

**Director of Legislative Liaison**

DIANE QUINTON, MOORESTOWN

Mrs. Quinton was born Nov. 12, 1942, in Eatontown. She graduated from Freehold Regional High School and, in 1964, from Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing. She is also an alumna of Columbia University.

Mrs. Quinton has served on the Burlington County Democratic Committee, and has been a volunteer with United Way of Burlington County and the state Arthritis Foundation.

Mrs. Quinton and her husband, Keith, have two children: Julie, born in 1967, and David, born in 1970.

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In 1871, mineral specimens said to contain silver were circulated in the Hackettstown area. One of them, taken from the east side of the Jenny Jump Mountains, was analyzed and found to be an ore of arsenic.

**EIGHTH ANNUAL MESSAGE**

*Governor Kean delivered his Eighth Annual Message to the First Session of the 204th Legislature on the afternoon of its organization, Jan. 9, 1990.*

*The Assembly chamber being unavailable because of renovation, the ceremony was held in the War Memorial Building.*

*Mr. Kean spoke for about 35 minutes. An abridged version of the text he used, and from which he departed from time to time, appears below. The bold-face headings were inserted by the Manual editors as reference aids for the reader.*

*The printed version of the message is much longer than the text the governor used for the speech.*

I STAND BEFORE you with a mind crowded with wonderful memories of eight great years...with a chest filled with pride for the tremendous progress we've made together...and with a heart heavy...but just a little bit heavy...to leave the job of serving the greatest people in the greatest state in the greatest nation on God's great earth.

As I look back on my eight years in office...I think of the events...both small and large.

As I look back...I remember faces.

Tens of thousands of New Jersey faces filled with pride one hot July day in 1986...as we all celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty in New Jersey...at Liberty State Park.

And I recall other faces three years before that. Faces filled with fear and uncertainty in the Ironbound section of Newark...as I went door to door reassuring people who had been frightened by the discovery of the chemical dioxin in their neighborhood. I remember their quiet dignity as they said, "Thank you, Governor. We feel better now."

I remember all these sights...and I remember the sounds and smells as well.

I heard Southside Johnny blaring from boom boxes on the boardwalk at Seaside Heights...and I listened to the soaring sounds of a Mozart sonata waft across the woods at Waterloo Village in Stanhope.

I enjoyed the quiet rush of a river in the Pinelands...and endured the clamor of cars backed up on the streets of Jersey City at rush hour.

I ate perogis and pizza...bagels and burritos...gyros and goulash...and hundreds of other foods even more difficult for me to pronounce...but too good for me to forget...as my tongue tasted irresistible evidence of the patchwork quilt that is New Jersey.

I did this day after day...week after week...year after year.

### Thanks to public servants and family

Thank You? I have a few. About seven and a half million to be exact. But I just want to single out a couple people.

First to you...the men and women of our state Legislature.

When it gets right down to it...the members of our Legislature care only about one special interest; the welfare of all the people of New Jersey.

I also want to thank the more than 80,000 people who have made both of us look good these eight years. I'm talking about our state employees.

It's been said that serving humanity is the highest creed. By that definition...New Jersey is lucky to be served by 80,000 ministers, priests, and rabbis...who all work for state government.

In just a few weeks my successor will take office. Governor Florio will ask for your help as I did so many times before. In the best tradition of New Jersey...I know you will provide it.

Today I wish Governor Florio, his family and his staff good luck and God's blessing...as they face the challenges of a new decade.

There's one more group of people I want to mention. As you know...I'm a private man...and I've always worked to keep my wife and my children out of the limelight.

But the pressures are always there. The long hours. The lost weekends. The nasty headline at the top of your morning newspaper...the noisy protest at the bottom of your driveway.

For me and most public servants...it's all part of the job. But for our families...it's not so easy to accept.

My family has borne the slings and arrows of public life with courage and dignity. They've always been my staunchest cheerleaders...my most honest critics...my very best friends.

So today I offer a special thanks to my three children...and especially to my wife Debby.

### Eight years of growth in New Jersey

On January 19, 1982, I first stood before you as Governor. The dark cloud of recession hung over us. There was misery around family dinner tables...as layoff notices arrived in the mail.

Today there are no more layoff notices...they've been replaced by signs begging for new workers.

We stand on the crest of the 84th consecutive month of economic growth. In just eight years...we've created almost 800,000 new jobs for the people of New Jersey.

In our schools...test scores are climbing again. We're cleaning our drinking water...and protecting our parkland...and even our shore has begun to revive.

We did it. Together we climbed from laggard to national leader.

Looking for a state that recruited outside professionals to the classroom?

We did it here first!

Looking for a state that stretched scarce dollars to invest in roads and clean water and open space?

We did it here first!

Looking for a state that had the courage to say that no one should be turned away from a hospital because he can't pay the bill?

