

Journal of the Senate

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SEVENTEENTH DAY - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

President Kehoe in the Chair.

The Reverend Stephen George offered the following prayer:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105 NIV)

Almighty God, Your word is a lamp to our feet, grounding us in truth and righteousness, and revealing the path You have set before us. In moments of uncertainty, may Your word be our constant companion—leading us and illuminating our way. Grant us the grace to internalize Your teachings, allowing them to shape our thoughts, words, and actions as we work together. We ask this in Your Holy Name, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

A quorum being established, the Senate proceeded with its business.

The Journal of the previous day was read and approved.

The following Senators were present during the day's proceedings:

Present—Senators

Arthur	Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (16th Dist.)
Brown (26th Dist.)	Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Eigel	Eslinger
Fitzwater	Gannon	Hoskins	Hough	Koenig	Luetkemeyer	May
McCreery	Moon	Mosley	O'Laughlin	Razer	Rizzo	Roberts
Rowden	Schroer	Thompson Rehder	Trent	Williams—33		

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Washington—1

Vacancies—None

The Lieutenant Governor was present.

RESOLUTIONS

Senator Brattin offered Senate Resolution No. 669, regarding Colin Parker McIntyre, which was adopted.

Senator Brattin offered Senate Resolution No. 670, regarding Maggie Stark, which was adopted.

On motion of Senator O'Laughlin, the Senate repaired to the House of Representatives to receive the Address from Israeli Consul General, Maor Elbaz-Starinsky.

JOINT SESSION

The Joint Session was called to order by President Kehoe.

The Color Guard from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop F, presented the colors.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

On roll call the following Senators were present:

Present—Senators

Arthur	Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26th Dist.)
Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Eigel	Eslinger	Fitzwater
Gannon	Hoskins	Hough	Koenig	Luetkemeyer	May	McCreery
Moon	Mosley	O'Laughlin	Razer	Rizzo	Roberts	Rowden
Schroer	Thompson Rehder	Trent	Williams—32			

Absent—Senator Brown (16th Dist.)—1

Absent with leave—Senator Washington—1

Vacancies—None

On roll call the following Representatives were present:

PRESENT: 153

Adams	Allen	Amato	Anderson	Appelbaum	Atchison	Aune
Baker	Banderman	Bangert	Baringer	Barnes	Billington	Black
Boggs	Bonacker	Bromley	Brown (16)	Brown (149)	Brown (87)	Brown (27)
Buchheit-Courtway	Burger	Burnett	Burton	Busick	Butz	Byrnes
Casteel	Chappell	Christ	Christensen	Christofanelli	Coleman	Collins
Cook	Copeland	Crossley	Cupps	Davidson	Davis	Deaton
Diehl	Dinkins	Doll	Ealy	Evans	Falkner	Farnan
Fogle	Fountain Henderson	Francis	Gallick	Gragg	Gregory	Griffith
Haden	Haffner	Haley	Hardwick	Hausman	Hein	Henderson
Hicks	Hinman	Houx	Hovis	Hudson	Hurlbert	Ingle
Johnson (12)	Johnson (23)	Jones	Justus	Kalberloh	Keathley	Kelley (127)
Kelly (141)	Knight	Lavender	Lewis (6)	Lonsdale	Lovasco	Mackey
Mann	Marquart	Matthiesen	McGaugh	McGill	McMullen	Morse
Mosley	Murphy	Myers	Nickson-Clark	Nurrenbern	O'Donnell	Oehlerking
Owen	Parker	Patterson	Perkins	Peters	Phifer	Plank
Pollitt	Pouche	Proudie	Quade	Reedy	Reuter	Richey
Riggs	Riley	Roberts	Sander	Sassmann	Schnelting	Schulte
Schwadron	Seitz	Sharpe (4)	Shields	Smith (155)	Smith (163)	Smith (46)
Sparks	Stacy	Steinhoff	Stephens	Stinnett	Strickler	Taylor (48)
Taylor (84)	Terry	Thomas	Thompson	Titus	Toalson Reisch	Unsicker
Van Schoiack	Veit	Voss	Waller	Walsh Moore	Weber	West
Wilson	Windham	Woods	Wright	Young	Mr. Speaker	

ABSENT: 9

Bland Manlove	Bosley	Clemens	Gray	Lewis (25)	Mayhew	Merideth
Sauls	Sharp (37)					

VACANCIES: 1

The Joint Committee appointed to wait upon the Israeli Consul General, Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, escorted the Consul General to the dais where he delivered the Address to the Joint Assembly:

Address to the Joint session of the House and Senate of Missouri

Israeli Consul General Maor Elbaz-Starinsky

February 6th 2024

Honorable members of the House and Senate of the state of Missouri, Governor Parson, Lt. Governor Kehoe, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, members of the Jewish community, friends of Israel, esteemed guests.

