

Journal of the House

Friday, January 7, 2011

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Becca Clark of the United Methodist Church, Montpelier.

Memorial Service

The Speaker placed before the House the following names of members of past sessions of the Vermont General Assembly who had passed away recently:

Albert Audette Member from South Burlington	Sessions of 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 & 2009
Emily W. Betts Member from Chelsea	Session of 1987
Paul E. Kendall Jr. Member from Woodstock	Session of 1997
Henry G. Schaffer Member from Colchester	Sessions of 1999 & 2001
Evelyn W. Stagg Member from Castleton	Sessions of 1983, 1985, 1987 & 1989

Thereupon, the members of the House rose for a moment of prayer in memory of the deceased members. The Clerk was thereupon directed to send a copy of the House Journal to the bereaved families

Communication from Rep. Sue Minter

“Don Milne
Clerk of the House
State House
Montpelier, VT 05602

January 7, 2011

Dear Don:

I am writing to submit my resignation from the House of Representatives, effective January 7th, 2011, in order to serve within the administration of Governor Peter Shumlin.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve in the Vermont House for the past six years, as the representative of Waterbury, Duxbury, Huntington and Buels Gore. The decision to resign is not an easy one, and I write this letter with mixed emotions – sad to be leaving the “People’s House”, yet excited to be participating in government in a new way.

I have learned so much during my tenure in this body -- about issues, budgets, process, protocol and teamwork. I am grateful to everyone here for being my teachers. My experience serving in the General Assembly has made me proud of Vermont’s democracy. Our small state sets an example for others, particularly in this time of partisan divisions across the country.

Vermont has an accessible government, where its citizens care passionately and become engaged within the debates of the day. While never perfect, Vermont’s legislative process enables civil and inclusive debate, with multiple voices at the table, and a committee process that strives toward consensus. Significantly, while members advocate for their viewpoints, when the debate is over, they can also treat one another as friends. An overriding spirit of working together, in spite of the deep differences between and among us, is, I believe, what helps our small state succeed, and lead.

This is a pivotal time in our nation and across the globe. It is a time when cooperation and understanding is critical to our common future. It requires strong leadership, members with an open mind, and a respected process for debate and decision-making. My hope is that our House can continue to be accessible, and become more transparent, as we confront the deepening challenges of the future.

I want to thank you, Don, and your entire staff for the dedication, integrity and professionalism you exhibit in carrying out your duties to the members and the body as a whole.

I submit this letter with a lingering sadness, but I know my seat will be filled with promise. I am ever grateful for the experience I have had in this House -- the tremendous people I have met, the education I’ve had, and the great debates I have participated in. I will forever treasure the family I have found here.

Very sincerely yours,
/s/ Sue Minter
Representative Sue Minter

cc Shap Smith, Speaker of the House”

Communication from Representative Michael Obuchowski

“Don Milne
Clerk, House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Don:

We who serve the public in the Vermont House are the luckiest Vermonters in the world. It is an institution whose accomplishments are bounded only by our ability to work together.

It is with immeasurable hope and faith in the future and what it portends, that I tender my resignation from the Vermont House of Representatives Windham 4 district effective at 5 p.m. with the swearing in of Governor elect Peter Shumlin on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

Nearly two generations of service in the House have taught me many lessons, some of which are worth sharing with those now serving and those to follow:

Obie's Lessons Learned

Do what you think is right despite the consequences.
Treat each other with dignity and respect.
Be honest.
Never give up. Anything is possible.
Don't engage in battle over little things. Save it for situations that matter.
Work hard.
Worry the Governor, like the wolf worries sheep.
Keep a line of communication open. Listen.
Treat the taxpayers' money as if it were your own.
The House Clerk is always correct.
Work together for the public good.
Be judicious with the power to tax.
And remember your constituents are in charge. Protect their rights.

May the Vermont style of government, based on mutual respect and trust and an unrelenting interest in the public good, never perish. The outcome is in our hands and those who follow.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

/s/Michael J. Obuchowski
Representative Windham 4”

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. 5

By Rep. Klein of East Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to returning moneys to the clean energy development fund to support solar tax credits;

To the committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

H. 6

By Reps. Hubert of Milton, Condon of Colchester, Higley of Lowell, Komline of Dorset, Perley of Enosburgh and Savage of Swanton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to powers and immunities of the liquor control investigators;

To the committee on Government Operations.

H. 7

By Reps. Koch of Barre Town, Donahue of Northfield, Fisher of Lincoln and Johnson of South Hero,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to appointments to the mental health oversight committee;

To the committee on Human Services.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 6

By Senators Carris and Mullin,

J.R.S. 6. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 7, 2011, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

Was taken up read and adopted in concurrence.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 5

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment

Was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 6.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted in concurrence.

H.C.R. 1

House concurrent resolution in memory of Representative Albert Audette of South Burlington;

H.C.R. 2

House concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont National Guard Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio of South Glastonbury, Connecticut;

H.C.R. 3

House concurrent resolution in memory of United States Marine Lance Corporal Anthony James Rosa of Swanton;

H.C.R. 4

House concurrent resolution in memory of Vermont National Guard Sergeant Tristan H. Southworth of Walden;

H.C.R. 5

House concurrent resolution in memory of Specialist Ryan Grady of West Burke;

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the Senate and House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the volume of the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2011, seventy-first Biennial session.]