

THE SIXTEENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), February 21, 2017

Assembly called to order at 11:52 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Josh Teis.

Father, we thank You for the moment before us. We thank You for this legislative session. We praise You, for You are the Sovereign Lord who has given us this beautiful state of Nevada and placed us in this grand union. You are a good God, merciful, and full of grace. We are unworthy of Your love for we, each of us, are sinners. Our pride has divided us. Our lust has consumed us. Our anger has enslaved us. Our greed has endangered us. You saw us in our sin and had compassion upon our plight. You sent Your only Son to teach us the truth, reveal Your nature, and die upon the cross. Your Son's death was a payment for our sins, an atonement for our transgressions. But You did not leave Him in the grave. You brought Him from the tomb, out of the clutches of death, and raised Him back to life. This miracle of the resurrection was Your sign that Jesus truly was the Savior of the World. And now You offer salvation and forgiveness to all of us who would simply repent of our sin and believe in Your Son—Jesus Christ.

Now I pray for a blessing upon these Assemblymen and Assemblywomen. They are, each of them, Your ministers. You have given them passions, passions that are unique to their specific calling, passion for life and the protection of the weak, a passion for conservation and caring for this world, a passion for business and the advancement of our society, a passion for equality and fairness under the law. Each of these men and women are uniquely gifted by You so that they, together, can advance our society and glorify the God of Heaven. Therefore, I pray that You would bless them with wisdom, patience, empathy, boldness, and above all, divine guidance.

Enlarge Nevada and bless this state, our economy, industry, and population. Let Your hand of protection be upon us. Keep us safe from war and terrorism. Keep evil from our land and from our hearts. And we ask that everything that we accomplish in this session would bring honor and glory to You. In the name of Jesus we pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 24, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

TYRONE THOMPSON, *Chair*

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that Assembly Bill No. 24 be rereferred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Assemblymen Spiegel, Araujo, Carrillo, Cohen, Flores, Frierson, Fumo and Joiner; Senators Parks, Manendo, Atkinson, Spearman and Segerblom:

Assembly Bill No. 229—AN ACT relating to domestic relations; authorizing the marriage of two persons of any gender under certain circumstances; revising provisions relating to the division of community property and liabilities in certain domestic relations actions; revising certain provisions governing domestic relations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Spiegel moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Initiative Petition No. 1.

Petition read second time and ordered to third reading.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Assemblywoman Carlton requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE:

I want to bring to the attention of this body that a year ago today, former Assemblywoman and Senator Debbie Smith passed away. I thank you for allowing me to take this time to think about, first and foremost, my friend. I represent the district that she represented as an assemblywoman. I could go on and on about how she made me a better legislator or how not a day goes by that I do not have a question for her. But instead, I think back to a New Year's Eve with her and her husband and my wife and I sitting around playing Pictionary as we rang in the new year. I think about the person that truly was my friend and how much I miss her every day.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

I rise to make comments regarding our former Speaker pro Tempore, member of this body for ten years, and a former Chairwoman of Ways and Means. I will affectionately refer to her by the title that we last knew her by, which was Speaker pro Tem, Assemblywoman Debbie Smith.

She was a native Nevadan to the core—you did not go very long before she made sure that you knew she was from Battle Mountain, Nevada, and that great things can come from such a little place in such a big state. I will always remember her legislative accomplishments, including her being a champion for education and her guidance in helping me to establish the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. At her core, she was an advocate for families being involved in education—coming straight out of her background of having served with the Nevada P.T.A. [Parent Teacher Association] for so long. I will remember her in the same way that my colleague from the north does, as a friend and a source of constant support and guidance.

I remember as a freshman, every day is tenuous. You feel like you could make a mistake in this body, you feel like there is a lot of decorum to follow and a lot of eyes watching. She always provided a warm, safe place for me in my first year; to have a confidant, to have a friend, to know that ultimately if you run for office and you put yourself out there, in so many ways you are serving the public, regardless of the success or lack of success of your legislation. I am so grateful that we are able to acknowledge her and remember her on this day.

ASSEMBLYMAN DALY:

I rise today to remember a friend. I had a long relationship with Debbie Smith—on campaigns, surrounding activities in this building, at the Legislature. It is hard to believe it has been a year; I miss her. I think we should all try to remember the times when she helped probably everyone in this building.

I first started working with Debbie when she first ran for office when Jan Evans, her predecessor in Assembly District 30, passed away from cancer. We worked on a lot of campaigns. I suffered through her 32-vote loss the second time she ran and worked with her when she ran again and was reelected. We were so successful in that campaign that she was unopposed the next term, and the rest is history. She transitioned to the Senate. When I was a freshman, she was assigned to be my mentor and to make sure I did not get in trouble. I do not know if she was successful. I thank everybody for taking a minute to remember Debbie and the things she did.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I rise to recognize the work of our former colleague on a national level. Debbie Smith worked her way up through NCSL, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and was president of that body when she was ill. She still did her job, still worked very hard. Not only did she help other legislators in this body and in this state, but she set an example to all legislators across the country. Her passion was the legislative process and making sure that we all knew it, understood it, and lived it.