Shalom.

I stand before you today as the Consul General of Israel to the Great State of Missouri, representing the State of Israel and its people.

I am grateful and humbled to have been given the opportunity to address this joint session today to commemorate the strong enduring bond between Israel and Missouri and to explore opportunities for further collaboration and growth.

It feels as if the entire population of both states has converged in this festivity to celebrate Israel's 75th anniversary that we mark this past year, to reaffirm our commitment to our shared values and, these days, also to mourn together for those souls lost in the October 7th massacre and ensuing war.

In marking Israel's 75th anniversary, we reflect on the remarkable journey of our homeland—the struggles, achievements, successes, and failures. The joys and agonies unfold before us.

Let's embark on a brief journey through history because, indeed, after having endured 2,000 years of exile, pogroms, persecutions, the devastating Holocaust, and ongoing conflicts, this nation has quite a story to tell.

On May 14, 1948, at 6 pm, Israel emerged as a free, sovereign, Jewish, and democratic state. A mere 11 minutes later, President Truman, a Missourian, from Independence Missouri mind you, etched his name in history by recognizing our young state's independence. I had the privilege of visiting Truman's Little White House in Key West, Florida, with President Truman's grandson Clifton, and exploring the presidential library in, well... Independence, Missouri. These visits were not just remarkable; they were moving. Marking the 75th anniversary of my homeland here, with you all, holds special significance.

The newborn state swiftly became a homeland for Jews worldwide, embracing citizens regardless of religion, race, or gender—a source of pride for its achievements, the values it upholds, and the ideals on which it stands for.

Modern Israel is the realization of a 3,500-year-old Jewish heritage. One woven with shared history, tradition, rituals, and values, all forming a cornerstone of global history and civilization.

The inception of the Israeli story marked just the beginning of the young state's journey. In a matter of months, amidst the struggle for survival, the state absorbed millions of refugees and immigrants from the remnants of Auschwitz, the deserts of Morocco, and 150 other nations. My own parents, among those millions, emigrated from Morocco in the '50s and '60s. The Israeli narrative unfolds as a testament to diversity—a mosaic of Jews of varied colors, ethnicities, cultures, and languages converging, reviving the Hebrew language, and shaping a multicultural society that understands diversity as a wellspring of strength and power.

We've harnessed our heritage to create the beloved Modern State of Israel, where the past converges with the future, where you can walk the same path of Jesus and try to walk on the same water, where people embrace their spirituality, and innovations like drip irrigation, self-made satellites, and the Iron Dome stand as a testament to our resilience.

Israel is often deemed a miracle, resonating with the biblical tales of wonders celebrated by Jews throughout the year.

While acknowledging the holiness and divine status of the land and state, I would assert that miracles here are not happenstance but the result of vision, courage, leadership, and unwavering hard work by countless individuals.

Israeli experts, entrepreneurs, and companies lead in almost every conceivable sector and their innovations define Israel and have significantly enhanced lives worldwide.

The historic motto of Israel, the "land of milk and honey," faced a stark reality when my parents arrived in the Holy Land—no milk nor honey were to be found, only harsh conditions. Despite security concerns, our agriculture and water sectors flourished and we transformed it into a true Land of Milk, Honey and cyber.

Evolving into the acclaimed "Startup Nation," our pride swells as a small nation of less than 10 million inhabitants, standing as a global cradle of innovation. Side by side with recognized agriculture and water technologies, Israel's prowess extends to mind-blowing innovations in diverse sectors like Cyber Security, FinTech, Smart Transportation, HLS and Defense, Space and Aviation, ClimateTech, Renewable Energy, healthcare, and beyond.

Encouragingly, Missouri, a leading state in numerous sectors, collaborates deeply with Israel.

