

HOUSE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

TWELFTH DAY — THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009

The house met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The roll of the house was called and a quorum was announced present (Record 20).

Present — Mr. Speaker; Allen; Alonzo; Anchia; Anderson; Aycock; Berman; Bohac; Bolton; Bonnen; Branch; Brown, B.; Brown, F.; Burnam; Button; Callegari; Chavez; Chisum; Christian; Cohen; Coleman; Cook; Corte; Crabb; Craddick; Creighton; Crownover; Darby; Davis, Y.; Deshotel; Dukes; Dunnam; Dutton; Edwards; Eiland; Eissler; England; Farabee; Farias; Farrar; Fletcher; Flores; Flynn; Frost; Gallego; Gattis; Geren; Giddings; Gonzales; Gonzalez Toureilles; Guillen; Gutierrez; Hamilton; Hancock; Hardcastle; Harless; Harper-Brown; Hartnett; Heflin; Hernandez; Herrero; Hilderbran; Hochberg; Hodge; Homer; Hopson; Howard, C.; Howard, D.; Hughes; Hunter; Jackson; Jones; Keffer; King, P.; King, S.; King, T.; Kleinschmidt; Kolkhorst; Laubenberg; Legler; Leibowitz; Lewis; Lucio; Madden; Maldonado; Mallory Caraway; Marquez; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McCall; McClendon; McReynolds; Menendez; Merritt; Miklos; Miller, D.; Miller, S.; Moody; Morrison; Naishtat; Oliveira; Olivo; Orr; Ortiz; Otto; Parker; Patrick; Paxton; Peña; Phillips; Pickett; Pierson; Pitts; Quintanilla; Raymond; Riddle; Rios Ybarra; Ritter; Rodriguez; Rose; Sheffield; Shelton; Smith, T.; Smith, W.; Smithee; Solomons; Strama; Swinford; Taylor; Thibaut; Thompson; Truitt; Turner, C.; Turner, S.; Vaught; Veasey; Villarreal; Vo; Walle; Weber; Zerwas.

Absent, Excused — Alvarado; Castro; Driver; Elkins; Isett; Kent; Kuempel.

Absent — Davis, J.; Woolley.

The invocation was offered by Dr. Mark Denison, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gainesville, as follows:

Our loving and generous Father, we step into your presence today with a sense of awe and reverence. We know that you care uniquely about the affairs of our world, country, and state. We pray for your divine inspiration and leadership for those in national office. But today we especially lift up our state government and this great body in particular.

For our elected representatives, we pray for an unusual endowment of insight and wisdom as they wrestle with difficult issues in difficult times. May they seek you in every decision. Give to them a fresh vision and unity of purpose. Forgive us for the mistakes of the past, and may your light guide our steps of tomorrow.

Now, may your richest blessings fall upon the great State of Texas, her leaders, and her citizens. Thank you for the opportunities of this day, to lead, inspire, work together, and to follow your will. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The speaker recognized Representative Hardcastle who led the house in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

CAPITOL PHYSICIAN

The speaker recognized Representative Kleinschmidt who presented Dr. Jorge Duchicela of Weimar as the "Doctor for the Day."

The house welcomed Dr. Duchicela and thanked him for his participation in the Physician of the Day Program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS SIGNED BY THE SPEAKER

Notice was given at this time that the speaker had signed bills and resolutions in the presence of the house (see the addendum to the daily journal, Signed by the Speaker, House List No. 3).

LEAVES OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today because of important business:

Driver on motion of Hunter.

Elkins on motion of Hardcastle.

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today because of illness in the family:

Kent on motion of Shelton.

Kuempel on motion of Hardcastle.

The following member was granted leave of absence for today because of a family emergency:

Alvarado on motion of Sheffield.

The following member was granted leave of absence for today because of military duty:

Isett on motion of Hardcastle.

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today because of important business in the district:

Castro on motion of Farias.

J. Davis on motion of Hancock.

Woolley on motion of B. Brown.

(Hunter in the chair)

SCR 13 - ADOPTED
(Menendez - House Sponsor)

Representative Menendez moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **SCR 13**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

SCR 13, Granting the legislature permission to adjourn for more than three days during the period beginning on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, and ending on Monday, February 9, 2009.

SCR 13 was adopted.

(Thompson in the chair)

HCR 31 - ADOPTED
(by Hughes, Dukes, Naishtat, Thompson, and S. King)

Representative Hughes moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **HCR 31**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HCR 31, Honoring Barbara Smith Conrad on her career as a world-renowned opera singer.

HCR 31 was read and was adopted.

On motion of Representatives Dukes and McClendon, the names of all the members of the house were added to **HCR 31** as signers thereof.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The chair recognized Representative Hughes who introduced Barbara Smith Conrad. Ms. Conrad briefly addressed the house and performed "Amazing Grace."

(Speaker in the chair)

HR 237 - ADOPTED
(by Callegari)

Representative Callegari moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **HR 237**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

HR 237, Recognizing the Greater Houston Partnership, its president, Jeff Moseley, and its chair, Daniel Bellow, for their contributions to the prosperity of Houston.

HR 237 was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Representatives Naishtat and Y. Davis moved that the house adjourn until 2 p.m. Monday, February 9 in memory of John Edward Davis of Austin and Lenese Lyles Salter of Dallas.

The motion prevailed.

The house accordingly, at 11:04 a.m., adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday, February 9.

ADDENDUM

SIGNED BY THE SPEAKER

The following bills and resolutions were today signed in the presence of the house by the speaker:

House List No. 3

HCR 25, HCR 32

APPENDIX

SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

February 4 - HCR 20