pr. No. 281) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for identification card.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Armstrong	Jubelirer	Orie	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Kasunic	Piccola	Wagner
Conti	Kitchen	Pileggi	Waugh
Corman	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Costa	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Dent	Lemmond	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Earll	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Ferlo	Mellow	Schwartz	Wonderling
Fumo	Mowery	Stack	Wozniak
Greenleaf	Musto	Stout	
Hughes	O'Pake	Thompson	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL WHICH HOUSE HAS NONCONCURRED IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE AMENDMENTS

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 8 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL WHICH HOUSE HAS NONCONCURRED IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 564 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1374, HB 1375, HB 1376, HB 1377, HB 1378, HB 1379, HB 1380, HB 1381, HB 1382, HB 1383, HB 1384, HB 1385, HB 1386, HB 1387, HB 1388, HB 1389, HB 1390, HB 1391, HB 1392, HB 1393, HB 1394, HB 1395, HB 1396, HB 1397, HB 1398, HB 1399, HB 1401, HB 1402, HB 1403, HB 1404 and HB 1405 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 77 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 584 (Pr. No. 646) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for exemptions from other fees.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Armstrong	Jubelirer	Orie	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Kasunic	Piccola	Wagner
Conti	Kitchen	Pileggi	Waugh
Corman	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Costa	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Dent	Lemmond	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Earll	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Ferlo	Mellow	Schwartz	Wonderling
Fumo	Mowery	Stack	Wozniak
Greenleaf	Musto	Stout	
Hughes	O'Pake	Thompson	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1018 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 217 (Pr. No. 246) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for program of continuing professional education.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HB 297 (Pr. No. 2087) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing the Kinship Care Program.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HB 1133 (Pr. No. 1335) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, further providing for definitions, for property held by courts, public officers and agencies and for depositing funds relating to abandoned and unclaimed property.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators SCHWARTZ, WAGNER, MELLOW, EARLL, LOGAN, KUKOVICH, MUSTO, COSTA, CONTI, ORIE, TARTAGLIONE, STOUT, MOWERY, RAFFERTY, O'PAKE, KITCHEN, M. WHITE and WAUGH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 137**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the advancement of an interoperability system for first responders and Federal and State agencies.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Giordano, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hake and to Mr. and Mrs. James Summers by Senator Armstrong.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Reading Alloys, Inc., by Senator Brightbill.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the citizens of the City of Rehrersburg by Senators Brightbill and O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pickering, Corts & Summerson, Inc., by Senator Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ryan Herbinko by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Theresa Mary Cihylik by Senator Dent.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Roaring Run Watershed Association of Apollo by Senator Ferlo.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to R. Jeffrey Robinson II by Senator Hughes.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Father Ed Eckenrode, Zach Shannon, Joseph Payne, Robert Burge and to Shoup's Run Watershed Association of Saxton by Senator Jubelirer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Justin M. Brandt and to the First United Methodist Church of Bridgeville by Senator Jubelirer on behalf of Senator Pippy.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Randy D. Johnston and to Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc., of Somerset by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Sony Technology Center of Mt. Pleasant by Senator Kukovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Emory J. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Myron W. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fiske, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Souder, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Mertes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smeak, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Bamonte and to Dorothy L. Strouse by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the First Church of God of Mechanicsburg by Senator Mowery.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy of Zelenople by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Russell Daniel Isenberg by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Second Baptist Church of Pottstown, 2003 West Norriton Little League Ten Year-Old All-Stars Baseball Team, 2003 West Norriton Little League 11 Year-Old All-Stars Baseball Team and to the 2003 West Norriton Senior Little League Baseball Team by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Morgan J. McGlinsey, Charles I. Faust and to Mary Lomas by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John Francis Tomaselli and to Holy Family University of Bensalem by Senator Stack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chaya A. Scott, Stephen Shay and to the Phoenixville Senior Adult Activity Center by Senator Thompson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Chester County Board of Commissioners by Senator Thompson and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Ann Kearney-Cooke, Brother Mark McBride, Leo Rossi, Michael P. O'Connor, Michael G. Fitzpatrick and to Helen Bailey by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the PennAg Industries Association by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pfizer, Inc., by Senator Wenger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bachman, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fennell, Zachery A. Weber, Kyle Andrew Carney, Blacklick Creek Watershed Association and to Fisher Scientific Company LLC by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the citizens of Philadelphia County who participated in the March on Washington by Senators A. Williams, Hughes, and Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Robert L. DeSilets by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Neff and to the citizens of Lower Milford Township by Senator Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joyce Hodge by Senators Wonderling and Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sister M. Catherine Paff by Senator Wozniak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Irene S. Migrath by Senator Madigan.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Robert Bianchin by Senator Orié.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Constance Williams.