Water, a testament to Israeli innovation, highlights our journey. Half of Israel is a desert, historically plagued by droughts. Rising to the challenge, Israel pioneered drip irrigation, excelled in wastewater management, primarily utilizes desalinated water, and even extracted water from thin air. Currently, we produce 20% more water than needed, even exporting it—a miraculous transformation from a water-stressed country.

Our academic achievements, scientific publications, and the 9 Nobel Prizes, reflecting a prize for every one million citizens, stand as a testament to this remarkable journey—one that we gladly share with the world.

In its brief 75-year existence, Israel has consistently extended a helping hand to developing nations across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, even during its own developmental phase. Guided by the Jewish Tikkun Olam virtue, which is our commitment to repairing the world, we wholeheartedly share our hard-earned knowledge and expertise to contribute to a better global community.

Over the past year, Israel actively engaged in challenging situations, providing assistance to Ukraine during times of conflict, offering support to Turkey in the aftermath of an earthquake, and contributing to diverse relief efforts across Africa. This unwavering dedication reflects our readiness to assist wherever in the world there is a need.

All this has not come easy.

Securing our nation has been a persistent challenge for Israel, marked by ongoing conflicts, including a recent intense and gruesome war with HAMAS terrorists who murdered, raped, mutilated, maimed, and tortured more than 1,200 Israelis, and who kidnapped hundreds of others, including – babies, toddlers, elderly and Holocaust survivors.

Despite the difficult circumstances, Israel is committed to defending its citizens while actively pursuing peace. The bitter reality of warfare is exemplified by the sacrifice, courage, and immense bravery displayed by the Israel Defense Forces. Our soldiers are fighting for the entire free world because, and have no mistake: these terrorists will come after each and every one of us here, of us, because this is a war between evil and good, darkness and light, and if someone can't tell which is which, they are part of the problem.

We were agonized to learn that 3 American troops were killed in Jordan last week. By similar evil, perpetrated by Iran. We carry your troops in our thoughts and prayers; please carry ours in yours.

In tandem with these security challenges, Israel has worked towards peace agreements with neighboring countries. From the historic accords with Egypt and Jordan to the recent Abraham Accords involving the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, Israel seeks to transform its role in the region. These agreements signal a new era of People-to-People relations, fostering cooperation across various domains.

Let me give you a small example of this potentially promising cooperation:

In October 2022, the Davenport center in St. Louis became the symbolic venue for a historic event – the first-ever tri-lateral symposium on food security, featuring collaboration between Israel, the UAE, and BIO-STL, a St. Louis-based life science and food tech accelerator.

The significance of choosing this location, near the iconic Gateway Arch, lies in its representation of a journey into the unknown, mirroring the shared pursuit of good, prosperity, and peace through science.

This symposium underscores this commitment, offering a glimpse into the shared pursuit of peace and progress and marked a step forward in global cooperation and understanding. Thus emphasizing the commitment to addressing challenges such as food security. Looking ahead, Israel remains resolute in its dedication to advancing peace initiatives and the advancement of regional stability while safeguarding its citizens and borders. The journey initiated in St. Louis is part of an ongoing commitment to fostering collaboration and progress in the pursuit of a better, more secure future.

In reflecting on our journey, I want to underscore the significant progress achieved in our partnership with Missouri.

Missouri and Israel are bound by moral ties, democratic values, and a friendship that transcends time, fostering enduring interests. The leadership of both states has consistently demonstrated unwavering commitment to bolster joint business ventures and collaborative research efforts.

This collaboration extends from political visits, statements, resolutions and proclamations coming from this house, to advancing Holocaust remembrance, enacting anti-BDS legislation and fighting antisemitism. These shared initiatives exemplify the robustness of our common values.

A notable illustration occurred during the November 2022 visit of a business delegation led by Governor Parson to Israel. Having the privilege to participate, I witnessed not only the deep appreciation the delegation held for this historic land but also the vast business opportunities, particularly in projects related to agriculture and security.

Our aim is to fortify both political and economic ties, and it's noteworthy that Missouri boasts a vibrant Jewish community, further strengthening the cultural bonds that bind us. This collaboration stands as a testament to the enduring partnership between the state of Missouri and Israel.

I want to commend you all for your firm stand against antisemitism. Last week we marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

These days, the words "Never Again" take on a new, modern, yet old, meaning, and the fight against antisemitism is growing more complex. Attacks and persecution of Jews are visible on U.S. campuses, social media platforms, and international organizations.

