

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Brian Cina of Burlington.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Stewart Lemnah of Stowe led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Message from the Senate No. 16

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, 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. 43. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 9, 2024.

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

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 845

By Reps. Mrowicki of Putney, Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Chase of Colchester, Hango of Berkshire, Hooper of Burlington, Morgan of Milton, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to designating November as Veterans Month

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 846

By Rep. Taylor of Colchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to advancing mobile homes as an energy-efficient, affordable housing alternative

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 847

By the Committee on Health Care,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to peer support provider and recovery support specialist certification

To Committee on Ways and Means, pursuant to House Rule 35(a).

Senate Bill Referred

S. 190

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to statements made by a child victim of an offense involving serious bodily injury

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 15

House resolution, entitled

House resolution honoring Vermont television journalist Stewart Ledbetter for his four decades of insightful reporting

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, for 40 years, television news viewers in Vermont and northeastern New York State have benefited from the journalistic expertise of Stewart Ledbetter, and

Whereas, Stewart Ledbetter's introduction to journalism began as editor of his high school newspaper and continued at the University of Vermont, where he volunteered at WRUV, the student radio station, and

Whereas, after earning his degree, he was employed in the newsroom of radio stations WJOY-AM and WQCR-FM (now WOKO-FM), and

Whereas, in 1984, Stewart Ledbetter transitioned from radio to television, joining the staff of WPTZ, and

Whereas, the caliber of his news reports impressed station management, and throughout the 1990s, Stewart Ledbetter served as the WPTZ news director, assumed newscasting duties, and launched the station's first website, and

Whereas, in 2000, Stewart Ledbetter returned to daily reporting, with the State House as his winter beat, developing a keen political awareness, and,

Whereas, his news portfolio also included coverage of major statewide political races, New Hampshire presidential primaries, the Howard Dean and Bernie Sanders presidential campaigns, and moderating numerous live candidate debates, and

Whereas, most recently, he has hosted the 5:30 p.m. weekday newscast and the Sunday public affairs program *NBC5 In Depth*, and

Whereas, from 2007 to 2023, Stewart Ledbetter moderated the Vermont Public's weekly journalist discussion program, *Vermont This Week*, and he is the recipient of Vermont and New York AP broadcast awards and a regional EMMY, shared with a colleague a 2015 national Edward R. Murrow Award, and, in 2019, the Vermont Broadcasters Hall of Fame welcomed him as a new inductee, and

Whereas, Stewart Ledbetter has announced that his career signoff will occur on February 16, 2024, but that, later in the year, he will return to WPTZ's public affairs programs as a political contributor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body honors Vermont television journalist Stewart Ledbetter for his four decades of insightful news reporting, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Stewart Ledbetter and to WPTZ.

Was read and adopted.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 622

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction moved that the Committee on Health Care be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to emergency medical services

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and thirty-one minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.