Senator C. WILLIAMS. Madam President, for 6 years now we have been waiting for Congress to take action on a Federal prescription drug program. Fortunately for Pennsylvanians, our PACE program and PACENET have offered relief for many seniors. Over the years, however, as Pennsylvania's population ages and the cost of prescription drugs rises, that safety net has grown smaller and a greater percentage of older Pennsylvanians find themselves unable to afford the medications they need.

A few months ago the House of Representatives unanimously approved a bill to expand PACE. Members of the Senate's Majority leadership have hesitated, waiting for Congress to take action. But last month's hearing of the Senate Committee on Aging and Youth served to put those reservations to rest. Not one of the expert witnesses who testified could provide a single reason to postpone action on House Bill No. 888. In fact, the witnesses were virtually unanimous in agreeing that Pennsylvania's seniors cannot afford to wait for expanded prescription coverage. Every objection has been answered. The Bush administration's own expert on the subject confirmed that neither proposal before Congress, nor any proposal in the last three Sessions, would require maintenance of effort on the part of the States. In other words, Pennsylvania would not be forced to continue the same level of spending and forego Federal dollars. Far from providing for any benefit for the seniors of Pennsylvania, the delay has in fact caused the State millions of dollars by postponing the cost-saving measures of this legislation, most importantly, the best price provision that would allow Pennsylvania to receive the lowest possible price on prescriptions.

Madam President, the path is clear for the Republican leadership to make good on their promise to have an expanded prescription program in place by January 1, but the door leading to that promise is closing fast. The Department of Aging needs time to inform seniors of their eligibility and to enroll new participants. Having a program in place will be meaningless unless seniors are prepared to take part.

Shortly before the House unanimously approved House Bill No. 888, Members of both parties joined together to praise the legislation saying it was the right thing to do. Now that the barriers, real and imagined, have been lifted, we should act in the same spirit of bipartisanship and move this legislation forward.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Madam President, nearly 3 months ago the House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation to extend prescription drug coverage to up to 100,000 more Pennsylvania senior citizens. This legislation was praised by Members of both Chambers, Republicans and Democrats alike, who called for its immediate passage in the Senate. One of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle at the time said, I would say it is an opportune time to act, and it appears strong bipartisan effort is emerging. Another said, it is really not a big challenge to get people to say this is the right thing to do, and the bill would probably enjoy success in the Senate. The bad news, of course, is success in the Senate has been delayed over concerns about how the Federal benefit would affect Pennsylvania. The good news, however, is that witnesses at last month's hearing of the Committee on Aging and Youth on House Bill No. 888 have allayed those concerns. Pennsylvania faces no potential harm in acting immediately to expand prescription drug coverage. In fact, the delay in implementation of the expansion cost-saving measures is costing Pennsylvanians tens of millions of dollars, while at the same time, tens of thousands of Pennsylvania senior citizens still are denied access to affordable medication.

We have been promised in this Chamber that expanded prescription programs will be in place by January 1. But unless we act now, seniors will not be able to take advantage of this expansion. Waiting for Washington is no longer an acceptable excuse for a delay. What happens in Washington can enhance our expanded PACE program if we join with other responsible leaders and urge Congress to retain that provision. Even under the best possible scenario, any prescription benefit added to Medicare will not be available for another 3 years. I doubt any of us, faced with a possible life-threatening illness, would even consider waiting 3 years to seek some kind of treatment. We should not either.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Piccola.