Jewish blood is too often considered less red and less thick, and Jewish women's bodies are devalued. This sickening reality demands our collective attention and action. To curb antisemitism, we must focus on education, legislation, and enforcement.

While rejecting all forms of hate, it's crucial to understand that antisemitism is unique and should be treated as such. Jews today face disproportionately more hate crimes, making antisemitism a distinct category.

Anti-Israel sentiment often stems from antisemitism, as shown by the recent HAMAS terror attack. This is not merely a political or territorial dispute but a matter of the Jewish people's right to sovereignty, independence, and self-determination.

"Never again" should be a call to action for everyone, ensuring it applies to all communities facing discrimination. Let us stand united against hatred and prejudice to prevent such darkness from engulfing our people.

As Israel commemorates its 75th anniversary and gazes ahead to the next 75 years, we maintain confidence that, by uniting with like-minded nations globally and individuals like you, we can collectively overcome shared challenges and make a positive impact on shaping a better future.

Expressing deep gratitude for your political support, proclamations, visits, dedication, commitment, and business endeavors, I want to emphasize the profound role each of you play as ambassadors. You are the pillars fostering the relationship between our states, champions of the Jewish cause, and storytellers of the Israeli journey.

The unwavering support of the United States has been pivotal in Israel's journey, of course with being the first to recognize our nation but mostly with the strategic and military collaboration, that helped us establish a secure home for the Jewish people.

Our two states share a rich history, common interests, and a passion for innovation. From agriculture to aviation, Israel and Missouri have exchanged knowledge, expertise, and ideas that have benefited both our communities and the entire world. We celebrate the partnerships between our universities, entrepreneurs, and businesses that have led to groundbreaking discoveries and economic growth. As we face global challenges, Israel and Missouri stand together in promoting peace, security, and democratic values.

We recognize the importance of standing against anti-Semitism, hate, and discrimination in all forms. We also acknowledge the critical role of education and cultural exchange programs in fostering greater understanding and friendship between our nations.

As we look ahead, my optimism grows for the future accomplishments that our nations will jointly achieve. I extend sincere thanks once again to the esteemed legislators, Governor Parson, and the people of Missouri. May the enduring friendship between Israel and the great state of Missouri, along with the entire United States, continue to flourish for another 75 years.

May God bless Israel, bless the United States, and bless each one of you.

And most importantly - may god bless Andy Reid, Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce - go chiefs.

Thank you.

On motion of Senator O'Laughlin, the Joint Session was dissolved and the Senators returned to the chamber where they were called to order by Senator Rowden.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator McCreery introduced to the Senate, Sophia Huddleston, St. Louis City.

Senator Trent introduced to the Senate, Associate Circuit Judge, Honorable David Roither, St. Louis City.

On motion of Senator O'Laughlin, the Senate adjourned under the rules.

SENATE CALENDAR

EIGHTEENTH DAY-WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

FORMAL CALENDAR

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS

SB 1372-Eigel	SB 1382-Washington
SB 1373-Thompson Rehder	SB 1383-Carter
SB 1374-Gannon	SB 1384-Thompson Rehder
SB 1375-Eslinger	SB 1385-Schroer
SB 1376-Moon	SB 1386-McCreery
SB 1377-Cierpiot	SJR 84-Mosley
SB 1378-Arthur	SJR 85-Cierpiot
SB 1379-Arthur	SJR 86-Carter
SB 1380-Washington	SJR 87-Koenig
SB 1381-Washington	

HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

HCS for HB 1989

SENATE BILLS FOR PERFECTION

SB 748-Hough	SBs 754, 746, 788, 765, 841, 887 &
SB 727-Koenig, with SCS	861-Luetkemeyer, with SCS
SJR 74, 48, 59, 61 & 83-Coleman, with SCS	SB 739-Cierpiot
SB 745-Bernskoetter	SB 799-Fitzwater, with SCS
SB 802-Trent	SBs 1168 & 810-Coleman, with SCS

INFORMAL CALENDAR

RESOLUTIONS

SR 557-Eigel	SR 561-Moon
SR 558-Eigel	SR 562-Moon

SR 563-Moon
SR 631-May

SR 647-Coleman

To be Referred

SCR 27-Arthur

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