The Senate was called to order at 10:15 o’clock a.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning ladies and gentleman, distinguished guests. Will the Senate please come to order? Members and guests I would ask you to please rise and direct your attention to Senate Deputy Chaplain, Rabbi Phillip Lazowski who will lead us in prayer. Rabbi Lazowski.

RABBI PHILIP LAZOWSKI:

Our thought from today is from Psalm 67 verse, 2. "May God make his face to shine upon us." Let us pray.

Gracious God, as we begin again a new session, we ask thy blessing upon our senators. Open us to your affection, surround us in thy safe embrace, give us the tools, the knowledge, and the courage to do what is best for our people and our state.

May your light shine upon the four corners of our state to help our senators see their way forward so that they may preserve the integrity and honor of our state. Instill in them the love and kindness to
conduct the affairs of this senatorial circle with understanding. Protect and watch over them. Inspire them to show the courage and conviction to do the right thing at all times. Bless and preserve our senators, who have been called to serve our beloved state, the heartbeat of Connecticut, from now and forever more, and let us say, Amen.

SENATORS:

[All] Amen.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Rabbi Lazowski, and now I'd like to call Senator Slap and Anwar to lead us in the Pledge.

SENATORS:

[All] I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, gentleman. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President and good morning.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Good to see everybody back here. I'd like to yield to Senator Hartley please for the purposes of our National Anthem.

THE CHAIR:

And Senator Hartley, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH):

Yes indeed, Madam President, I do and to you and all my colleagues in the circle as we embark on this our second year of the session. And this morning I am pleased to be able to announce with us today is a very talented young lady who hails from Newbury and is a sophomore at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, Lexi White. She is 15 years old. She is a two-time consecutive winner of Best Actress in the musical for her roles in Ragtie in 2018 and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat in 2019 by Broadway World. She also sang for three -- three times at the New York Mets in City Field. She has performed at the Bushnell here in Hartford, as a finalist for the PBS TV Show Celebration of Music. In addition to singing and live performances she has done numerous theatrical productions. We are so pleased to have with us today, Lexi White to do the National Anthem. Thank you.

LEXI WHITE:

(Singing)

(Appplause)
Lexi White, that was absolutely fabulous. Thank you so much. Senator Duff.

Thank you, Madam President. Everybody be seated, thank you. I would like to yield to Senator Hwang for a Point of Personal Privilege that we'll do then we'll go into some other remarks and then points afterwards, but we have a special one here today and we wanted to make sure we did that right up front. Senator Wang.

Senator Hwang, do you accept the yield, sir?

I do, Madam President. Thank you Majority Leader. I want to extend a very warm welcome to the Sacred Heart University Cheer Team that just recently won the National Championship and I have extended an invitation for them to come to the Capital to be recognized in representing the state in winning a National Championship. And as they come through the door.

Ladies, there's a lot of you so why don't you step a little to -- there you go. I just want to make sure everybody fits.
Thank you, Madam President. You have the National Championship Sacred Heart University National Cheer Team. And I want to take this moment to recognize them not only for the pride that they have in representing the town of Fairfield where the university resides, but also representing all of Connecticut. I want to also acknowledge Dr. Petillo who is in the audience, the President of Sacred Heart University and the spirit that he brings in regards to the can-do and the strive for success. What you have are student athletes here that compete at the highest level, and they are students and athletes. If you've ever seen any of their routines the gymnastics and the acrobat that they perform is beyond stunning. And most important of all, they represented the state of Connecticut. So I have asked a special favor for the cheer team to come up impromptu with a cheer for Connecticut. So if the circle would indulge, I will defer to the Captains in leading a quick cheer, if I may. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

(Cheering)  (Laughing)

THE CHAIR:

Sorry ladies. Didn't want to interrupt. The floor is yours.  (Laughing)

(Cheering)

(Applause)
SENATOR HWANG (28TH):

That was fantastic and now you know why they're the National Championship of this country, so congratulations and thank you for gracing us with your presence in the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, ladies and it's great to see you here. We're very proud of you. Thank you for coming today. (Applause)

And at this time I'd just like to take a moment of Personal Privilege to welcome all of our distinguished Senators back to this beautiful Chamber. I hope you had great holidays and it's been a great pleasure presiding over this Chamber last year and now this year. I'm looking forward to spending many hours with all of you. And I just want to also take the opportunity to say thank you to all of your very patient, sacrificing and supporting family members who might be here today, to thank them for all they do for our state as well. So let's have a round of applause for our family and supporters. (Applause)

And at this time I would like to recognize or Senate President, Senator Martin Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam President and good morning. I think perhaps that the Sacred Heart cheerleaders have maybe helped us find the new Connecticut state slogan of let's go CT to replace Connecticut still
revolutionary and certainly, certainly better than the western state that came up with, Meth - We're on It. That was not one that (laughing) we would want to emulate. But again, Madam President, it is a great honor and pleasure to be standing here today with -- with all of you for the beginning of the 2020 session of the General Assembly.

It's important for us to recognize, and I think we all do, the great blessing that has bestowed on each of us by the constituencies in our district, whether Senate or House, that we have been instructed by them to represent them here. It is a great trust and something that -- that I think none of us should ever become jaded about because that trust is -- is extraordinary and it is something that gives us the opportunity to be involved and engaging in fulfilling work and at the same time, the great sense that, a pride that it is -- it is each of us individually who have been entrusted by a district of 100,000 people or 24,000 people to engage in that work.

Every session Madam President takes on a life of its own. We always -- we know at the beginning of the session we're charged with budget adjustments and that's of course the technical reason for the -- the even year session. However, we know that other issues arise and sometimes those are unforeseeable at the start of a session but we -- we respond to circumstances as they arise and have to be flexible enough to deal with whatever presents itself as a concern of urgency or as an issue that has matured to the point where action of the General Assembly should be taken. So, Madam President, every session is in effect like a living organism and look forward to working with you and Governor Lamont and with the
House of the Representatives this year to produce a product that we can all be proud of for the betterment -- for the betterment of our state and in the interest of all of the people of this great state. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you so much, Senator Looney. At this time I'd like to recognize our Senate Minority Leader, Senator Len Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, when Senator Looney was trying to think of a chair for Connecticut I had talked to the cheerleaders about something that went with no tolls type of a chair, but that didn't work out too well. Madam President, once again we're back here in session. I think Senator Looney is right that every session has a -- a different heartbeat and a different feel to it. And the one thing I always say is the yellow bee is a living, breathing animal and for those of us who work there we can walk around that room or in that building, you know exactly what bills are taking off, what bills are not and what's going on; to other people it's just chatter.

But it is a place that does have a feel and it's the people's feel. That's what makes that place so unique and makes what we do so, so important. There are a lot of issues out there and there's been a lot of articles and rhetoric about what's going to happen and what not's going to happen. We do have a short session. There's business we must attend to and we have to prioritize that business, what we
must do and what we have to do and what we want to do. And deal with that stuff we have to do first, and that's move Connecticut forward. So Madam President, I look forward to another session, albeit, thankfully it's short, and look forward to the end of it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I also want to echo the words of our other leaders, previous speaker, Senator Looney and Senator Fasano. Certainly welcoming everybody back here today and you know when we get sworn in it's like the first day of school and I guess so today's like the beginning of the second semester. And so we're -- we're not quite new but it's new and it's a time to turn the page and to think of new things and how we can move our state forward, how we can help the people of the state of Connecticut. And I know that's the reason why everybody's here today 'cause that's all we want to do is move our state forward, help the people of the state of Connecticut and make sure that when we leave here in May that we have accomplished some things for the people of the state and that they -- and they understand all the work that we've done to help them.

So Madam President, I want to just take a moment also to thank beforehand our families as you did as well, the staff that works here because we know that they're going to be putting in a lot of long hours, our Clerk's office who works very hard we know and
they do a lot of stuff behind the scenes and we appreciate that, and everybody else who's a part of this. And we have a lot of folks here on opening day and we appreciate the fact that they've come here to cheer us on what is hopefully a short day 'cause we know we'll have some long days past that. But again, it is always a privilege and an honor to be here to serve, to work with everyone here today.