Senator PICCOLA. Madam President, I have remarks on another topic.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman is in order.

Senator PICCOLA. Madam President, I would like to remind the Members of the Senate that tomorrow marks a very important date in our nation's history. Tomorrow is September 11, 2003, and it marks the second anniversary of September 11, 2001 when our country found itself under attack in New York, Washington, D.C., and right here in Pennsylvania. I am hopeful that not only the Members of the Senate but every Pennsylvanian will mark this anniversary date not only in their hearts and in their minds, but by doing something appropriate and fitting for the anniversary. Many churches around this Commonwealth have established September 11 as a date for an extra worship service, a worship service to thank God for all that we have in this country

and to invoke his blessing upon this nation and the protection of this nation in the future. We have to remember, Madam President, that 2 years ago war was declared upon this country, and to this day, we continue to wage war to protect our country, our citizens, and our freedom from that war that was declared upon us. This is a war unlike any other war that we have experienced. The enemy is difficult to see, difficult to find, difficult to root out and to capture and to eliminate. But it is a war that absolutely has to be fought. It is a war that we absolutely have to win, because if we back down, Madam President, it will be a signal, a signal to the rest of the world that this country is not willing to stand for the principles that we were founded upon, not willing to stand for the freedom that we enjoy, not willing to protect ourselves and our citizenry, only willing to hunker down into our bunker and protect our individual self-interest.

Madam President, I urge every Member of the Senate, every citizen of Pennsylvania to remember tomorrow what happened 2 years ago and to commemorate that date in a very appropriate way.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Schwartz.

Senator SCHWARTZ. Madam President, I rise also to speak maybe more specifically about the anniversary of 9/11. Just a few minutes ago we passed a resolution that I introduced that called on Congress to continue to help Pennsylvania and other States in making sure that Homeland Security includes preparedness at the State and local levels. There is no question that as we remember 9/11, we first should remember those who lost their lives and their families, many of whom are continuing to suffer and at the same time trying to move on with their lives. That comes first. Certainly, it has changed all of our lives in the anticipation of the possibility that in fact another terrorist attack could happen. It has also made us aware that we have much to do in this country to not only prepare for such an attack but to be better prepared for any kind of catastrophic situation, and it has made us both more respectful and more attentive to those first responders, and I am talking about law enforcement, firefighters, and also those in the public health arena who need to be prepared should there be any kind of chemical attack or other kinds of hazardous materials. And we have seen in Pennsylvania, all of us, both at the State level we have provided some additional funding and greater attention on a local level to training of first responders, making sure that law enforcement is prepared, and also to our public health community. And I participated in making sure that there were some dollars available to our State laboratories, for example, in making sure that we could respond and analyze any kind of public health situation that we might have. A hospital in my own district has put dollars into emergency rooms, making sure that they have the kind of equipment that is necessary. But the resolution that I introduced today called on Congress to continue to attend to the issues of Homeland Security on the national level and also to recognize the financial needs of our State, particularly during the tough economy that we are in, the fact that our State revenues are lower, and that is true for many of our local municipalities as well.

One of the major issues that confronted us after 9/11 in terms of what happened at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., was that

the ability of our first responders to communicate with each other across jurisdictional lines was in fact very difficult. The police in the District of Columbia did not have an easy way to communicate with the Capitol Police on the morning of 9/11, just to state one example. We have done some work in this Commonwealth through PEMA—Madam President, you may be aware of some of this work through your relationship to PEMA—to make sure that there is the ability to communicate across municipalities and across counties and with the State, even if our phone lines go down. As you know, in Pennsylvania we have thousands of municipalities, thousands of volunteer fire companies. It is an extraordinary task for them to simply communicate with each other. So one of the specific aspects of the resolution that we passed just a few minutes ago was to call on the Federal government to assist States in making sure that what is known as interoperability is something that we make sure we are doing well and doing efficiently in Pennsylvania.

