

Journal of the House

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

At ten o'clock in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rabbi Jan Salzman, Ruach HaMaqom, Burlington, VT.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Olivia Davidson, Hardwick, VT led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred to committee or placed on the Calendar as follows:

H. 151

By Reps. Mrowicki of Putney, Donovan of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Deen of Westminster, Gonzalez of Winooski, Head of South Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Till of Jericho and Yantachka of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring background checks for the transfer of firearms;

To the committee on Judiciary.

H. 152

By Reps. Lalonde of South Burlington and Botzow of Pownal,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act;

To the committee on Judiciary.

H. 153

By Reps. Poirier of Barre City and Lanpher of Vergennes,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to underwriting motor vehicle insurance and credit history;
To the committee on Transportation.

H. 154

By Reps. Donovan of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Krowinski of Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Sullivan of Burlington and Wright of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington;

To the committee on Government Operations.

H. 155

By Reps. Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Gamache of Swanton, Lefebvre of Newark, Morrissey of Bennington, Shaw of Pittsford and Smith of New Haven,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to digital speed limit signs and authorizing temporary speed limits;

To the committee on Transportation.

H. 156

By Rep. Haas of Rochester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the phase-out of the declining student hold-harmless provision;

To the committee on Education.

H. 157

By Reps. Hubert of Milton, Beyor of Highgate, Christie of Hartford, Hebert of Vernon, Lewis of Berlin, Pearce of Richford, Savage of Swanton and Viens of Newport City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to adopting a statewide calendar for public schools;

To the committee on Education.

H. 158

By Reps. Parent of St. Albans Town and Tate of Mendon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to moving the date for school district budget votes for fiscal year 2018;

To the committee on Education.

H. 159

By Reps. Hubert of Milton and Smith of New Haven,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to use of a colored light on a funeral procession lead vehicle;

To the committee on Transportation.

H. 160

By Reps. Masland of Thetford and Briglin of Thetford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to use of auxiliary fuel tanks on Type II school buses;

To the committee on Transportation.

H. 161

By Rep. Frenier of Chelsea,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to union membership fees for teachers and administrators;

To the committee on Education.

H. 162

By Rep. O'Sullivan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to execution of court judgments on personal property;

To the committee on Judiciary.

H. 163

By Reps. Baser of Bristol, Scheu of Middlebury, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Deen of Westminster, Frenier of Chelsea, Giambatista of Essex, Greshin of Warren, Higley of Lowell, Houghton of Essex, Kimbell of

Woodstock, Lalonde of South Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Parent of St. Albans Town, Shaw of Pittsford, Sibia of Dover and Stuart of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to promoting workforce housing;

To the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 1

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the determination of average daily membership for the 2016–2017 school year and equalized pupil count for fiscal year 2018

Appearing on the Calendar, affecting the revenue of the state, under rule 35(a), was referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Message from the Senate No. 13

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 12. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

House Resolution Referred to Committee

H.R. 7

House resolution, entitled

House resolution amending the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives related to members who do not belong to a political party and their appointment to nonstanding legislative committees

Offered by: Representatives Poirier of Barre City, Jickling of Brookfield, Murphy of Fairfax, Olsen of Londonderry, and Sibia of Dover

Whereas, not all members of the House of Representatives belong to a political party, and

Whereas, the ability of members of the House of Representatives to

participate in all aspects of legislative service should not be conditioned on political party membership, and

Whereas, each biennium, members of the House of Representatives are appointed to nonstanding committees, including interim study and continuing jurisdictional committees, and

Whereas, on occasion, the directive for the appointment of members of the House of Representatives to nonstanding committees requires a specified ratio of members from the majority and minority political parties, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That House Rule 14b is added to read:

14b. Any legal directive for the Speaker to appoint multiple members, not all of whom shall belong to the same political party, to a nonstanding committee shall not prohibit the appointment of members who do not belong to a political party.

Which was read and referred to the committee on Rules.

House Resolution Placed on Calendar

H.R. 8

House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to conducting a recount in the election for the House of Representatives for the Orange–1 District

Offered by: Committee on Government Operations

Whereas, Chapter I, Article 8 of the Vermont Constitution provides that voters have the right to elect and to be elected into office agreeably to the regulations of the Constitution, and

Whereas, Chapter II, § 14 provides that the House of Representatives shall have the power to “judge of the elections and qualifications” of its members, and

Whereas, on November 8, 2016, the general election was held for the Orange–1 House District, with four candidates competing for two House seats, and

Whereas, Rodney Graham won the most votes, 2,018, and, as a result, his election to one of the seats is not in dispute, and

Whereas, Robert Frenier received the second highest number of votes, 1,853, and Graham and Frenier were therefore declared the winners of the two

House seats for this district, and

Whereas, Susan Hatch Davis, who had received 1,845 votes, eight less than Robert Frenier, requested a recount pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2601(b), and

Whereas, the recount was held on November 28, 2016, with three questionable ballots submitted to the Superior Court for a final decision in accordance with law, and

Whereas, on November 29, 2016, and December 12, 2016, Susan Hatch Davis moved in Superior Court for a hearing and second recount, and

Whereas, on December 19, 2016, the Superior Court conducted a hearing and ruled on the three disputed ballots, and issued a Judgment that Robert Frenier had received 1,852 votes, seven more than Susan Hatch Davis' 1,845 votes, and

Whereas, on December 22, 2016, Susan Hatch Davis petitioned the House of Representatives to challenge the election and request that the House conduct another recount, and

Whereas, the petition of Susan Hatch Davis was referred to the Committee on Government Operations, and

Whereas, the Committee on Government Operations heard testimony from witnesses, including Petitioner, Petitioner's attorney, Respondent Representative Frenier, Respondent's attorney, multiple town clerks, representatives from the Office of the Secretary of State, and a representative from the Office of the Attorney General, and

Whereas, it is the conclusion of the Committee on Government Operations that the petition should be granted and that a new recount should be conducted to determine if Robert Frenier or Susan Hatch Davis won more votes and therefore should be deemed duly elected and qualified to hold the other seat from the Orange-1 District, and

Whereas, it is the belief of the Committee on Government Operations that this additional recount is necessary to ensure public faith and confidence in the accuracy of the election, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body resolves that a recount of all votes cast for the House of Representatives in District Orange-1, except for 14 ballots previously determined to be defective, shall be conducted, and be it further

Resolved: That the Committee on Government Operations shall adopt policies and procedures as to how the recount shall be conducted, and be it further

Resolved: That for purposes of this recount, and to ensure parity among members of the Republican, Progressive, and Democratic parties, a Special Recount Committee shall be created, and be it further

Resolved: That the Special Recount Committee shall be composed of 23 members. The leader of the Progressive Party caucus shall appoint six members, one of whom shall be the current member of the Committee on Government Operations who belongs to the Progressive Party caucus. The leader of the Democratic Party caucus shall appoint five members, each of whom shall be current members of the Committee on Government Operations who belong to the Democratic caucus. The leader of the Republican Party caucus shall appoint 11 members, four of whom shall be the current members of the Committee on Government Operations who belong to the Republican caucus. If the leader of the Progressive, Republican, or Democratic caucus fails to appoint sufficient members, the Speaker of the House shall do so. In addition to these 22 members, the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations shall serve on the Special Recount Committee as presiding officer, and shall have the special assistance of the Republican and Progressive Party caucus leaders, and be it further

Resolved: That the Special Recount Committee shall conduct the recount pursuant to the policies and procedures adopted by the Committee on Government Operations, and be it further

Resolved: That the Special Recount Committee shall be allowed to work without interruption to complete the recount as quickly as reasonably possible, and that the members of the Special Recount Committee will be exempt from all other duties and obligations, and be it further

Resolved: That the Special Recount Committee shall have the power to compel, by subpoena, the attendance of witnesses and the production of records and things, including documents, papers, and ballots, and be it further

Resolved: That the Committee on Government Operations and the Special Recount Committee shall have the support and assistance of the Secretary of State, Sergeant at Arms, Capitol Police Department, Clerk of the House, and Office of Legislative Council to carry out its duties, and be it further

Resolved: That the Special Recount Committee, after conducting the recount, shall report its findings and recommendations to the Committee on Government Operations, and that the Special Recount Committee will then be dissolved, and be it further

Resolved: That the Committee on Government Operations shall report its findings and recommendations to the House as to whether Robert Frenier or Susan Hatch Davis shall be deemed to be duly elected and qualified to

represent the Orange–1 District in the House of Representatives.

Which was read and, in the Speaker’s discretion, placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow under Rule 52.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 9

House resolution, entitled

House resolution supporting a woman’s right to decide her own reproductive choices, commemorating the 44th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade*, and the 52nd anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Grad of Moretown, Krowinski of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bartholomew of Hartland, Belaski of Windsor, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Gardner of Richmond, Giambatista of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Jessup of Middlesex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, LaLonde of South Burlington, Long of Newfane, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Ode of Burlington, Olsen of Londonderry, O’Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Poirier of Barre City, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Yacovone of Morristown, and Young of Glover

Whereas, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), established that the U.S. Constitution protects a woman’s right to privacy and limits government interference with medical decisions, and

Whereas, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England has been providing essential health care services to all Vermonters since 1965, and all Vermonters continue to have access to Planned Parenthood’s services at its health care centers regardless of income, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont has set a goal to reduce unintended pregnancies to 35 percent of all pregnancies by 2020, and

Whereas, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England helps individuals and families make responsible choices that contribute to our overall public health, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont believes that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* ensures that abortion remains a safe and legal procedure for a woman to consider, if and when she needs it, and

Whereas, in 2015, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England staff saw over 18,000 Vermonters who visited for essential health care services, trusted information, and family planning services, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont strives to enhance the health of all its citizens, including women of all ages, and to strengthen individuals and families by encouraging and promoting access to comprehensive family planning services, and

Whereas, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England plays a pivotal role in Vermont's health care landscape, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body, on the 44th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and the 52nd anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, urges Congress and other state legislatures to preserve the rights protected in *Roe v. Wade* and to preserve access to essential health care services, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body reaffirms the right of every Vermont woman to privacy, autonomy, and safety in making personal decisions regarding reproduction and family planning and the right to continued access to safe and legal abortion, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body acknowledges and celebrates Planned Parenthood of Northern New England's 52 years of providing essential, high quality health services to all Vermonters and advocating for and promoting women's health, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Which was read.

Pending the question, **Shall the resolution be adopted Rep. Grad of Moretown** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the resolution be adopted was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 102. Nays, 32.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ainsworth of Royalton	Gonzalez of Winooski	Noyes of Wolcott
Ancel of Calais	Grad of Moretown	Ode of Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland	Greshin of Warren	O'Sullivan of Burlington
Baser of Bristol	Haas of Rochester	Partridge of Windham
Belaski of Windsor	Head of South Burlington	Poirier of Barre City *
Bissonnette of Winooski	Hill of Wolcott	Potter of Clarendon
Bock of Chester	Hooper of Montpelier	Rachelson of Burlington
Botzow of Pownal	Hooper of Brookfield	Scheu of Middlebury
Briglin of Thetford	Houghton of Essex	Sharpe of Bristol
Burke of Brattleboro	Howard of Rutland City	Sheldon of Middlebury
Carr of Brandon	Jessup of Middlesex	Sibilia of Dover
Chesnut-Tangerman of Springs	Jickling of Brookfield	Smith of Derby
Christensen of Weathersfield	Keefe of Manchester	Squirrell of Underhill
Christie of Hartford *	Keenan of St. Albans City	Stevens of Waterbury
Cina of Burlington	Kimbell of Woodstock	Stuart of Brattleboro *
Colburn of Burlington	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Sullivan of Dorset
Condon of Colchester	Krowinski of Burlington	Sullivan of Burlington
Conlon of Cornwall	LaClair of Barre Town	Taylor of Colchester
Conquest of Newbury	Lalonde of South Burlington	Till of Jericho
Copeland-Hanzas of	Lanpher of Vergennes	Toleno of Brattleboro
Corcoran of Bennington	Lawrence of Lyndon	Toll of Danville
Dakin of Colchester	Lefebvre of Newark	Townsend of South
Deen of Westminster	Lewis of Berlin	Trieber of Rockingham
Devereux of Mount Holly	Lippert of Hinesburg	Troiano of Stannard
Donovan of Burlington	Long of Newfane	Turner of Milton
Dunn of Essex	Macaig of Williston	Walz of Barre City
Emmons of Springfield	Masland of Thetford	Webb of Shelburne
Fagan of Rutland City	McCormack of Burlington	Weed of Enosburgh
Feltus of Lyndon	McCoy of Poultney	Wood of Waterbury
Fields of Bennington	McCullough of Williston	Wright of Burlington
Forguites of Springfield	McFaun of Barre Town	Yacavone of Morristown
Gannon of Wilmington	Morris of Bennington	Yantachka of Charlotte
Gardner of Richmond	Mrowicki of Putney *	Young of Glover
Giambatista of Essex	Murphy of Fairfax	
	Myers of Essex *	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Batchelor of Derby	Graham of Williamstown	Quimby of Concord
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Hebert of Vernon	Rosenquist of Georgia
Beyor of Highgate	Helm of Fair Haven	Savage of Swanton
Brennan of Colchester	Higley of Lowell	Shaw of Pittsford
Canfield of Fair Haven	Hubert of Milton	Smith of New Haven

Cupoli of Rutland City	Juskiewicz of Cambridge	Strong of Albany
Dickinson of St. Albans	Marcotte of Coventry	Tate of Mendon
Donahue of Northfield *	Martel of Waterford	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Frenier of Chelsea	Morrissey of Bennington	Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh
Gage of Rutland City	Nolan of Morristown	Willhoit of St. Johnsbury
Gamache of Swanton	Pearce of Richford	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bancroft of Westford	Connor of Fairfield	Parent of St. Albans Town
Browning of Arlington	Joseph of North Hero	Pugh of South Burlington
Brumsted of Shelburne	Lucke of Hartford	Scheuermann of Stowe
Buckholz of Hartford	Miller of Shaftsbury	Viens of Newport City
Burditt of West Rutland	Olsen of Londonderry	

Rep. Christie of Hartford explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

On Nov. 21, 2016 Pope Francis gave priests the authority to give absolution for abortion.”

Rep. Donahue of Northfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Abortion has remained a difficult subject for half a century and beyond, because it pits a woman’s control over what is happening within her body against the life of a unique human person growing and developing there. This terrible tension should never be dismissed or minimized; those who promote the right to choose abortion should respect the rights of those who do not wish to be a party to it, and should be balanced in the way this traumatic issue is discussed with women. Planned Parenthood does not do that. The subject of a woman’s right to end a pregnancy that is already underway should always be a sobering reflection of our power over life itself. It should never be a cause for celebration. That is why I do not support this resolution.”

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Given the current assaults on liberties by the new regime in Washington, I vote yes for women to be able to make their own choices in regards to their health and I vote yes for my daughters and future generations of women to enjoy these same rights.”

Rep. Myers of Essex explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted “yes” on this resolution as I have for many years. I am pro choice

and support Planned Parenthood. But I rise today, as I did a few years ago, to express my disappointment in the year after year offering of this resolution. There is nothing this will do to further the state's support of Planned Parenthood, and Roe v. Wade. Those are firmly entrenched. But what this resolution does is continue, and enlarge, the rift among members of this body. That is very disheartening to me. In my opinion we should be working to bring greater collegiality in this chamber, not working to create further discord."

Rep. Poirier of Barre City explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes as a means to express my strong support for women's reproductive rights. Also, this yes vote is my only legislative way to express my resentment to the Trump administration's attempt to send women back to the days of backroom medical procedures for women."

Rep. Stuart of Brattleboro explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

Now that we have a known misogynist who wears the sacred title of president, it is more important than ever to stand up for women's right to choose."

Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to Other Committee

H. 143

Rep. Brennan of Colchester moved that the committee on Transportation be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to automobile insurance requirements and transportation network companies

And that the bill be committed to the committee on Commerce and Economic Development, which was agreed to.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Yantachka of Charlotte**, the following remarks by **Rep. Stevens of Waterbury** were ordered printed in the Journal:

"Madam Speaker:

The news of the immediate closure of America to vetted refugees and immigrants with visas and green cards from seven countries last Friday is serious news, but I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the statement made earlier in the day commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance

Day. In it, the president pledged to ensure that the powers of evil never again defeat the power of good. Which, in and of itself, is worthy. But in his remarks, the President never once mentioned that the Holocaust was a planned genocide of the Jews in Europe, and never once did he mention the others that were caught in that net -- gays, gypsies, dissidents, pacifists, and other so-called social deviants. The administration issued a statement saying they chose to be inclusive, as nearly 5 million other people died during the Holocaust and it was important to signify their deaths as well.

This isn't revisionism, Madam Speaker. This is technique. We, as legislators, are well aware of the power of words. We argue for hours over the force of law inherent in words like "may" and "shall." We wield these words as swords, and it is right, because we know arguing over words is safer than using swords against our neighbors.

In the case of the Holocaust, it is wrong to downplay the motivation behind the plan. Saying that neglecting the use of the word "Jew" or the word "antisemitism" is a way to be more inclusive is, in fact, a way to diminish what the Nazi terror was: Jews were targeted, boycotted, stereotyped into animals, hunted, abused, tortured and killed. The leader of the Nazi party, in the beginning of his cleansing campaign, told Germans not to hurt a hair on a Jew's head. But once they were in a camp, their hair was removed. This plan, scoped out in the few years before the rise to power of the National Socialists, used simple words to fan the flames of hatred, fear and nationalism. And those who opposed those words and those tactics were arrested also, or were forced into exile.

And so, Madam Speaker, I remember the Jews who were murdered in work camps across Europe. I remember the anti-Semitism that drove it. I remember the xenophobia that existed in this country, when it rejected boats with Jews on them and forced them to return to certain deaths. I remember the gays, and the pacifists, and the gypsies and the others who were murdered in the name of ethnic cleansing. Just as I remember the other genocides that occurred in the 20th century, including in the Soviet Union during and after the war, when Stalin killed 20 million of his own citizens. And just as I remember the rejection of Jews from Britain and Europe and North America immediately after the war.

By diminishing what happened in Germany during the war, Madam Speaker, we allow the planting of the seeds of forgetfulness, and of denial, and of normalization. The Holocaust was a specific campaign against the Jewish people of Europe. When we allow the horror and specificity of that to be

“smoothed over”, we begin to know how other atrocities can be normalized.

I cannot let this lapse by the president go unnoticed and unacknowledged, because it is tied directly to the executive order barring legal immigrants entry into our country by fiat. We must notice, we must call it by its name, and we must never accept it.”

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Macaig of Williston**, the following remarks by **Rep. McCullough of Williston** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

I ruminate today... not to bash, trash, or disparage our newly elected President Trump, but rather to seize this, an educible [sic] moment.

In 1966 I worked for Luther Belden on his home farm of several generations. Mr. Beldon was a beautiful person; hard working; highly principled. After I had partied, perhaps too hard and long the nights previous, Mr. Belden would assign me to the haymow for a 4-hour stint in the middle of the day, or perhaps a full day of hand weeding pigweed in an endless field of potatoes. I learned a lot that summer, but his take-home for me was (I did not know how profound at the time) was, “Jim, the only hope for the world is the United Nations”.

Twenty years later, perhaps 1986, I officiated the marriage of the blissful Emily Wesson and Peter Millar; two recent UVM graduates who rented a bungalow on our family farm of many generations. Peter and Emily continued their educations, becoming doctors. They subsequently served on the ship, Doctors Without Borders [sic].

Seventeen years later, 2003, I was a freshman Vermont legislator serving on House Transportation. I was most fortunate to serve with the

current “Dean of the House”, a former “Dean of the House” (later retiring to become Commissioner of BGS), and the former Sargent at Arms, the newly minted Senator from Washington County... (talk about educable moments for me!)... I also served that biennium with the late Representative of the House from Barre, the Honorable Henry Gray. Rep. Gray taught me the “Rule of Holes”. If you don’t know this rule, ask me off line. However, the gold Henry gave me was, “I am the Representative *from* Barre but I *work for the State*”. The quiet, very Vermont, Representative Gray recognized the provincialism of towns often interfered with quality statewide legislation. I intuit he understood a “State without Borders”.

Today, I stand before you in this Great Hall of Vermont Representatives adding my small flag of the United Nations on my desk to the numerous Old Glories displayed on other member’s desks... imploring our Members, “Seek Unbounded Awareness”; imploring our President, our Congress; imploring our planet’s various Governments, and most importantly imploring... *We the people of the planet... “Disabuse boarders [sic]; join together in the Absolute. Understand we are one... one with each other, one with the planet. Vision a Planet bereft of fear, hate and prejudice...abundant of love... A Planet without Boarders[sic].”*”

**Favorable Report; Read Second Time;
Third Reading Ordered**

H. 53

Rep. Ode of Burlington, for the committee on Natural Resources; Fish & Wildlife, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to permitting planting projects in flood hazard areas

Reported in favor of its passage. The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time and third reading ordered.

Adjournment

At eleven o'clock and fourteen minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Savage of Swanton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.