

State of Rhode Island

JOURNAL

-OF THE-

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Seventh Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Volume 152, No. 11

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Eleventh-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, and is called to order at 4:13 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 72 members present and 3 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 3: Representatives Brien, Giraldo and Quattrocchi.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Karen Alzate, who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, February 6, 2025, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Jon D. Brien is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

- 1. 2025-H 5035**
BY Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Chairwoman Alzate moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representatives Morales, Kislak, Ajello, and Corvese.

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the bill.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 68 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

On behalf of Chairwoman Fogarty and Representative Speakman, Chairwoman Donovan is delighted to extend a warm welcome to the esteemed members of the University of Rhode Island Department of Political Science Program, including President Marc Parlange, Ph.D.; Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Jennette Riley, Ph.D.; Dr. Aaron Ley; Dr. Daniel Carrigg; Dr. Raymond Cox III; Dr. Karen Sweeting; Dr. Marc Hutchison; Dr. Jacqueline Kelley; and Dr. Skye Leedah. She also congratulates the University of Rhode Island's Master of Public Administration program on its accreditation by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, making it the

first MPA program in Rhode Island to receive this distinguished honor. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates and welcomes them to the House.

Representative Casimiro announces that United Way's National 211 Day is a day dedicated to recognizing the vital role of the 211 network in connecting individuals with essential resources and support. This observance highlights the significant impact of strengthening our communities and ensuring that help is available when needed. In honor of this important day, she warmly welcomes United Way of Rhode Island President and CEO Courtney Nicolato, Cristina Amadeo, Director of Senior and Disability Services Marleny Perez, Manager of the 211 Call Center. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates United Way of Rhode Island for its services to the State.

Representative Carson, in recognition of United Way of Rhode Island National 2-1-1 Day, warmly welcomes the members of The Village Common, Executive Director Caroline Dillon, Board Member Maureen Maignet, Board President Wendy Oliver, and Mary Alice Smith, her constituent from Newport. The Village Common is a statewide, volunteer-driven organization supporting older adults who want to age in their homes.

Speaker Shekarchi acknowledges former Representative Maureen Maignet and wishes her a Happy Birthday!

Chairwoman Alzate proudly announces that February 7th through 14th, 2025, will be recognized as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. Recognizing this vital cause, she is honored to introduce Heart Warrior Tristen Sarmiento, his parents, Norelys Consuegra and Salvador Sarmiento and his brother Ashten. Speaker Shekarchi also welcomes them to the House.

Representative Stewart, in commemoration of Black History Month and the enduring legacy of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, extends a warm welcome to the House Chamber, Michael Breslin and his wife, Colonel Joanne Breslin of the Varnum Continentals, Jason Roomes of the First Rhode Island Regiment and proud descendant of Caesar Rome and John Harvey, curator Varnum House Museum to the House. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes them to the House. The 2nd Rhode Island Regiment is celebrated for its historical significance and is a powerful reminder of their strength, resilience, and determination. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes them to the House.

Representative Fascia extends a warm welcome to Gian Montecalvo and offers sincere condolences on the passing of his wife, Robin Montecalvo. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to Representative Fascia and the family of Robin Montecalvo.

Representative Messier is pleased to welcome Brendan Kinch, a graduate of Stonehill College, where he earned a degree in economics with minors in political science and data analytics. During his time at Stonehill, he was actively involved in the Student Government Association, serving as the Executive Finance Chair, and participated in various student-led financial programs. Brendan is the son of Henry Kinch Jr., Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Solomon announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Minority Whip Place, in recognition of Black History Month, shares a few remarks on the legacy of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, writer, and statesman. A powerful advocate for both African American civil rights and women's rights, Douglass remains one of the most influential voices in American history.

Douglass firmly believed in the power of civic engagement, famously stating that a "freedman should have the ballot; that the liberties of the American people were dependent upon the ballot box, the jury box, and the cartridge box, that without these no class of people could live and flourish in this country." His words continue to resonate today, serving as a reminder of the ongoing fight for justice and equality.

Chairman Craven announces that the Committee on Judiciary will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Representative Craven announces that the Sojourner House will host a legislative briefing with the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Matt LaMountain tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. in the State House Library. All members are invited to attend.

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Representative Tanzi invites all members to a Working Families Party legislative briefing tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. in the House Lounge.

Majority Leader Blazewski announces the next House session will be tomorrow, Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. There will be no session on Thursday.

The House Oversight Committee will meet jointly with the Senate Oversight Committee on Thursday, February 13, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 35 to discuss updates on the Rhode Island Department of Transportation Washington Bridge project.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 5408

BY Donovan, Fogarty, Chippendale, Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazewski, Spears, McEntee, Kennedy, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE AARON LEY, PH.D. ON THE ACCREDITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND'S MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM BY THE NETWORK OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC POLICY, AFFAIRS, AND ADMINISTRATION (NASPAA) {LC770/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Donovan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Donovan and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Donovan, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5409

BY Shekarchi, Casimiro, Blazejewski, Noret, Solomon, Kennedy, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Ackerman, Tanzi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025, AS "211 DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND HONORING UNITED WAY 211 FOR ITS SERVICE TO RHODE ISLANDERS {LC1194/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Casimiro requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Casimiro discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Casimiro, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5410

BY Alzate, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Hull, Batista, Potter, Morales, Kazarian, Casimiro
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 7TH THROUGH THE 14TH OF 2025 TO BE "CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC733/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Alzate requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Alzate, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5411

BY Stewart, Morales, Hull, Abney, Biah, Lombardi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 11, 2025, AS "THE 2ND RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT/BLACK REGIMENT RECOGNITION DAY" TO COMMEMORATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK SOLDIERS DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR {LC984/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Stewart requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Stewart discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Stewart, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5412

BY Lima, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Fascia, Handy, Paplauskas, Chippendale, Bennett, Potter, McNamara

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CRANSTON POLICE CHIEF COLONEL MICHAEL J. WINQUIST ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE RHODE ISLAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2024 {LC1260/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Lima requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Lima discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Lima, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5413

BY Fascia, O'Brien, Read, Marszalkowski, Fellela, Paplauskas, Corvese, Messier, Hull, Blazejewski

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ROBIN ANN MONTECALVO {LC1104/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Fascia requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Fascia discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Fascia, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5414

BY Nardone, Place, Santucci, Newberry, Fascia, Paplauskas, Chippendale, Roberts, Noret, Serpa

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT EDWARD KENAHAN ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025 {LC1404/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Nardone requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Representative Nardone discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Nardone, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the clerk's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, to the Honorable Senate, and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:46 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Fascia, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Robin Montecalvo seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE KAREN ALZATE

Dear Lord: We thank you for the opportunity to educate all peoples of the great contributions of African Americans to our country. We ask you to give courage to all to put aside stereotypes and use this month to highlight the greatness of Black History. Despite the odds, and against all odds, African Americans can now rightfully claim their true place in American history. Amen.