So as those of us who remember in a more emotional way what happened on 9/11, and while it has changed the nature of some of our fears for ourselves and our families and maybe even our own home preparedness, certainly it has changed the world. We do know from a financial point of view it has put the country in a situation where the President has asked for an additional \$87 billion to be spent out of Federal taxpayer dollars for the ongoing efforts in Iraq, that is on top of what has already been spent. We need to make sure that there are resources here at home to be prepared.

And so I thank my colleagues for supporting the resolution that we passed today. I look forward to working with them in the future on our State's preparedness, and I also want to acknowledge those first responders who every day are going through the kind of training and preparation to keep us safe. We hope to prevent any kind of future catastrophe. That is certainly important, but also certainly to be prepared for all of us to respond and to save lives in case of any kind of either natural or human-made catastrophe in the future. So as we approach the anniversary of 9/11, I thank my colleagues for recognizing the important work that gets done every day in making sure that we are well prepared for our citizens in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Schwartz, for your explanation of your 9/11 resolution.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Orie.

Senator ORIE. Madam President, tomorrow our nation will mark the second anniversary of September 11, 2001, the terrorist attacks on America, with a day of prayer and remembrance. We will also pay tribute to the countless heroes whose selfless acts saved the lives of so many other Americans, and also to confirm our national resolve and unity which blossomed from the destruction in New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The terrorists planned to strike at what they considered the three most important strengths of America. They wanted to attack our financial center, which leads the world economy. They wanted to strike at our military, which is the mightiest and the strongest in the world, and they wanted to attack our government, our President, and destroy the Capitol building or the White House, which is symbolic of freedom and democracy across the

globe. These terrorists succeeded in attacking and bringing down the Twin Towers, the buildings where so much of our business and financial markets were conducted, but they did not and they could not destroy the economy. These terrorists succeeded in damaging the Pentagon, the mighty building which is the hub of our military defense operations at home and abroad, but they did not even scratch the surface of our military capabilities. And finally, these terrorists tried to make one final attempt to attack our President and destroy the Capitol or the White House.

But just 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, that all changed with the brave insurrection of the passengers and crew members aboard United Flight 93, which was hijacked enroute from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco. The passengers and crew of Flight 93 fought back against the terrorists and prevented further destruction like which was wrought in New York and the Pentagon. They became our first citizen soldiers in the war on terrorism. These heroes became a shining light of hope for our nation on one of the darkest days of history. Instead of attacking our government, the terrorists' weakened blow fell upon the heartland of America and upon the hearts of all Americans in rural Pennsylvania. Instead of making our nation weaker, that blow gave us hope and strength. We knew that our nation and its citizens would not idly watch destruction of our cities, communities, and families. We would fight back, stop the terrorists at any price. President Bush defined it aptly when he stated Flight 93 redefines sacrifice for me. If a handful of people would drive an airplane to the ground to save either me, the White House, or Congress, you know there are others in this country who are willing to make that sacrifice. The passengers and crew of Flight 93 epitomize the American spirit. In their final hours, they summoned every great attribute of Americans: patriotism, courage, strength, leadership, commitment, pride, and determination and used them to bring down the terrorists. The country and the world mourn the loss of these great men and women, but we thank God each day for their lives and their sacrifice.

September 11 will never be a regular day again for any of us who lived through these anxious hours, weeks, and months. Life will never be the same. September 11 will go down in American history as one of America's darkest days, but a day in which heroism permeated in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Shanksville. Heroism began with the victims of September 11 and the thousands of stories which displayed men and women's courage in the extremes of adversity when they knew they were facing death. Pictures of firemen, police, and emergency service personnel rushing toward and climbing the World Trade Center towers to help victims with fierce courage to save their fellowmen are forever imbedded in our memories. Ordinary citizens, mothers, fathers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, performing extraordinary acts of heroism on behalf of their fellow men and women will forever be imbedded in our hearts. Heroism permeates the United States today marking the second anniversary of our United States soldiers and our fellow colleague, Senator John Pippy, stationed across the world fighting terrorism, American soldiers bravely and selflessly fighting for our freedom and for the power to make a difference in the world and to make the world a better place.

Two years after the terrorist attacks on America, our nation is still finding out what it is made of. It has been said that adversity

introduces a man to himself. Through adversity we find strength and a sense of unity and appreciation for one another and our country. Indeed, we are a more unified nation today than we were a year ago. We can honor those who were killed on September 11, 2001, and those who are fighting against terrorists today, our troops, by working to preserve America's newfound unity. If each September 11 begins as a day to recommit ourselves to national unity, then we will have truly turned that day into something positive. We will have added a meaning to the mourning. America is defending itself. It is on guard against enemies from outside and within. We are determined. We are unified. One way we were able to contribute is through the Hearts of Steel campaign, which has raised more than \$1 million to erect a permanent memorial to the heroes of Flight 93. Many groups, individuals, and businesses across Pennsylvania took part in this bracelet project.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the House and the Senate, specifically President pro tempore Bob Jubelirer, the late Speaker Matt Ryan, and Senator Kasunic for their unwavering support throughout this campaign. The many people and organizations who worked so hard to raise funds for this memorial should be proud of what they accomplished. We are now in the process of putting this in a trust so a national monument can be built for our national heroes. The Hearts of Steel bracelets were symbolic in that they were made of stainless steel, and like stainless steel, the American spirit was made stronger through the fire of these attacks. Like stainless steel, the American spirit cannot tarnish, cannot taint, cannot bend.

I will conclude by stating the words of President Abraham Lincoln spoken at the dedication of the cemetery for the soldiers of the Civil War who died in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, because they ring true 150 years later: (*Reading*)

The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

They are heroes for our generation and for many generations to come. May we always remember those who were lost, may our nation remain forever united, and may God bless America.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Wagner.

Senator WAGNER. Madam President, as a follow-up to my colleague's comments, I briefly want to offer my compliments and congratulations to Senator Orie for all her activism to raise money to build a memorial at Shanksville. It really has been an outstanding effort. I simply add that all of us received a note that there is a memorial service tomorrow in Soldier's Grove at 10 a.m., and it is open to the public. The Governor's Office is asking that people arrive by 9:40 a.m., and it is certainly open to State employees and the residents of central Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Wonderling.

Senator WONDERLING. Madam President, I also rise, along with my colleagues, perhaps to offer personal reflection as we spend the day tomorrow in reflection, as we should as Pennsylvanians. I was about three-quarters of a mile from the Pentagon on September 11, 2 years ago when the attack hit, and since that day my life and the lives of all Pennsylvanians have changed for the foreseeable future. I ask my colleagues and the citizens of this Commonwealth, Madam President, that as we reflect tomorrow, we also remain firm in our resolve that this will be a long endeavor, that the enemy wants to destruct and destroy our democratic system, rooted in Judeo-Christian values.

The very first casualty in the war in Iraq was a constituent of mine from Williams Township in Northampton County. I hope, and I think it is our prayer and promise, that casualties of the war will continue to decrease. But in many respects, all of us, whether we are here or in Afghanistan or in Iraq, to some extent are in harm's way. A lot has happened in the last 2 years - a total and historic revamping of the Federal government, a new role for this Commonwealth in working with the Federal government and Homeland Security, and finally, and unfortunately after a tragedy, tools and resources for our first responders.

So, Madam President, I rise in recognition of Senator Orie and my colleagues in reflection upon tomorrow and in the hope of a greater resolve in the days and months and the years ahead.

Thank you, Madam President.

HOUSE MESSAGE

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in the resolution from the Senate, entitled:

Weekly adjournment.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

HB 276.

ADJOURNMENT

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, September 15, 2003, at 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 11:46 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.