JOURNAL
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SENATE
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STATE OF TEXAS
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Adjourned June 1, 2009
VOLUME I
Dianne L. Arrington, Journal Clerk
Polly Emerson, Assistant
Charlene Ansley
Cathy Criss
Tracie D. Eaves-Moran
Bonnie Michell Hill
Carmen S. Kennedy
Virginia L. Nailling
Dwight D. Sutherland
Tanu'e F. White
Accordingly, the President appointed the following Committee to Notify the Governor: Senators Whitmire, Chair; Ogden, Nelson, Zaffirini, and Huffman, and the following Committee to Notify the House of Representatives: Senators Wentworth, Chair; Seliger, Eltife, Hinojosa, and Davis.

**AT EASE**

The President at 12:23 p.m. announced the Senate would stand At Ease pending the departure of its guests.

**IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The President at 12:33 p.m. called the Senate to order as In Legislative Session.

**GOVERNOR NOTIFIED**

The Committee to Notify the Governor that the Senate was organized and ready to transact business appeared at the Bar of the Senate, and Senator Whitmire, accompanied by Governor Rick Perry, notified the President and the Members that the committee had performed its duty.

The President invited Governor Perry to the President’s Rostrum.

The Senate welcomed Governor Rick Perry, who addressed the Senate as follows:

Governor, thank you very much. It’s a honor to be with you today, and each of you, as I look across this room and think about the memories that I have in this austere, sometimes austere, but most times quite interesting, and, David, congratulations on doing it one more time. It's one of the most exciting times of my life, John, has been coming to this building, 1985 as a freshman Member of the Legislature, driving down South Congress and about where Guero’s is and the road starts going down, Senator, and you see that just magnificent, unique structure of the Texas Capitol, and you realize that that's where you get to go to work every day. And nothing’s changed. After 20-plus years, Bob, I still get goose bumps down my spine, thinking about getting to come and work in this place where men and women of exceptional talent have lived and worked and made a difference for our fellow citizens. As I begin to just make some short remarks to you today, I'd like for us to pause just a moment and reflect on the tragic loss that occurred yesterday when a Air National Guard helicopter went down in College Station with a loss of a life, a newly minted Second Lieutenant, a young man who understood the meaning of sacrifice as he joined the United States Army to serve, so that you and I could be in this Chamber today enjoying the freedoms that we have in this country. And the passing of Zachary Cook in the course of military training is a reminder to all of us that the people that we represent and the principles that we value enough to, in some cases, to give up life itself, is something that we never, never should forget, and that we serve those people, that we honor their service. I know that a lot of the Senators, and certainly the staff members, and even spouses, spend a lot of time in the Capitol throughout the year, but let me just say, collectively, welcome back to Austin. Welcome back to our Capitol, and I want to extend...
a special welcome to the freshman Members that are here with us today. And, grab hold, you're in for the ride of your life. It's going to be a great and extraordinary, fun time. You're going to work long hours. You're going to take part in heated debates. Boogie will probably teach you some new words from time to time in the legislative vocabulary. But outside of keeping your word, raising your children, and being a good spouse, you're probably not going to do anything as significant as the work that you do in this Chamber for the rest of your life. And you're going to do it in the company of some of the most civic-minded, most interesting, passionate, compassionate, intellectually capable men and women that you've ever been around in your life. As you work your way through this session, understand that I am fully committed to working with you. And when I say the door to the office is open, Steve, that's exactly what I mean, and you know that, that we're here to be a team. My office is open to you as we tackle some real challenges as we always do, Jeff, that come into this building. We come from a lot of different places. We come from some of the remote, most remote parts of the state. We come from another time zone. It's a big ol' state, but are we ever blessed to live in this great state, and particularly at this moment in time. We're real different. We're different as east is to west, as north is to south. And we got one thing in common, though. We love Texas. And that's what this really is all about. Working together, ensuring that our citizens are fully protected, that they're properly educated, and that they're gainfully employed. And if we'll keep those three things in mind, we'll finish up here in May with a successful session behind us and put Texas on even a higher plane than it finds itself today. God bless you, God bless Texas.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NOTIFIED

The Committee to Notify the House that the Senate was organized and ready to transact business appeared at the Bar of the Senate, and the President and the Members were notified that the committee had performed its duty.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President acknowledged the presence of Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas, and his wife, Cecilia.

The President also acknowledged the presence of Todd Staples, Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

PHYSICIAN OF THE DAY

Senator Hegar was recognized and presented Dr. Robert Youens of Weimar as the Physician of the Day.

The Senate welcomed Dr. Youens and thanked him for his participation in the Physician of the Day program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.