

# Journal of the House

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**Friday, January 5, 2018**

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

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Representative Ruqaiyah Morris of Bennington.

## **Memorial Service**

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

Gordon N. Stafford of Brighton	Member of the House, Sessions 1985-1986, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, 1993-1994, 1995-1996, 1997-1998
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Thereupon, the members of the House rose for a moment of silence in memory of the deceased member. The Clerk was thereupon directed to send a copy of the House Journal to the bereaved family.

## **Rules Suspended; House Bills Introduced**

Pending first reading of the bills, on motion of **Rep Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred or placed on the Calendar as follows:

### **H. 564**

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,  
House bill, entitled  
An act relating to funding the cleanup of State waters;  
To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

### **H. 565**

By Rep. Willhoit of St. Johnsbury,  
House bill, entitled  
An act relating to temporary care orders;  
To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 566**

By Reps. Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Colburn of Burlington and Lalonde of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to animal cruelty;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 567**

By Reps. Harrison of Chittenden and Till of Jericho,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to bicycle helmets;

To the committee on Transportation.

**H. 568**

By Reps. LaClair of Barre Town and McFaun of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre;

To the committee on Government Operations.

**H. 569**

By Reps. Yantachka of Charlotte, Bock of Chester, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Dunn of Essex, Forguites of Springfield, Gannon of Wilmington, Joseph of North Hero, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Bennington, Parent of St. Albans Town, Sibilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Sullivan of Dorset, Townsend of South Burlington, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City and Yacovone of Morristown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to voyeurism;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 570**

By Reps. Yantachka of Charlotte, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Bock of Chester, Dunn of Essex, Forguites of Springfield, Parent of St. Albans Town, Sibilia of Dover, Sullivan of Dorset, Townsend of South Burlington, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh and Walz of Barre City,

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House bill, entitled

An act relating to abolishing adverse possession actions;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 571**

By Reps. Stevens of Waterbury and Harrison of Chittenden,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating the Department of Liquor and Lottery and the Board of Liquor and Lottery;

To the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

**H. 572**

By Reps. Burke of Brattleboro, Stuart of Brattleboro and Toleno of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to addition of a new highway segment in the Town of Brattleboro to the State highway system;

To the committee on Transportation.

**H. 573**

By Reps. Fagan of Rutland City, Cupoli of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City and Howard of Rutland City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Rutland;

To the committee on Government Operations.

**Remarks Journalized**

On motion of **Rep Morris of Bennington**, the following remarks by **Rep. Cina of Burlington** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

First I would like to thank the Representative from Bennington for singing the devotional today. The song, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” has a special significance given the resolution in honor of Pajj Wadley Bailey. This song, from the iconic film “Wizard of Oz,” is an anthem for the LGBTQIA community. It was the song chosen by Pajj to be played as her farewell during her final celebration of life before she passed away.

Paij was born on January 7, 1939, and in two days it will be her 79th birthday. In the resolution read earlier, you heard only a summary of some of Paij's accomplishments, because if we included everything that Paij did, the resolution would be as long as our budget. Paij contributed in so many ways to her community: as a mother, as a friend, as a lover, as a community organizer, as an activist, as an educator, as a businessperson, as a mentor. Every day, we learn more about the many ways that she has touched the lives of others.

Let me take just a minute to tell you how she touched my life. Paij and I met when I was the co-chair of Pride Vermont in 1999. We worked to organize events for Vermonters around the state to increase visibility, raise awareness, and provide education about LGBTQIA people. It was during the battle over civil unions, a time when we were threatened with violence and rejection, yet still worked to open hearts and minds and to take Vermont forward.

Every year since 2000, besides crossing paths in our work as activists, it became our yearly ritual to find each other at the Pride celebration in Burlington, and we would sit and visit together in the shade of a tree, and take the time to catch up on what happened in our lives over the past year.

One year, I looked for Paij at Pride for our yearly ritual and she wasn't there. I found out that she was struggling with debilitating illness. I did not realize how bad it was getting. It was only when she decided to stop life-sustaining treatments that we reconnected. I was informed that Paij had assembled a team of chosen family to take care of her in her final days and I joined in.

You see, Paij and I shared a belief in the concept of "chosen family," a mix of biological relations and friendships. For many of us, we find that there are friends who become as close or closer than some of our biological family. Ultimately, we are all relatives of the human family, and all children of the Earth. We come from the same Universe and the same Creator.

The Compañeros are Paij's chosen family. One of the final gifts that Paij gave me was these new family members, united in our love for Paij.

After Paij decided that she was ready to move on from this life to whatever is next, she continued to live and to suffer while on palliative care. She reached a point where she decided to use Vermont's Death with Dignity Law. She said "I took racism out of the closet and lesbianism out of the closet, and now I'm taking death with dignity out of the closet."

On August 18, 2016, under a full Sturgeon moon, Paij Wadley Bailey left her body behind, peacefully, with dignity and by her own choice. She was surrounded by family, friends, her loved ones- the Compañeros. It is my honor to introduce the Compañeros that are here with us today:

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Irina Markova  
Sara Baker  
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup  
Meredith Muse  
Joelen Mulvaney  
Sarika Tandon  
Larry Cohen

Thanks to you all for your love and commitment to caring for our dear friend in her final days.

During her last days, Paj asked us to carry on her work through a Social Justice Institute. This year will be our second time offering a leadership program and scholarship to Burlington High School students in Paj's memory. If anyone is interested in volunteering or contributing to the scholarship fund, please let me know. Thank you"

### **Adjournment**

At nine o'clock and fifty-four minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 38.

### **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 Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted in concurrence.

#### **H.C.R. 198**

House concurrent resolution honoring Jane Williamson for her exemplary administrative and curatorial leadership of the Rokeby Museum;

#### **H.C.R. 199**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Russian author, historian, and former Cavendish resident Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn;

#### **H.C.R. 200**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Otter Valley Union High School Otters Division II championship baseball team;

#### **H.C.R. 201**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Linda Cloutier-Namdar on being selected as the 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year;

**H.C.R. 202**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Essex High School Hornets championship girls' volleyball team;

**H.C.R. 203**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Drake Hull of Rutland on winning the Vermont Golf Association's 2017 Vermont Amateur Golf Championship;

**H.C.R. 204**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Thetford Academy Panthers Division III championship girls' soccer team;

**H.C.R. 205**

House concurrent resolution designating Saturday, June 2, 2018 as Neighbors Day in Vermont;

**H.C.R. 206**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2017 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship boys' cross-country team;

**H.C.R. 207**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Georgia Selectboard Chair Christopher M. Letourneau;

**H.C.R. 208**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Kenneth Paul Bonin of Georgia;

**H.C.R. 209**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Pajj Wadley-Bailey of Montpelier;

**H.C.R. 210**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Sandra Lee Casey;

**H.C.R. 211**

House concurrent resolution honoring Terri Hallenbeck for her skill and integrity as a great journalist;

**H.C.R. 212**

House concurrent resolution honoring Francis Favreau for his extraordinary contributions to the civic, health care, and religious institutions of Morristown;

**S.C.R. 19**

Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Vermont outdoor advertising law of 1968;

**S.C.R. 20**

Senate concurrent resolution honoring Edward Knox LeClair for his outstanding service as executive director of Circus Smirkus;

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2017, seventy-fourth Biennial session.]