

Beacon Hill Byline – By Rep. Mary Rogeness

January 01, 2001

What's New?

Happy New Year to all. And, for the purists who assert that 2001 is the actual beginning of the twenty-first century, welcome to the new millennium. One year after the world celebrated the historic event, it just might be possible that Mother Nature marked the true end of the last millennium with last week's winter storms throughout the nation, culminating with the weekend nor'easter.

Now that the calendar has turned to 2001, the Massachusetts legislature greeted the new year with a brand new session. As it does on the first Wednesday of every odd-numbered year, the senate and house of representatives convened a new session. Returning members renewed our pledge to serve the people and 17 new house members became the freshmen, the class of 2001.

The new year offers a natural time to look to the future and recall the past. It is additionally a chance for me as your state representative to look at my responsibilities to the state and our district, both in the years to come and those gone by.

Since being first sworn in 1991, I have been privileged to serve on legislative committees that include Commerce, Labor, Banking, Taxation and Ways and Means. That experience and seniority have earned me a leadership position in the Republican caucus that enable me to blend the variety of experiences to serve overall goals of the membership.

The Republican caucus makes up a minority of the legislature, but we have an impact beyond our numbers. Our fiscal conservatism is in step with the Cellucci-Swift administration and with the general direction of state government in the past decade. Our voice provides a counterbalance to the demands of excessive spending while endorsing budget growth for many educational and human service needs.

Looking at my responsibilities to our legislative district, they remain the same as they were the first day I was sworn in. You expect me to be available to respond when you call on me. You expect me to assist you in dealing with an occasionally obstructive bureaucracy. You expect me to advocate for the needs of your family and our town in the halls of the legislature.

As the new year and the new legislative session begin, I offer my thanks to you the voters for allowing me to serve for two more years in the house of representatives. And I repeat a commitment to you that I will work both at home and in Boston to represent all of the Second Hampden District (Springfield, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Monson and Wales) to the best of my ability.

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