We may not always agree but we know that we work honorably together, we work together to move our state forward and we will continue to do that and I so appreciate the opportunity stand here today to welcome everybody and to work our leadership and other senators in moving our state forward. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Mr. Clerk. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And is there anything on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Clerk is in procession of Senate Agendas No. 1 and No. 2 dated Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Move all items on Senate Agendas Nos. 1 and 2 dated February 5, 2020 be acted upon as indicated and that the agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Senate Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

Hearing no objections, so ordered, Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Senate Agenda No. 2 would the Clerk please call Senate Resolution No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Resolution No. 1 - RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINTING OF THE SENATE JOURNAL.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. These are all proforma resolutions that we do on the opening day of session and I would urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:
Will you remark further? Senator Duff. Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor please say, Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed. The Ayes have it. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk please call from Senate Agenda No. 2, Senate Resolution No. 2 concerning roll call and reading of the Senate Journal.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Resolution No. 2 - RESOLUTION CONCERNING ROLL CALL AND READING OF THE SENATE JOURNAL.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption of the Resolution.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark? Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor please signify by saying Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed. The Ayes have it. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President and would the Clerk on Senate Agenda No. 2 please call Senate Resolution, Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 - RESOLUTION CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN, PRINTING OF BILLS AND EXPENSES.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, oops, pardon me. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption of the Resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark? Will you remark further? If not let me try your minds. All in favor please signify by saying Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed. The Ayes have it. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. This is a Joint Resolution so I move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives, please.

THE CHAIR:

Hearing no objection, so ordered. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you. Madam President, on -- would the Clerk please now call Senate -- Senate Resolution No. 3, I believe it's on Senate Agenda No. 2.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.
Senate Resolution No. 3 - RESOLUTION RAISING A COMMITTEE TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT THE SENATE IS READY TO MEET IN JOINT CONVENTION.

Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption.

Thank you, Senator Duff. Will you remark? Will you remark further? If not let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

Aye.

Opposed. The Ayes have it and it is adopted. Senator Duff.

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I would ask that you make appointments to the Committee, please.
Thank you, Senator Duff and I would like to appoint Senator Cassano, Senator Moore and Senator Bizzarro to the Committee. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I think the House has told us that they're ready so it's probably not a long walk out there to tell them, but get a head start. Thank you, Madam President. I will now yield to any members who have any Points of Personal Privilege and like to recognize their guests in the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Abrams.

SENATOR ABRAMS (13TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I will not be recognizing anyone in the Chamber; however, I do want to announce that the Public Health Committee will be holding a Committee meeting on Friday, February 7 at 1:00 p.m. in room D of the LOB. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Any -- Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you, Madam President. For purposes of an introduction.

THE CHAIR:
Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you. Madam President, very pleased to have present in the Chamber today to introduce two newly-elected officials in their -- in their first term. First is Mayor Justin Elicker of the city of New Haven who is here for his first official visit on this session day as the Mayor of New Haven. He's been in office now for a little bit over a month and is off to a -- off to a very good start.

Along with Mayor Elicker is Alder Eli Sabin of the First Ward in downtown New Haven, and Alder Sabin is a Yale student and this is the -- I told him the first of what I expect will be many offices in his career. So if we could welcome these two outstanding community leaders from the city of New Haven. Thank you, Madam President. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Welcome Mayor Elicker and welcome Alder Sabin and Alder Sabin, I challenge to you beat Senator Haskell's record. All right. Any other points?

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Yes, good morning, Madam President. I rise in -- for a Point of Personal Privilege for an introduction. I have with me today two very young and impressive millennials that are in Connecticut doing amazing things. The first person that I would like to introduce is Lauren Gothier. She is a product of the University of Connecticut public
school -- in our public school system here and she is working with our shellfish cooperative that runs from Norwalk to Noank doing amazing things, growing an industry that is not only environmentally friendly, but is a burgeoning business for us here in the state of Connecticut.

And also with her a young gentleman whose a transplant from -- originally from Auburn University, then to Texas, now here in Groton working as an engineer for our largest defense contractor in the state of Connecticut at Electric Boat, Chase Foster, who has purchased a home and is putting roots down here in Connecticut. So I ask you to join me in a warm welcome, Senate for these two young folks right here. And this is what we need more of in the state of Connecticut. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Somers. (Applause) Senator Berthel.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Good morning, Madam President. I rise for a Point of Personal Privilege for the purpose of an introduction.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):
Thank you. And continuing with the theme; I have a number of people who I need to introduce, would like to introduce. But we have some aspiring youth, young future leaders here. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Mr. Michael Dane from Watertown whose a Junior at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury. He's also the nephew of State Representative Joe Polletta. Michael, welcome to the Senate floor.

No stranger to the Senate circle, my two boys, Matthew a sophomore at Holy Cross, and Paul an 8th grader at Swifter here. All three of these young men I think will someday, perhaps aspire to sit in this seat, who knows, but we shall see.

Also here today with us is Mrs. Janelle Wilk from Watertown, Ms. Cindy Harrison from Southbury, Mr. Kevin Connard who is celebrating his 15th year on patrol with the Watertown Police Department. And last but certainly not least, Madam President, you spoke to those who support us in our legislative roles. My beautiful and loving wife, Krista is here with us today. So if the Chamber would join me in welcoming some of these people for the first time to our Capital building and the Senate floor, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Madam President. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maroney.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Good morning Madam President. I rise for the purpose of an introduction.
THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):

Madam President, I'm honored to have two distinguished guests from my hometown of Milford, Connecticut here with us today. First I'd like to introduce Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas who was the first woman to be a probate judge in Milford and she is now currently the first woman to be the court administer of the probate system in Connecticut, the 300 year history of our probate court, and not to mention a fellow Rotarian and a good friend.

As well as Mayor Ben Blake who was recently elected to his fifth term and serves not only as Milford's Mayor but its biggest fan and also biggest cheerleading, although he hasn't won a national competition yet for -- for his cheerleading but he definitely is here to promote all things Milford. So I'd like to ask you joint me in welcoming them -- welcoming them here to the Capital and to the Senate floor. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Mayor Blake, welcome and congratulations Judge Kefalas. We're very proud of you and now you have a big job running our entire state's probate system after the department of Judge Kanneerum, so best wishes to you in that new role.

And I'd just like to take a pers -- a Point of Personal Privilege to introduce and welcome Mayor
Ben Florsheim of my home town of Middletown. I didn't see you Senator Lesser. Were you going to introduce him? (Laughing) I didn't want him to be left out and you have impeccable timing so Senator, please proceed.

SENATOR LESSER (9TH):

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. It's an hour to be with you and Middletown has exceptional representation in this Chamber so I want to thank you for introducing a special guest of ours, Mayor Ben Florsheim. I also want to acknowledge a friend from the town of Rocky Hill, Ms. Andy Kelly who is up in the Gallery this morning. So I would ask that the Chamber extend its usual warm welcome. Thank you very much, Madam President. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Anwar.

SENATOR ANWAR (3RD):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise for the Point of Personal Privilege for introduction of two of very special guests of mine. I'm fortunate to represent third senatorial district which includes the two beautiful towns of Ellington and East Windsor as well. And today we are joined in the Senate Chambers with Jason Bowsza who is actually the first Selectman for East Windsor and I wanted to recognize him.

And also Laurie Spielman is over here. She's the first Selectman of Ellington. So if I may request
my colleagues to give a warm welcome to my friends from my towns, First Selectmen. Thank you so much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. (Applause) Welcome to both of you. Senator Leone.

SENIOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. It's good to see you up there today and I rise for a Point of Personal Privilege as well. I wanted to extend my thanks for our illustrious Mayor of Stanford, David Martin and his Chief of Staff, Michael Pollard for making the long trip up to the -- our beautiful Capital building on our opening day first session. And I just wanted to make sure that we extend the courtesies to him and to all the elected officials that take time out of their busy schedules to be here today. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Welcome to you both, gentleman. (Applause) Senator Kushner.