During my first session with Debbie, I sat in front of her in Ways and Means as a 12-year freshman. When you sit in front of Debbie in Ways and Means, you have to be prepared for a lot of things that could possibly happen to you. Between her and the testimony table, there were a lot of things going on. So I learned a lot sitting there and experiencing how she managed that committee, and I work very hard every day to carry that tradition on, making sure that that committee gets its job done for the state. I just wanted to share all of that with you and recognize how important she was, not just to us but to the whole country.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

In October of 2010, I was invited to a Stand Up for Education event. I had never been to an event like that before, but a neighbor and a friend asked me to come along. There at the Sparks Nugget was our then-Washoe County School District Superintendent Heath Morrison and Assemblywoman Debbie Smith. She gave such a compelling story about being involved with the P.T.A., being a mom and a grandma, and how that led her to advocate at the state level for all of our kids and our education system. It was a big tent moment for me as I heard her speak because I thought, She is just like me; she is just like our friends here at this event, parents who care about the future of our state and our kids. It was because of that night that I joined a bipartisan organization to advocate for education in which she was very much involved as a mentor. With that organization, in 2011 I came to this building for the first time as a parent to advocate. It was her inspiration that led to that first step, that led to many other steps, that led to me standing here today. It is in her honor that I want to recognize the impact that she has had on many in this state.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIAZ:

I rise to honor this wonderful woman who I was able to call my colleague. As a freshman, I came to this body pregnant and could not have met a more kind, genuine person. She embraced her family first—her husband was her amazing best friend, her daughters, and all her grandchildren. She held them dearly and did this work so passionately because she cared about her family. She always put everyone else's needs before hers, and that is why she was such a

staunch advocate in the arenas of education and economic development for our state. It seems surreal that last session we were sending her strength, and I hope she continues to channel strength to all of us so that we can continue this work for Nevadans.

Mr. Speaker requested the privilege of the Chair for the purpose of making the following remarks:

I will take a point of privilege at this point to also acknowledge Assemblywoman Debbie Smith. I want to acknowledge that she was a family woman and she loved her family. She loved this institution, but the lesson that many of us learned from her was to always put our families first. She loved this institution. She was there for anybody who needed it. She was not afraid to tell you like it is, but it was with love and support. She loved to have fun. I also want to point out that Assemblywoman Debbie Smith would be proud today. I miss her; we all miss her, but she would be proud.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS:

I want to let the freshmen know that when I was a freshman, term limits had been enacted so we were the largest group of freshmen that had ever entered this body. Debbie Smith was one of the individuals who was responsible for recruiting us and helping us get elected. It was a good thing and a bad thing because we were a rowdy bunch. You guys think you are rowdy? We came in thinking that we knew everything and that they were in the way. She gently reminded us who we were and how to act within this body as freshman. I appreciated that because she opened the door for so many of us. I was talking about Shelley Berkley, who did the same thing. Debbie Smith pulled us aside, gave us guidance, and reminded us of the power that we had as state legislators. She did that on a national level, like my colleague from the south mentioned. She not only had a local, but a national presence and made sure that Nevada, as small as we are, was known throughout the United States. I appreciate her and want to say never forget who opens the door for you and do not take your health for granted.

ASSEMBLYMAN OHRENSCHALL:

I rise to remember my good friend, former Assemblywoman, former State Senator Debbie Smith. As a freshman, I cannot tell the body how much she welcomed me, even though I was from southern Nevada, a different part of the state. I could tell she cared about what was good for the entire state, whether it was Washoe County, Clark County, or any of the other counties. A couple of stories come to mind.

Debbie gave me my first chance to chair a committee. It was during one of the interims and she was chairing the Legislative Commission. I was appointed to a committee that I later found out alternates the chairmanship during the interim between the Senate member and the Assembly member. The first meeting I did not know that. The Senate member, who shall not be named and was from my own party, told me that he chaired the committee last interim and he may as well chair it this time around. I got a text from Debbie that said Tell him you are chairing this committee this interim. I got to chair. I had my first chance to learn how to run a committee, and later I found out that we alternate between the Senate and the Assembly.

I have a wonderful memory of a very controversial bill I carried regarding breast cancer screening and Debbie was the key vote in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. She was getting a lot of pressure from a lot of groups who did not want to see this go through. In the end, she helped me, like she always did. I miss her and I know she would be very proud of this body today.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblyman Paul Anderson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Taylor Brockelsby and Robin Brockelsby.

On request of Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Shelley Berkley.

On request of Assemblywoman Carlton, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Tricia Catalino and Shannon Martin.

On request of Assemblywoman Cohen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ashlie Bloom and Stacy Fisher.

On request of Assemblywoman Diaz, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mason Stanley and Andrew Priest.

On request of Assemblyman McCurdy, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Tonya E. Walls.

On request of Assemblywoman Miller, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Aashist Daulat and Dulce Santacroce.

On request of Assemblyman Ohrenschall, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Nick Pfaff.

On request of Assemblywoman Spiegel, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ralph Taguba and Philip Tompkins.

On request of Assemblyman Thompson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kellie Hawthorne, Tava McGinty-Jimenez, and John Dougherty.

On request of Assemblywoman Woodbury, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Pamela Strand and Philip Tobin.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the Assembly adjourn until Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 11:30 a.m., and that it do so in memory of former Assemblywoman and Speaker pro Tempore Debbie Smith.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Approved:

JASON FRIERSON
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly