

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006

SESSION OF 2006 190TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 33

SENATE

TUESDAY, May 2, 2006

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. WILLIAM HESS, of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, offered the following prayer:

Will you join me in prayer.

Lord God, we are inspired by the psalmist's words, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell in it. We thank You for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which, from our birth, over and around us lies. We lift our hearts in grateful praise. The heavens and the earth declare Your glory, O God, for those with eyes to see, hearts to feel, and minds to comprehend the majesty of Your creative hand.

We are especially grateful this day for our beautiful Commonwealth on this gorgeous spring day. From Erie to Philadelphia, from Wilkes-Barre to Washington, from the Allegheny forests to the Laurel Mountains, from the Poconos to Pymatuning, to the top of dear old Mt. Nittany, from industrial valleys to Amish farmlands, from vibrant cities to quiet mountain retreats, You have given us the blessing of a land flowing with milk and honey. We are so blessed to be citizens of this sacred land. Inspire in us a holy passion to be good stewards of Your creation. What You have passed on to us from our ancestors, may we pass along to our children and our children's children. Give Your legislators a holy passion and a solid understanding to make wise decisions to care for this sacred ground, William Penn's holy experiment.

Loving God, we thank You for the wonder of each hour of the day and night, hill and vale, tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light. Lord of all, indeed, we raise this our prayer of grateful praise. We pray for these elected officials. Make them wise. Help them to gather together their individual knowledge and experience in such a way that when they deliberate together, when they make momentous decisions that affect millions of lives, that their corporate decisions might be led by a wisdom greater than that possessed by anyone. We the people place our trust in them, O God. We ask that You would make them trustworthy. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Hess, who was the pastor of the late Senator Robert Thompson.

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 May 1, 2006.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the preceding Session, when, on motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, further reading was dispensed with and the Journal was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

**RECALL COMMUNICATIONS
LAID ON THE TABLE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and laid on the table:

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF NURSING**

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Nora Peterman 4634 Larchwood Avenue, Philadelphia 19143, Philadelphia County, Eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve until December 10, 2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Nathan Hershey, Pittsburgh, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated

February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Robert A. Ginsburg O.D., Jamison, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated March 3, 2006, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, [data missing] as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Kurt J. Moody, O.D., Dallas, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Stephanie Moore, 40 Red Barberry Drive, Etters 17319, York County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Blair County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Gregory Murawsky, Altoona, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 24, 2006, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Northumberland [sic] County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2006, and

until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Arthur Panzini, Easton, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Northumberland County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2007, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Frederick Hawk, Sunbury, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 1081** with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

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 recess.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator GREENLEAF, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the following bills:

SB 772 (Pr. No. 1778) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, repealing Access to Justice Act expiration provision.

SB 1026 (Pr. No. 1779) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the definition of "sexual abuse or exploitation," for persons to report suspected child abuse, for immunity from liability and for referral for investigations.

SB 1140 (Pr. No. 1588)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, imposing a central or regional booking fee on criminal convictions to fund the start-up, operation or maintenance of a central or regional booking center.

SB 1172 (Pr. No. 1662)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, imposing a district attorney justice fee for convictions.

SB 1205 (Pr. No. 1766)

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for insurance proceeds intercept; and further providing for State disbursement unit.

HB 214 (Pr. No. 4042) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for payments to family and funeral directors; and providing for autopsies.

HB 1112 (Pr. No. 3212)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of corrupt organizations; providing for the offense of trafficking in persons; further providing for order authorizing interception of wire, electronic or oral communications; and providing for sentencing for trafficking of persons and for criminal forfeiture.

Senator RAFFERTY, from the Committee on Law and Justice, reported the following bills:

SB 1200 (Pr. No. 1713)

An Act amending the act of October 10, 1974 (P.L.705, No.235), known as the Lethal Weapons Training Act, further providing for certification.

HB 2376 (Pr. No. 4040) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, further providing for the prohibition of interlocking businesses; and prohibiting the use of alcohol vaporizing devices.

HB 2383 (Pr. No. 4041) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, requiring the Bureau of Alcohol Education to make certain reports to the General Assembly.

Senator MADIGAN, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bill:

HB 2304 (Pr. No. 3228)

An Act designating the bridge carrying State Route 1025 over Interstate 79 in North Strabane Township, Washington County, as the Canon-McMillan Alumni Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Stout, and a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Wozniak.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Mellow requests a legislative leave for Senator Stout, and a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Wozniak. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

May 2, 2006

A PETITION

To place before the Senate the nomination of Nora Peterman as a member of the State Board of Nursing.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby request that you place the nomination of Nora Peterman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a member of the State Board of Nursing, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert D. Robbins
David J. Brightbill
Jeffrey E. Piccola
Noah W. Wenger
Robert C. Jubelirer

May 2, 2006

A PETITION

To place before the Senate the nomination of Sam Cohn as a member of the State Board of Optometry.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby request that you place the nomination of Sam Cohn, Mountville, Pennsylvania, as a member of the State Board of Optometry, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert D. Robbins
David J. Brightbill
Jeffrey E. Piccola
Noah W. Wenger
Robert C. Jubelirer

May 2, 2006

A PETITION

To place before the Senate the nomination of Julia Glover Hall as a member of the Board of Pardons.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby request that you place the nomination of Julia Glover Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a member of the Board of Pardons, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert D. Robbins
David J. Brightbill
Jeffrey E. Piccola
Noah W. Wenger
Robert C. Jubelirer

May 2, 2006

A PETITION

To place before the Senate the nomination of Stephanie Moore as a member of the Blair County Board of Assistance.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby request that you place the nomination of Stephanie Moore, Eppers, Pennsylvania, as a member of the Blair County Board of Assistance, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert D. Robbins
David J. Brightbill
Jeffrey E. Piccola
Noah W. Wenger
Robert C. Jubelirer

May 2, 2006

A PETITION

To place before the Senate the nomination of Sam Cohn as a member of the Northampton County Board of Assistance.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby request that you place the nomination of Sam Cohn, Mountville, Pennsylvania, as a member of the Northampton County Board of Assistance, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert D. Robbins
David J. Brightbill
Jeffrey E. Piccola
Noah W. Wenger
Robert C. Jubelirer

May 2, 2006

A PETITION

To place before the Senate the nomination of Sam Cohn as a member of the Northumberland County Board of Assistance.

TO: The Presiding Officer of the Senate:

WE, The undersigned members of the Senate, pursuant to section 8 (b) of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby re-

quest that you place the nomination of Sam Cohn, Mountville, Pennsylvania, as a member of the Northumberland County Board of Assistance, before the entire Senate body for a vote, the nomination not having been voted upon within 15 legislative days:

Robert D. Robbins
David J. Brightbill
Jeffrey E. Piccola
Noah W. Wenger
Robert C. Jubelirer

The PRESIDENT. The communications will be laid on the table.

CALENDAR

SB 809 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 809 (Pr. No. 1020) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 2 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator BRIGHTBILL, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 809 (Pr. No. 1020) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 103, No. 69), known as The Second Class Township Code, further providing for the duties of township supervisors.

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-48

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Orie	Tartaglione
Boscola	Hughes	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Pileggi	Vance
Browne	Kasunic	Pippy	Washington
Conti	Kitchen	Punt	Waugh
Corman	LaValle	Rafferty	Wenger
Costa	Lemmond	Regola	White, Donald
Earll	Logan	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Madigan	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Ferlo	Mellow	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Fontana	Musto	Stack	Wonderling
Gordner	O'Pake	Stout	Wozniak

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.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FORMER
SENATOR ROBERT J. THOMPSON**

The PRESIDENT. As a special order of business, at the request of Senator Brightbill, we will now proceed to the memorial service for former Senator Robert J. Thompson of Chester County. The service will be opened with prayer. Prayer will again be offered by our Chaplain of the Senate, Reverend Dr. William D. Hess, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. WILLIAM HESS, of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, offered the following prayer:

Will you pray with me, please.

Loving God, we are thankful for the one who taught us to sing, for the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. This day we remember our friend above, our loved one, our neighbor, our colleague, our friend, Senator Robert Thompson. We were all blessed to have known Bob, for his friendship was sincere and his kindness of heart bridged the barriers of our human institutions. We remember how much he cared for all of the citizens of this Commonwealth, and we are touched by how deeply he loved his family. Be with Nancy and all members of that family today, and grant them Thy peace. May all who have come here today be a witness to them of our love for Bob and our continuing love for them.

God of grace, before whom generations rise up and pass away, we praise You for all Your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with You. Today we remember Your servant, Bob Thompson. He was an instrument of Your peace. Where there was pain, he sought to bring healing; where there was discord, he sought to bring harmony; where there were serious problems, he sought to find solutions. He consistently inspired us by living out his faith as a good Samaritan. Lord, You know better than we do of Bob's passionate convictions, his loyalty to his party, his love of everything associated with Penn State, his faithfulness as a Presbyterian elder, his concern for his constituents in southeastern Pennsylvania, and far above all of these, his love of family and friends. We trust that he has earned his Master's rewards, those simple words, yet so profound: well done, good and faithful servant.

Give us such faith, that by day and night and in all times and in all places, we may, without fear, trust those who are dear to us to Your never-failing love in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Hess.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 298 ADOPTED

Senators JUBELIRER, BRIGHTBILL, MELLOW, RAFFERTY, PILEGGI, ERICKSON, WENGER, ARMSTRONG, BOSCOLA, BROWNE, CONTI, CORMAN, COSTA, EARLL, FERLO, FONTANA, FUMO, GORDNER, GREENLEAF,

HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LaVALLE, LEMMOND, LOGAN, MADIGAN, MUSTO, O'PAKE, ORIE, PICCOLA, PIPPY, PUNT, REGOLA, RHOADES, ROBBINS, SCARNATI, STACK, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON, VANCE, WASHINGTON, WAUGH, D. WHITE, M.J. WHITE, A. WILLIAMS, C. WILLIAMS, WONDERLING and WOZNIAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 298**, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION

Extending condolences on the passing of the Honorable Robert J. Thompson, Member of the Senate of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Senator Robert J. Thompson, who dedicated more than 30 years to public service, died on January 28, 2006, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson, a lifelong resident of Chester County, began his public service career in 1970 as a member and chairman of the West Goshen Township Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson was a journalist, a public affairs executive, the founding executive director of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce and the first president of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson served on the Chester County Board of Commissioners from 1979 to 1986, including four years as chairman; and

WHEREAS, In 1995 Senator Thompson was elected to the Senate from the 19th Senatorial District which is now comprised of parts of Chester and Montgomery Counties; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson was in his fourth consecutive term at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson became one of the most respected and beloved members of the Senate and was known for his keen sense of humor, sharp wit and his love of life; and

WHEREAS, In 2001 Senator Thompson was elected to serve as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee where his calm demeanor and fair treatment of the complex and difficult issues that surround budgetary matters gained him the respect and admiration of all involved in the budgetary process; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson faced his personal medical challenges with the same optimism that he shared in all facets of his public and personal life; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson was a devoted husband to his wife, Nancy Blackman Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson and his wife made community service a cornerstone of their life together; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson was the proud father and grandfather to daughters Amy and Missy and grandchildren Curtis, Andrew, Brendan and Sophia; he was preceded in death by his son Andrew; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson's remarkable wit, innate sense of decency and integrity and eternal optimism will be sorely missed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate express profound sorrow over the loss of this outstanding public servant; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate express gratitude for the service rendered, optimism ever present, and genuine friendship shared; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate extend condolences to the family of a cherished colleague, the Honorable Robert J. Thompson, and direct that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to his family.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Jubelirer.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Madam President, members of the Thompson family and friends, my colleagues in the Senate of Pennsylvania and from the House of Representatives, as well as those who are here from the Council of State Governments, to all who are here today, and those who could not be here who were beloved supporters of Bob Thompson. At the memorial service for Bob Thompson, his dear friend, Howard Stevens, did an amusing sequence about the many different positions Bob held and the penchant of people to have regularly scheduled retirement parties when he left. As a Senate, we treasure the 10-plus years Bob was here. We want the record to forever reflect certainly how much productive time he spent here, surely how much he did here, but most importantly, how much he meant to each and every one of us. It says a lot about the kind of man Bob Thompson was, that every reflection was laced with his character. His intelligence, his sincerity, his integrity, these qualities were apparent and admired. If friendships are the true measure of success, I do not know of a wealthier man than Bob Thompson. While public service was clearly a joy to Bob, his contributions far, far outweighed his reward. His wry humor, his decency and warmth, his fundamental optimism, made this a better place for all of us.

Bob Thompson had a lot of heart. He was a kind heart. He was a kind heart in his understanding of different people with different needs. He was a generous heart. He was a generous heart in the way he gave of his time and talents to many good causes. He was a strong heart. He was a strong heart in the manner in which he was not reluctant to make tough decisions, nor to justify them to some pretty tough audiences. He did not wear it on his sleeve, but he was a man of faith, deeply committed to his own church. He also built bridges across denominations, but his faith was not just there in the religious sense, because he had faith in his family, faith in his community, and faith in our democratic system.

Without question, he was a team player. His marriage to Nancy was a team effort. His community involvement was a team effort, and his Senate service reflected the strength of the team approach. In baseball, the old Yankee, Tommy Henrich, was called "Old Reliable" for some great Yankee teams. Bob Thompson was the "Old Reliable" of our team. The chairmanship of the Committee on Appropriations is one of the more formidable assignments we have here. It involves saying "no" an awful lot. Bob did not like to disappoint, but he was able to draw the line without drawing dislike. People knew he was fair. He was thoughtful. He was reasonable, and they respected his judgment probably more than they would have of others. He was, frankly, as good as they come, using honesty and wit to disarm hostility and to deflate over-active egos. He had no doubt that ours is a daunting set of responsibilities, but he also realized that the fate of the universe was not riding on every decision, every bill, or every news conference. He could see the sublime silliness in politics as readily as the seriousness. His classic collection of neckties captured the lightheartedness of everyman's side, and let me say, like all of you, I am so proud, Nancy, thank you for the Snoopy tie I am wearing today. I will treasure it. It means a great deal to me, and it does to every other person who has one of his ties on today.

His rooting interests were no mystery. It is not hard to imagine that he has by this time worked a WAM for a new sound system in heaven, so that every so often they can all hear and appreciate the Nittany Lion roar.

Bob made a lot of good decisions in life, but none better than the choice of his wonderful partner for life. He and Nancy had the kind of special relationship that they make movies and write books about, and that we too rarely see in real life. He was proud of her accomplishments, far more proud than he was of his own. Bob Thompson provided that one did not have to be bombastic, cutthroat, or ambitious to leave a big imprint here. He was the same guy at home. Those footprints will never be washed away. We may never see again, we may never see again the kind of community outpouring of affection and respect as there was during the memorial service in West Chester.

So many times I look at the desk behind me where he sat. Often I can still hear the trademark chuckle, the conversations that we used to have, and he would undoubtedly offer some self-deprecating lines to spice the service. Would he ever.

Bob Thompson will not be back tomorrow, but his memory will be, because, as he would say, if God is willing and the creek does not rise, because, as we will put it, he was a dear friend, a dear special friend to each and every one of us, and a memorable man we shall recall and revere always. God rest his soul.

Now let me introduce the video of our beloved colleague.

(Whereupon, a video was presented in remembrance of Senator Robert J. Thompson.)

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. That was beautiful. Thank you, Nancy, for my tie.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, congenial, gracious, dedicated, humble, fair, these are some of the qualities that we will remember on this side of the aisle about our departed friend, Senator Bob Thompson. He was a true statesman in our midst. While he served in this body for just over 10 years, his talent as an experienced public servant expands more than three decades from his service as a local township supervisor and chairman of the West Goshen Township Board of Supervisors and as a county commissioner and chairman of the Chester County Commissioners. It was in that sense that he brought to this body a firsthand knowledge of how the decisions we make here in Harrisburg impact on our government partners at the county and local level, and most importantly, impact on the citizens in the local communities we all represent.

As the first president of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry and the founding executive director of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce, Senator Thompson also had a keen interest in the affairs of Pennsylvania's job-producing businesses and in improving and promoting our State's economic competitiveness. Senator Thompson was not only highly respected and loved here in Pennsylvania, but he was respected by his peers in government in neighboring States and around the country, so much so that the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments recently named its annual leadership training academy in Senator Thompson's memory, to honor his commitment to the highest standards of public service, and

Allen Sokolow, the executive director of the Eastern Regional Conference of State Governments, is here today to also pay his respects.

Senator Bob Thompson was one of the good guys. He was honest, straightforward, and served his constituents with integrity and honor. He was a gifted writer and photographer for the old Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, and I treasure the photos he would take at various meetings we attended. Following his graduation from Penn State, Senator Thompson had a love of family, a love of life, and a good sense of humor that endeared him to all who had the good fortune to know him.

As Leo Buscaglia wrote, and I quote, "Too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring - all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Senator Bob Thompson turned many lives around in his dedicated public service. He will be sadly missed here in the Senate, but his good deeds will live on through his loving wife, Nancy, and family.

Madam President, Senator Thompson has gone home to his reward. His life is one we should all emulate. God bless him. I know he is praying for us all.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, this morning, during a prayer offered at a meeting of the Lebanon Rotary Club, reference was made to each person present and to their personal ministry. I never thought of the work we do as a ministry, but it is clear to each of us in our own way, both in our professional and nonprofessional lives, it is a ministry.

For whatever reason, that phrase, when offered this morning, caused me to think about Bob Thompson. His ministry was service to others, finding himself in places where he could help make the world work better. He was well-chosen for his work. He accomplished his ministry here with his wry wit, that ever-present twinkle in his eye, and an infectious laugh that could make you smile even when, at least at that moment, the budget was going up in smoke. He never failed to maintain his sense of humor, even as those around him were losing their composure. I think Senator O'Pake's remarks were well-taken.

Our friend, Senator Bob Thompson, was a man among men, but he was quiet and mannerly. He was never loud, he did not boast, and he kept his own counsel until he knew that he got it, but when it came time, however, he was always there to help the rest of us get it. He showed class and a deep understanding of complex legislative issues. Just as important, he innately understood the people behind those issues, not to mention the economics behind those issues. He relished a good story, and would embellish it each and every time. A story he often told was about the day he went to meet with the Governor for lunch.

(Laughter)

You notice the Members had a chuckle. They met in a small room between the dining room and the kitchen in the Governor's residence. At some point, as Bob told us, the Governor excused himself to let the dogs out. Bob sat and waited for the Governor to return. He could see the Governor through the window in the back yard playing with the dogs, throwing sticks or something. Bob waited, and he waited some more. What is the protocol?

How long does one wait for a Governor who has gone to play with the dogs? The Governor never returned. He never returned, but he did give Bob Thompson and the rest of us a darn good story. Senator Thompson loved telling that story. It was a classic experience and one that we all laughed about for weeks and months to come. Most of us enjoyed having Bob tell the story as much as we actually enjoyed the story itself.

We will miss Bob Thompson. We will miss his wisdom, his integrity, his leadership, and his solid grasp of economic issues, more complex today than ever. What Senator Jubelirer said in his remarks about missing his friend Bob Thompson reminded me of the day I was standing here after Bob passed away, and for some reason Bob caught my eye as he swiveled in his chair and swung around to talk to Bob, and of course, Bob was not there. Senator Jubelirer looked up at me, and I could see in his face that the shock of the loss of Senator Thompson was as strong at that moment as the first time he heard it.

He was Majority Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and he was an integral part of a very complex process. His word was respected and valued each and every day. You could clearly bank on what he told you.

Nancy and his family were so important to him, and he was never more pleased than when he talked about her many accomplishments. When Nancy painted the Violet Oakley mural-based cow for the Cows on Parade campaign for the city of Harrisburg, I thought he was going to burst with pride. Bob never expressed pride in his own accomplishments, and his attitude of himself was always understated. About Nancy, he was exceptionally proud, as he should have been.

Bob faced and conquered the many different issues regarding his personal health with strength and character. He never let something like a new hip or an oxygen tank affect his optimistic and upbeat outlook on life. He had a knack for helping you feel better because of what he was going through. His e-mails, even from bedside, conveyed his dry wit and great humor. We can never hope to replace a man like Bob Thompson. We need to be thankful that he was here on this earth, and that he contributed so greatly to his community and State as a faithful and outstanding public servant. We can only hope that as Bob passed on, another servant will step forth and grab the reins to pull the wagon and keep it moving forward. Bob Thompson would have wanted it to be that way.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I do not want to be repetitive. So many people said so many nice and appropriate things, but I do want to offer my perspectives, having the pleasure of serving an adjacent district with Bob Thompson, and from that perspective, having the opportunity to see him in the district dozens, if not over hundreds, of times.

I first met Bob 4 years ago when I was running in a special election, and being from Delaware County, the district that I represent had extended out in redistricting to include 25 municipalities in Chester County, I made an appointment with him to talk about some Chester County issues. I knew he was the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and he was described to me as the most influential elected official in Chester

County, so I really did not know what to expect when I went to see him in his office in West Chester. I was really taken aback because he was so informal, and I remember he was wearing a pair of old Docksiders, khakis, an open-collared shirt, and could not have been more friendly. We had a long lunch and talked about some of the issues, and he knew every issue inside and out, every personality involved with the issue, and, in fact, had a leadership role in all of the issues that were facing Chester County. As we heard today, he played such an active role in every aspect of Chester County life, it is really hard to imagine that one person could be covering leadership positions in all those facets in government, as chair of Chester County Commissioners, as SEPTA chair, in politics, health care with the Chester County Hospital, social services with the United Way, education with Immaculata and Penn State, and the arts and history. He just had such a tremendous background, and in addition to all that, he managed to be a devoted husband and family man, and I did not know about the carvings until later, and so much more. Every time you looked, there would be a new aspect of his personality, and he brought that all to Harrisburg and continued serving the Chester County community. Skip Brion had referred to him as Chester County's statesman, and I think that is true, but to me what was so remarkable was the combination of such an accomplished and influential man with such a plain-spoken, honest, direct, self-effacing style.

We recently had some attacks on this institution, and certainly the idea of representative government in Pennsylvania, and looking back in history, this is not the first time we have had people expressing such opinions. In 1780, Samuel Adams was encouraging his friend and fellow member of the Continental Congress of Philadelphia to serve in the Massachusetts General Assembly, and I think Adams could have been speaking about Bob Thompson, and I will just read a portion of letter. He was writing to Elbridge Gerry from Massachusetts. He said, "If Men of Wisdom and Knowledge, of Moderation and Temperance, of Patience, Fortitude and Perseverance, of Sobriety and true Republican Simplicity of Manners, of Zeal for the Honor of the Supreme Being and the Welfare of the Common Wealth - If Men possessed of these and other excellent Qualities are chosen to fill the Seats of Government we may expect that our Affairs will rest on a solid and permanent Foundation." Bob Thompson faithfully served Chester County and this Commonwealth, working to build that solid and permanent foundation. The advice, friendship, and example that Bob offered to me and to all of us were priceless. He will be missed.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator FUMO. Madam President, it was my great pleasure and honor to serve with Bob as the Minority Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. First of all, I want to thank Nancy and her family for this wonderful tie. I note that a lot of Bob's ties have flags on them. Mine has money bags, and I think that is appropriate.

I also want to note for the record at this time, since nothing can be done about it, he was always a soft touch. I got a lot out of Bob Thompson that his leaders never knew about, but that soft touch was usually for art things, particularly in the city of Phila-

delphia. He was a friend of the arts, he was a friend of the city, and he recognized the regionalization of southeastern Pennsylvania.

As I said in my remarks, he was very warm person, a very fun person. I remember going to the viewing and saying hello to Nancy, and she remarked that one of the last things he had mentioned, not that it was prophetic or anything like that, but he told her about my hair, about what length it was, and I remember at every meeting that we had he would comment on whether it was long or short that week. I would explain to him it would be a different girlfriend and that would be the problem, and he laughed about it and enjoyed that as well. He was just a terrific person. We worked together a lot, not only in the Committee on Appropriations, but we had common friends back in Chester County, and we worked together in confirming judges.

His attitude and friendliness will be sorely missed. It was he and I who started the first annual Committee on Appropriations bipartisan picnic, and he enjoyed that, and we had Members from both sides of the aisle on the committee come out and enjoy the camaraderie, which is rare in this Chamber sometimes. But despite, as I said, the partisan battles that occurred sometimes, he was always fair, just, a gentleman, and as Senator Brightbill said, one of the good guys, and always will be known as one of the good guys in this Chamber.

To the family, I again offer my condolences, and I offer my gratitude to you for sharing him with us, particularly with me and the committee.

Thank you, and God bless.

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

Senator WONDERLING. Madam President, I think we all agree that this time of year the sunrises and sunsets at dusk are absolutely magnificent. In many respects, I think it reflects on our friend Bob's life, his commitment to public service and to his family and community. The glorious sunrises and sunsets are a metaphor. When the sun rises in the springtime, it gathers in us a renewed sense of hope and energy and optimism, and that was Bob, every day with a renewed sense of hope and energy and optimism. Those of us who attempt to have a green thumb, I do not, but it is in the early morning when the sun is basking that you get your hands dirty and you nurture creation in the living world.

I can speak from experience, because over 20 years ago Bob Thompson reached out to me, a young bright-eyed, bushy-tailed guy right out of college trying to work in a nonprofit environment in southeastern Pennsylvania, and he took the time to nurture me, help me grow and develop in this world of public service. I will never forget that he said, you know, Rob, you cannot work on everything, you just have to work on the right things. To this day I am still trying to figure out what are the right things.

When I was elected to this post in 2002, the first person I went to see was Bob Thompson. He was recovering from surgery at home, and much like my colleague, Senator Pileggi, I was very impressed with the opportunity to go and literally sit in the home of the very powerful chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and I asked, Bob, how do you do it? What is the key to your success? He said, Rob, you have to make sure that you nod properly. That when you nod your head, it needs to be in such a

way that it looks to the person asking for support that you are genuinely interested, but you are not saying "yes." He was a master at that.

What can I say about sunsets? The hue and the soft tones and the color, and quite frankly, a great sunset is one that leaves you speechless and breathless, so I am going to conclude by quoting Sophocles, who said, "One must wait for the sun to set to know how splendid the day has been." In the case of our departed friend Bob, his days were splendid, his life was splendid, his legacy is splendid, indeed.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Lemmond.

Senator LEMMOND. Madam President, I am delighted to help welcome Nancy and her family back to celebrate the life of Bob Thompson. Thank you for his trademark tie. It is still drawing compliments. My staff has not complimented me on my neckwear this year, until this morning, and they love this. He was proud of his collection, he was proud of his family, he was proud of Nancy's prize-winning cow, her beautiful Christmas cards, he was proud that the remodeling of his home finally got completed, and he was most proud of his time together with family.

When he came to the Senate, I was not at all sure about him. I had gone through college with two Bob Thompsons who were very much so-so, and there was a very bad lawyer at home who looked like him, so for 30 years I had a real problem, but when he left us this year, he left as a lifelong friend. He was a friend to all of us. What was it about him? What was the underlying, the underpinning of so much about him? Well, I think that he, like all of us in the Senate, loved the process and the substance of government, and he was good at it. He had a long winning track record in local government, and he hit his stride in the Senate. He did not hit that stride on a big white horse with a sword at the front of the parade, but his style was more steady as you go, and he was sort of a role model for me and for many of us.

One of his secrets was, and I do not know how many knew this, unless you were a Penn State aficionado and knew that he majored in journalism. He was an excellent writer. In January of this year, he wrote to me, e-mailed me on that famous BlackBerry, on this subject, "Quote uttered from my hospital bed used in AP tax reform story over the weekend." And he said, quote, "I know everyone wants instant gratification. But sometimes instant gratification brings on unintended consequences," closed quote. Then he said, "Is that pithy or what? Feel free to use it." So I am sure everybody who wants to use it can. I think it is a Penn State thing--I am not sure where it came from--but at least a Joe Paterno sound alike. He certainly was Penn State proud in all he did.

His greatest achievement, if I were to list them or rank them, I think that on top would be his life as he lived it with vision, his quiet strength, and most of all his unflinching grace under pressure. Bob left such an example of how to live, and he was not just a great man, he was a great gentleman, the consummate gentleman. Bob Thompson certainly was one of our very best, and Nancy said it nicely yesterday, that the ties of friendship are never broken; to which I add, indeed.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair and the Pennsylvania State Senate wishes to thank all the Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives who have taken the time to come over and join us today. Would you all please rise.

(Applause.)

I would also like to thank Allen Sokolow, the executive director of the Eastern Regional Conference of State Governments. Of course, the Senator was so involved with all of you.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Madam President, I just had to get up and finish this off. Nancy did a wonderful job on this tie of mine. Senator Fumo's has money bags on it, but mine has horses and jockeys, and of course, we all remember the great debates for racetracks and my passion for that. As Senator Jane Orié pointed out, it is all the backsides of the horses. So through Nancy, Bob has the last laugh on me on the racetrack issue. I just had to bring that to everyone's attention.

I just want to add that Bob was a great alumnus of Penn State and I am an alumnus of West Chester, and Bob was a wonderful advocate for West Chester and of course the town of West Chester. We shared many, many great friends in that great little town of ours. Many times I would come up here and he would say that he ran into my cousin, Earl Baker, and Betty Mitten, my coach's wife, and Dick Yoder, who is now the mayor, and we had so many wonderful friends from the town of West Chester and West Chester College, and it was just a wonderful treat to chitchat about some of the things that were going on.

As I think about Bob, I think about how successful he was in all of his endeavors, and when you think of his successes at Bolton and Lukens and the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society, I guess it can be broken down to he was just great with people. He was so good with people with his humor and manners and gentleness. He was just a wonderful guy, and I think that is why he was so successful throughout his life and why we are going to remember him forever.

Thank you very much, Nancy.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Wenger.

Senator WENGER. Madam President, it was in the early 1980s that I first got to meet and to know Bob Thompson, and it was at the time when I was first elected to the State Senate and represented a substantial part of Chester County at that time, and of course, Bob Thompson was a county commissioner. I recall, especially in the first year or two that I represented western Chester County, there were so many Grange meetings, and we would get invited to those meetings. My wife and I and Bob and Nancy would invariably be there, and I think we attended Grange dinners, I know we did in Honey Brook, Cochranville, Guthriesville, Russellville, and a lot of other villes throughout Chester County. It was the conversations that we had there that got me to become acquainted with Bob and Nancy Thompson, and perhaps in a more personal way than I might have otherwise. But it did not take me long to learn that Bob Thompson was a man who loved his wife and family, and he loved his church and community, he loved Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and later when he became one of our colleagues here in the Sen-

ate, I observed these positive characteristics even more, just as all of you have.

Bob's office was across the hall from mine. His seat on the Senate floor was just across the aisle from my seat on the Senate floor, and so on days when we were in Session at the State Capitol, we spoke on a daily basis. We talked about our families, we talked about personal interests and things that we all enjoyed, and occasionally we talked about politics.

Now Bob is gone. We miss him. We are saddened. Nancy and family, we express our condolences to you, and we are of course saddened, but we will have good memories of a good and decent man.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Erickson.

Senator ERICKSON. Madam President, some 25 years ago I first met Commissioner Bob Thompson. It was an honor and it was a joy. We worked together over that period of time doing various things. Some of it was related to SEPTA, some very difficult decisions during those days related to economic development, trying to bring development into the southeast. We decided that it would benefit all of us, and Bob was one of the leaders in doing this, to bring the elected officials from the southeast together with the Mayor of Philadelphia, who then was the Honorable Wilson Goode. We would meet periodically, and one time Bob hosted the meeting in Chester County at Longwood Gardens, and the wives were invited to tour Longwood Gardens. Well, lo and behold, the bodyguards guarded the wives as they toured Longwood Gardens with Nancy and the rest of us. The thing, though, that was most striking about Bob Thompson, as you have heard today, he enriched the lives of all the people with whom he came in contact.

Almost every day that I came on the floor of the Senate, I would stop at Bob's desk and say, well, are we going to get anything done today? Ever the optimist, he would say, of course we are, and he would show us how to do it. We will truly miss Bob Thompson. I personally will miss Bob Thompson. He has enriched all of our lives simply by his demeanor and his ability to reach a goal that he saw would benefit mankind.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Senate and Nancy and her family, may I please ask all those who came in tribute to Senator Thompson to please rise so we can thank you. Thank you so much for coming.

(Applause.)

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, on behalf of Bob's predecessor, Senator Earl Baker, I have remarks to present for the record.

The PRESIDENT. The remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared statement was made a part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator BRIGHTBILL on behalf of former Senator BAKER:)

I know my colleagues in the Senate will provide a fitting eulogy to Bob Thompson. Bob Jubelirer knew him since college days, and was a close friend, and many other Senators worked with Bob closely over the years and came to love and respect him, and will, I am sure, fully describe his career and accomplishments. My comments are intended to praise him from the personal perspective of someone whom he knew and with whom he worked in Chester County politics over a generation, as a colleague in the courthouse and as a predecessor in the Senate. Our careers, it seemed, were intertwined in a way that gave us each a strong sense of knowledge and friendship with one another.

It hardly seems possible I am making a tribute to Bob Thompson, because it is still hard to believe he is not with us as a friend, colleague, and ally, as he was to many, and to me, for so long. I am sure it must be the same for Nancy and Bob's entire family, to which he was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, and brother.

It just seemed as if he was always there, doing his job, making his "Bob" comments on things, talking and listening with people, working with others on causes in which he believed and always would, but that was not to be. In this tribute, I want to emphasize Bob, his responsibilities and his unique personal qualities, rather than the many anecdotes which could be told after many memorable years experienced with him in local politics and government.

I first met Bob in Chester County politics in 1974. He had just become a West Goshen Supervisor, and I was active in Malvern and had been elected to the County Government Study Commission. While we both aspired to become county commissioners in 1975, it would not be until 1979 that we would both be elected and serve together for 6 years in the courthouse. There was never a vote taken on which we were not recorded alike. That did not mean we always agreed on everything, although our political philosophies were very close, but that we could always work things out through discussion and compromise. I was happy to have been instrumental in Bob's becoming a member of SEPTA, where he served successfully for many years and where his deep expertise in transportation grew. Many of the policies we adopted, structures we created, and people we appointed survived long past our years of service. It was an important period of county leadership for Chester County that we shared and for which we were rightfully proud, along with the other commissioners and the fine row officers, department heads, and staff with whom we worked over that period.

Bob and I both often talked about how much more "they" should know in Harrisburg about county government, on such topics as tax reform, not an unfamiliar term in the Capitol then as now, and other concerns of county commissioners. So it was fitting that eventually I would be elected twice and Bob three times to the Senate, and that among our other varied interests in the Senate, where Bob rose to become a Member of leadership, we never forgot our concern for county and local government issues.

Bob's personal qualities are what make him memorable, especially because he practiced them in the world of politics. In that world, there are many relationships that are very temporary, Bob's was lasting. There are many deals made with short-term advantage for one side. Bob always wanted to have it work for everyone over the long term. Many wanted to speak, Bob was willing to listen. Pragmatism prevailed, Bob cared about principle. Often people are in a hurry, Bob was patient. In a group that could become cantankerous, Bob used humor. Where common sense was lacking, that was his forte. Thinking about Bob reminds us that our society could not govern itself effectively in a democracy if we did not have Bob Thompson and at least a few people with his qualities.

Nancy and her family are grieving Bob's loss, but how comforting for them to remember Bob as he lived his life, what he did for them, and what he did for others. His many fellow Senators, fellow public officials, his friends, and the public he served can feel the same way. My wife, Jackie, shares my expression of friendship, admiration, and respect for Bob when I say I am proud to have known Bob, to have worked with him, to have been a contemporary in Chester County politics, and to have observed him as he reached the heights of Senate leadership, but most of all, to have been able to know him and appreciate him as a stellar human being.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. Will all Members rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of Senator Bob Thompson.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the late Senator ROBERT J. THOMPSON.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair declares the resolution unanimously adopted.

This concludes our memorial service.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator ROBBINS,

That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of considering a certain nomination made by the Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATION TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I call from the table a certain nominations and ask for its consideration.

The Clerk read the nomination as follows:

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

April 11, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Nancy Gill, 381 Woodland Drive, Parkesburg 19365, Chester County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Chester, Magisterial District 15-3-07, to serve until the first Monday of January 2008, vice Robert E. Gill, deceased.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

On the question,
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator ROBBINS and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Piccola	Vance
Boscola	Hughes	Pileggi	Washington
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Pippy	Waugh
Browne	Kasunic	Punt	Wenger
Conti	Kitchen	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	LaValle	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Lemmond	Rhoades	Williams, Anthony H.
Earl	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Wonderling
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak
Fontana	Musto	Stout	

Fumo	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Gordner	Orie	Tomlinson

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
GUEST OF SENATOR DAVID J. BRIGHTBILL
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, it is not our usual practice, but today we are pleased to have with us the nominee whom we have just confirmed, Nancy Gill, and I ask that she rise so we can recognize and congratulate her with a round of applause.

The PRESIDENT. Would Nancy Gill please rise so we can give you a round of applause.

(Applause.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

RECESS

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus, which will begin immediately. We will be back to run the Calendar, including a Special Session Calendar.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, would the Majority Leader indicate how long he thinks his caucus will last?

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I expect that the caucus will not be longer than about half an hour to an hour. I think it will be a relatively short caucus. All the issues have been discussed many times. We have a couple bills we need to go over.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Thank you, Madam President. I ask the Democrats also to report to our caucus room immediately.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Wozniak has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Stack.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

HB 2319 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 15 (Pr. No. 4008) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Fund, for driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance and for penalties.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

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-47

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Orie	Tartaglione
Boscola	Hughes	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Pileggi	Vance
Browne	Kasunic	Pippy	Washington
Conti	Kitchen	Punt	Waugh
Corman	LaValle	Rafferty	Wenger
Costa	Lemmond	Regola	White, Donald
Erickson	Logan	Rhoades	Williams, Anthony H.
Ferlo	Madigan	Robbins	Williams, Constance
Fontana	Mellow	Scarnati	Wonderling
Fumo	Musto	Stack	Wozniak
Gordner	O'Pake	Stout	

NAY-2

Earl
White, Mary Jo

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 255, SB 691 and SB 1000 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL AMENDED

SB 1114 (Pr. No. 1715) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, further providing for county associations; and authorizing appropriations to counties.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator BRIGHTBILL, on behalf of Senator ROBBINS, offered the following amendment No. A7634:

Amend Title, page 1, line 5, by inserting after "appropriations": by townships

Amend Title, page 1, line 6, by inserting after "counties": for land acquisitions

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1153 and HB 1580 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

HB 2443 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 238 (Pr. No. 1771) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, further providing for fees chargeable by Department of State; and providing for a uniform form.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 153, HB 456, SB 1046, SB 1139, SB 1179, HB 1637, HB 1834 and HB 1992 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 159, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 3 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 159**, entitled:

A Resolution adopting a temporary rule of the Senate relating solely to amendments to the General Appropriation Bill and other appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, including any amendments offered to or for supplemental appropriations for prior fiscal years.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 271, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 4 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 271**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of May 13 through 21, 2006, as "Armed Forces Week" in Pennsylvania and encouraging the observance of May 20, 2006, as "Armed Forces Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

HB 2443 CALLED UP

HB 2443 (Pr. No. 3817) -- Without objection, the bill, which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up, from page 2 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 2443 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR
TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator ROBBINS called from the table communications from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, recalling the following nominations, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF NURSING**

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Nora Peterman 4634 Larchwood Avenue, Philadelphia 19143, Philadelphia County, Eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve until December 10, 2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Nathan Hershey, Pittsburgh, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Robert A. Ginsburg O.D., Jamison, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE**

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Stephanie Moore, 40 Red Barberry Drive, Etters 17319, York County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Blair County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2007, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Gregory Murawsky, Altoona, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY BOARD OF ASSISTANCE**

May 2, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 6, 2006, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Northumberland County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2007, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Frederick Hauk, Sunbury, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I move that the nominations just read by the Clerk be returned to His Excellency, the Governor.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be returned to the Governor.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator ROBBINS,

That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of considering certain nominations made by the Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

**MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING**

April 3, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Bill Ryan, 1729 Ritter Avenue, Bristol 19007, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2008, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH
AND DIAGNOSTIC COMMISSION**

April 11, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, James Henry, 215 Angus Lane, New Bethlehem 16242, Clarion County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF PODIATRY**

March 10, 2006

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Steven J. Collina, M.D., 640 Christopher Lane, Aston 19014, Delaware County, Ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Podiatry, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jonathan B. Tocks, M.D., Mechanicsburg, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

On the question,
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator ROBBINS and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Piccola	Vance
Boscola	Hughes	Pileggi	Washington
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Pippy	Waugh
Browne	Kasunic	Punt	Wenger
Conti	Kitchen	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	LaValle	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Lemmond	Rhoades	Williams, Anthony H.
Earl	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Wonderling
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak
Fontana	Musto	Stout	
Fumo	O'Pake	Tartaglione	
Gordner	Orie	Tomlinson	

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER SR 159

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote by which Senate Resolution No. 159 was adopted. The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator BRIGHTBILL and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Piccola	Vance
Boscola	Hughes	Pileggi	Washington
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Pippy	Waugh
Browne	Kasunic	Punt	Wenger
Conti	Kitchen	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	LaValle	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Lemmond	Rhoades	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Wonderling
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak
Fontana	Musto	Stout	
Fumo	O'Pake	Tartaglione	
Gordner	Orie	Tomlinson	

NAY-0

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

RECESS

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

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, at this time I move to recess the Regular Session of the Senate until the conclusion of the Special Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

HB 2319 CALLED UP

HB 2319 (Pr. No. 4004) -- Without objection, the bill, which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up, from page 1 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED, AMENDED

HB 2319 (Pr. No. 4004) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act prohibiting the use of illegal immigrant labor on projects; imposing powers and duties on executive agencies of the Commonwealth; and providing for remedies.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator SCARNATI offered the following amendment No. A7645:

Amend Sec. 2, page 2, lines 1 and 2, by striking out all of said lines and inserting: of the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth.

Amend Sec. 3, page 2, lines 12 and 13, by striking out "used or have permitted the use of" and inserting: employed or knowingly permitted the

Amend Sec. 4, page 2, line 24, by inserting after "OF": penalty interest calculated as

Amend Sec. 4, page 2, line 25, by inserting after "interest": in the loan agreement and the interest

Amend Sec. 4, page 2, line 27, by inserting after "applies.": The executive agency may also direct repayment of the loan.

Amend Sec. 5, page 3, line 11, by inserting after "pay": penalty interest

Amend Sec. 5, page 3, lines 15 through 21, by striking out "SUBSECTION (A)(1) IF:" in line 15, all of lines 16 through 20, and "(2)" in line 21 and inserting: section 3 if

Amend Sec. 5, page 3, line 23, by striking out all of said line and inserting: required the contractor

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators C. WILLIAMS, WASHINGTON, ORIE, STACK, FERLO, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, WONDERLING, KASUNIC, COSTA, ERICKSON, LOGAN, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY, MUSTO, M.J. WHITE, REGOLA, LEMMOND, BROWNE, PILEGGI, CONTI, STOUT, PIPPY, GREENLEAF, EARLL, WENGER, ROBBINS, FUMO, GORDNER, D. WHITE, O'PAKE, KITCHEN, WAUGH and ARMSTRONG, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 299**, entitled:

A Resolution designating May 14 through 20, 2006, as "Senior Community Center Week" in Pennsylvania and urging citizens to recognize the important role of senior community centers.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator C. WILLIAMS. Madam President, this is quite a day, especially for our seniors. As we just saw, the concern that we all have for our senior citizens, which we are addressing with property tax relief, we have to remember that Pennsylvania has the second largest population of older adults in the country. We are second to Florida. This is great news for older adults, because it means that all levels of government recognize the importance of providing services to them, to help our older citizens live health-

ier, more independent lives. There is a quote that sums up what we think of our senior citizens today, something that Satchel Paige once said, that age is a question of mind over matter; if you do not mind, it does not matter. But we know that having access to programs and services we need as we age will allow us to put mind over matter.

Today I ask you to join me in recognizing one of the most valuable resources for older adults that we have in Pennsylvania, our senior community centers, by declaring April 14 through 20 as "Senior Community Center Week" in Pennsylvania. We are home to more than 650 senior community centers that provide a vast array of activities, programs, and services. I am always impressed with the centers in my district which constantly seem to be evolving and changing to meet the needs of the members. They provide classes in the latest computer technology and give older adults access to a variety of physical fitness programs, arts, and leisure.

I hope that you will join with me today in declaring "Senior Community Center Week" in Pennsylvania and celebrating our older adults.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

Senators C. WILLIAMS, WASHINGTON, ORIE, STACK, FERLO, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, COSTA, KASUNIC, ERICKSON, LOGAN, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY, MUSTO, M.J. WHITE, REGOLA, LEMMOND, BROWNE, PILEGGI, CONTI, STOUT, PIPPY, GREENLEAF, EARLL, WENGER, FUMO, D. WHITE, O'PAKE, JUBELIRER, WONDERLING and ARMSTRONG, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 300**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of May 2006 as "Macular Degeneration Awareness Month."

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

(The following prepared statement was made a part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator C. WILLIAMS:)

Quoting from the Macula Vision Research Foundation founder Herbert Lotman, whose wife, Karen, contracted macular degeneration in 1989, "Most people take their vision for granted until an injury or vision abnormality makes them realize that the ability to see is fundamental to our daily life and an irreplaceable asset."

Today I ask that you help me to get the word out about macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss and blindness in Americans 65 and older, by declaring May 2006 as "Macular Degeneration Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

In macular degeneration, the light-sensing cells of the macula of the eye malfunction and may over time cease to work. People who suffer from macular degeneration lose all but their peripheral vision. It generally starts with seeing shadowy areas in your central vision or experiencing unusually fuzzy or distorted vision. There generally is no pain. One way to tell if you have a problem is to look at a chart of black lines

arranged in a graph pattern. The lines will start to appear wavy and some patches of the grid will appear blank. Over the course of time, you will lose your eyesight.

The disease affects as many as 15 million Americans. As the population ages, the number of cases of the disease will be on the rise. The disease also affects 1 in 10,000 children. There is no cure for macular degeneration, but through research, there is hope. Organizations like the Macula Vision Research Foundation in Philadelphia are educating people about this disease and raising money to find ways to prevent the disease, as well as to find a cure.

Today I ask that you not take vision for granted. I urge your support in declaring May 2006 as "Macular Degeneration Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, to draw attention to the disease and to help Pennsylvanians become more familiar with the symptoms of the disease.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 301**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the President and the Congress of the United States to bring humanitarian assistance and lasting peace to the Darfur region.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Anthony Williams.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. For those who do not know, unfortunately, there is a part of the globe that is suffering untold massacre, rape, and starvation. It happens to be a part of the globe that we have not paid a lot of attention to, but requires our collective support. Almost 1.8 million people from Darfur have been displaced to live in camps. Unfortunately, there is an organized government, the Republic of Sudan, which has supported the militia in a campaign to burn villages, to kill and displace black Africans from Darfur. It is this resolution that finally draws attention to that part of the world that, unfortunately, we have not paid a lot of attention to.

While we relegate our activities to other parts of the globe in an effort to bring democracy, mayhem, massacre, and armed militias are eradicating an entire people from the globe. It is my desire, and hopefully the desire of those of us who represent a civilized society, to act swiftly to bring peace to this area of the globe, to bring humanitarian support, and most importantly, to use the powers that be of this country, this administration, and this Congress, to bring attention to an area that requires our collective attention.

It is my hope that we will no longer turn our backs on those who many of us do not necessarily know a lot about and who need our immediate and uninterrupted attention.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senator ORIE, by unanimous consent, presented the following condolence resolution, entitled:

WHEREAS, The Senate of Pennsylvania mourns the loss of Specialist Mark W. Melcher, who served our country with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Army and who passed away on April 15, 2006, at the age of third-four.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Don White.

Senator D. WHITE. Madam President, as an introduction before Senator Orie makes her condolence resolution, I take great pride, and I think this is very pertinent to what she is going to be talking about later, in thanking my distinguished colleagues for their support on Senate Resolution No. 271 marking next week "Armed Forces Week" in Pennsylvania. For 57 years, a grateful nation has set aside the third Saturday in May as a time to remember the service and sacrifices made by our men and women serving in America's military. Our national strength and our personal freedoms that we all hold so dear are preserved each day by our military, and it is only fitting that we recall and honor that dedication to duty.

Today, thousands of Pennsylvanians are serving overseas, some in garrison duty, and others in much more dangerous environments, some are active duty members, while others are members of the National Guard who have left their civilian lives behind to answer the nation's call. It takes a special person to be a soldier, a sailor, an airman, a Marine, or a member of the Coast Guard. What kind of person can sleep in a tent night after night and lace up a set of boots well before the sun rises? How many people would want to face the threats and uncertainties that our service members do on a daily basis? And we must never forget the toll military service takes on the loved ones left behind. Yes, it would be easy to say those men and women are patriots, but we also must proudly call them Americans, and thank God for all of them.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to honor that sacrifice and service by supporting this resolution and by urging all Pennsylvanians to take time out during Armed Forces Week to remember our friends and neighbors who are serving today.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Orie.

Senator ORIE. Madam President, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I offer this condolence resolution today. A little over 2 weeks ago, on April 15, 2006, at the age of 34, Specialist Mark Melcher, a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, was killed in the line of duty in Iraq. He was shot while in an M1A1 tank helping to provide route security for American troops in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. He was a Pennsylvania native who graduated from North Catholic High School in 1989, and enlisted in the United States Army, fulfilling his boyhood dream of serving his country as a member of an armored tank division.

After serving in Operation Desert Storm, he received an honorable discharge in 1993 and returned to Pittsburgh, working at Mellon Bank. Just 6 months ago, Mark reenlisted and joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. In January, his unit was called to active duty in Iraq. While in Iraq, he communicated via e-mail to his friends and family that he was happy to be back in the military, that he loved what he was doing, riding in the tanks that he dreamed of as a boy. He told his friends and family over and over again that he could not get hurt in a tank, one of the most heavily armored vehicles that the Army has, but somehow, tragically, while in his tank, he became exposed to and was killed by small arms fire.

I know that we all offer our deepest sympathy to Specialist Melcher's entire family, including his parents, brother, sister-in-law, and grandmother, and we are all inspired by Mark's courage and dedication to serving our country, knowing that he will be remembered as having exemplified the best of human experience.

On the occasion of offering the Senate's condolences on the death of my constituent, Specialist Mark Melcher, I would like to encourage all of us to continue to remember and pray for Mark's fellow troops who are serving our country in Iraq and other countries far away, far, far from home. We are forever indebted to these men and women who are defending our freedom and protecting our country. They are our hometown heroes. God bless Specialist Mark Melcher, God bless our troops, and God bless America.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of Specialist MARK W. MELCHER.)

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

Senators VANCE, BRIGHTBILL, TARTAGLIONE, WONDERLING, BOSCOLA, CONTI, CORMAN, EARLL, ERICKSON, FERLO, FUMO, KASUNIC, LaVALLE, LEMMOND, MADIGAN, MELLOW, O'PAKE, ORIE, PICCOLA, PILEGGI, PIPPY, PUNT, RAFFERTY, RHOADES, ROBBINS, WENGER, D. WHITE, M.J. WHITE, GREENLEAF, C. WILLIAMS, FONTANA, ARMSTRONG, COSTA and REGOLA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 302**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of May 2006 as "Arthritis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator RHOADES. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 772, SB 1026, SB 1140, SB 1172, SB 1200, SB 1205, HB 214, HB 1112, HB 2304, HB 2376 and HB 2383.

And said bills having been considered for the first time, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

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 Brandon Parry by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Judy Hunsicker, G. Jacob Laubach, Dan Reavy, J.B. Reilly, Tom Garrity and to Tina Hamilton by Senators Boscola, Browne, and Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Alan Shuman, Fred C. Reim, Jon Scott and to Gregory J. Shemanski by Senator Boscola and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ryan N. Possinger and to Temple Beth El of Allentown by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Vicki Thomas, Christine A. King, JoAnn Perotti and to Mary T. McSorley by Senator Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kevin David Spotts, Sean Martin McGann and to Jared May by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nathaniel Adams, Jr., Robert Hoops, John Kobilis, Robert Trently and to Brad Fichter by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. George Matta by Senator Logan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas House, Jennie Heath Brown and to Nicholas Moore by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Janet L. Withers and to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Brenda Eby, Cindy Hoffman and to Sue Over by Senator Punt.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stephen Frank Blatney, Irene W. Smith and to James Ross Gutowski by Senator Regola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kimberly Miller, Lauren MacLaughlin and to Amanda Markowicz by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rebecca Peterkins by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lisa Spector by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Emmaus Jewel Shop by Senator Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church of Johnstown by Senator Wozniak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote: Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Elizabeth C. Travaglini by Senator C. Williams.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAMES J. RHOADES PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Rhoades.

Senator RHOADES. Madam President, earlier today I had a young man, Joe Brylewski, serve as one of our guest Pages. He is the son of Len and Nancy Brylewski, and I mention that because his father, Len, works for the Department of Agriculture. I just want to spread it upon our record that Joe was here with us. He is a junior at Mahanoy Area High and participates in varsity football, wrestling, track, weightlifting, is an altar server, and also is in Who's Who of American High School Students. He belongs to the school club and student government, and he plans to attend college and major in secondary education, specializing in history and U.S. government.

Thank you for the opportunity to have this spread upon the record.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Rhoades, for your tribute.

BILLS SIGNED

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

SB 1081 and HB 983.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006

9:30 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 812, 1113 and 1134)	Room 8E-A East Wing
9:30 A.M.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider House Bills No. 2003, 2158, 2185 and 2186; and any other business that may come before the Committee)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH (to consider Senate Bill No. 886; House Bills No. 1326 and 1446; and any other business that may come before the Committee)	Room 461 Main Capitol
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain executive nominations)	Rules Com. Conf. Rm.

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

10:00 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider the Rules Com.
Surplus Property Disposition Plan of 2006) Conf. Rm.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Don White.

Senator D. WHITE. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, May 3, 2006, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:54 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.