SENIOR KUSHNER (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise for a Point of Personal Privilege and I would like to introduce constituents from my district, the 24th and we have such an active group in the 24th; it's a little ways to come to the Capital but two of these folks have been here a lot advocating for various issues and particularly around social justice. And so I want to welcome Tara Volpe and Danette Onofrio from New
Fairfield. But I do especially want to extend my welcome to Hector Gerardo. This is his first trip to the Senate, first trip to the Capital so it's great to be on the Senate floor and he hails from Bethel. And of course my husband, Larry Morgan who has been there really rooting for us in the Senate, all that we do here and so, I appreciate them being with us today and I would like to extend and ask the Senate Chamber to extend a warm welcome to my guests. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bizzarro.

SENATOR BIZZARRO (6TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise for a Point of Personal Privilege for purposes of introducing two very special guests, two wonderful important women in my life. My wife, Kara whose unconditional support has allowed me to accomplish everything that I have. And my mother, Ana Maria Bizzarro, who is Madam President, the embodiment of the American dream. She came over here from a small village in Italy, learned to speak the language, got a job as a seamstress for the late, great designer Oscar de la Renta, and became a US Citizen and raised a family here. So I welcome both of them to the Chamber and I ask everyone to rise and please help me in welcoming them here today. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bizzarro you realize the -- you have realized the secret to success is surrounding yourself with smart competent women. Are there any
other Point of Personal Privilege? Please proceed, sir. Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise to introduce a friend. I have Eric Carlson who is -- he and I a few years back first ran for public office as City Councilman. Eric was elected so he's a former City Councilman and he's a glutton for punishment and he decided to throw his hat back into the ring recently and was elected to the Board of Ed in Bristol, so I'd like if you all could join me in welcoming my friend, Eric Carlson. Thank you. (Applause)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I have two Points of Personal Privilege, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to, there are some notable passings in the city of Norwalk recently and I just wanted to mark those here on the floor of the Senate. One was Officer Cesar Ramirez who recently passed away. He was diagnosed with a brain disease back in the second week of December and unfortunately he succumb to that about a week or
two ago. And somebody who was just beloved in our community. He served as one of the original community police officers in Norwalk and as a matter of fact, if they were ever to define the community police officer the picture of Cesar Ramirez would be front and center to describe the role of that position. He really was somebody who was embodied in the city of Norwalk, was beloved by everyone and was someone who just did so much for all of us. He was 32 member, a 32-year member of the Norwalk Police Department, 71 years old and had three beautiful children, grandchildren, his wife Anna. He was also the Chair of the Norwalk Housing Authority. Originally he was from New York and I believe born in Puerto Rico and he was again, somebody who wore his uniform with pride every single day. Hardly ever took a vacation or a sick day and the community recently came out for his funeral last week and really was -- honored him by their presence having so many people out there. So I want to just take a moment to recognize him.

And also we had a loss at the end of December with a gentleman named Andy Glickson who actually served in the House of Representatives for two years, in 1978 and 1979 who died unexpectedly on December 30. His -- his wife, Karen who is a doctor and also his daughter, Marian were really the loves of his life and the reason he got up in the morning. Andy was somebody who was all about justice and worn that on his sleeve. He was always concerned about ensuring fairness and decency in our system and work very, very hard. He was a member of the Norwalk Transit District and worked for former Mayor Alex Knopp when he became Mayor. He served as a lawyer with Pullman Conley and in general was a neighbor who I saw walking his dog with his wife all the time, and was
just a good, good person and we will miss him terrible. So if the Senate could just rise and honor those two individuals with a moment of silence, the community of Norwalk would be very appreciative. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I believe that the Committee has done its job in informing the House and we appreciate the work that they've done, and I believe with that we can adjourn until we get into Joint Convention.

THE CHAIR:

That's right. And so -- so ordered. The Senate stands adjourned subject to the call of the chair. And I'd ask all of our Senators to please proceed --

On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 10:52 a.m. adjourned subject to the call of the chair.