We did it here first!

And if you're looking for a state that said "No" to the evil of apartheid...and "Yes" to a chance for every child...even in the worst urban schools.

Once again...we did it here first!

That's just a partial list of our accomplishments.

Our tough drug laws. Best in the nation! Our enterprise zones and welfare reforms to give skills and jobs to the needy. Best in the nation! Campaign finance laws...our shore protection plan...and higher education challenge.

All considered...the very best in the nation!

### Pride in the state

People ask me about our most lasting and important accomplishment. I tell them it's not something that can be compiled on a chart...plotted on a graph...or really even measured by a poll.

We forged an identity...we reaffirmed a sense of purpose...and we built new pride in this place we call New Jersey.

Without pride...we can do nothing. But with pride...we can do it all.

And as I leave this office...I ask the people of New Jersey to remember the true meaning of pride.

As you know...I'm bullish on our state...and I'm bullish on America. But as I look around the globe on this January day...I do have one worry.

We have witnessed more changes in the world in 12 months...than most of us have seen in a lifetime.

As the Soviets experiment with voting machines...and the Poles with free enterprise...our chests justifiably swell with pride and we say...*"We won."*

Then we wonder...can people who have spent their lives in the false security of socialism...handle the risks and responsibilities of free enterprise and freedom?

I'm not worried about the people in Hungary and Poland and Panama. They're never turning back.

I'm worried about closer to home. Worried that we now take freedom for granted...and believe prosperity to be our birthright...not something that must be earned and shared and passed onwards.

The great Greek historian Edith Hamilton once observed that, *"When the freedom they wished for most was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free and was never free again."*

I see signs...small now but still foreboding...that we may have forgotten that eloquent warning spoken by a young president now more than a quarter century ago.

Democracy consists of more than asking what we can get from our country...but also in seeing what we can give.

In our state...we must build hospitals to care for AIDS babies...prisons to hold the crooked and corrupt...and facilities to destroy the unwanted by-products of our industrial age.

And yet...when we start to build these necessities...we hear the same refrain over and over. *"No...not here. Go somewhere else!"*

And what of our schools? No challenge is more important. No problem has occupied more of our energy and attention. I believe no state has made as much progress.

Still, I'm bothered by something.

#### Revise the school funding formula

Our taxpayers now spend more money per child in school than any other taxpayers in the United States. And yet our state monies

are distributed by a formula that is outdated and unjust. Now we are waiting for the courts to tell us what to do. That's wrong. Elected officials are better suited than appointed ones. Why don't we make the decision and revise the formula ourselves?

And I'm bothered by something else.

When I had the temerity to suggest eliminating mandatory gym classes...I was deluged with letters of complaint from students, parents and teachers.

And yet...much rarer were letters from a parent saying...*"You know, I don't think my child's English program is good enough...what can I do to help?"*

I ask you...what does that say about our priorities?

And what of the environment?

How much longer can we pile condo on top of condo...strip mall on top of strip mall...in some mad race to fatten the wallets of a few...while destroying the natural treasures that can be enjoyed by so many.

And one more thing.

As we settle into our reclining chairs at night...surrounded by our VCR's and remote controls and CDs and Nintendo games...do we think of the children in our inner cities...who are not worried about escaping the Pac Man on the video screen...but the drug dealer in the tenement on the corner?

#### Meeting the challenges ahead together

Yes...we have practiced the politics of inclusion together. While I admit not all of our approaches have worked...we have tried and tried and tried. But we must continue to reach out and embrace and include.

Because the simple truth is this...as I've said a thousand times before...America as a whole doesn't make it in the next century...if twenty percent of us are left behind.

These are the challenges. They are not unique to New Jersey. They confront all America.

They really go beyond government. No government can mandate parental concern about schools. No government can dictate community sacrifice...or make the suburbs care about the cities.

Government can't do it alone. But pride can.

If we are truly proud...as New Jerseyans and as Americans...we will not allow the sturdy foundation of democracy...painfully constructed for over two centuries...to be nibbled to pieces by the three termites of selfishness, indifference and greed.

Our forebearers did not shed the blood of war and cry the tears of depression...to see freedom and free enterprise rise in the East...only to wither in the West.

We must be true to the past...because we owe it to the future.

The very best part of being Governor has been the opportunity to meet with so many children.

As you know...I tried to visit a classroom once a month. The best advice I can give my successor is to follow the same habit.

As my term in office has wound down...some children have written some thank you letters to me. I'd like to share them.

A boy named Seth wrote to express his sympathy about my busy schedule. Then he wrote..."I heard you get a lot of money...so I don't blame you for working so hard."

Then there was Reni. Good old Reni. He wrote probably the most candid line I've heard the past eight years.

He said..."I'm very sorry you're leaving office, but that's life, Bud!"

Well...Reni...that is life, Bud. And I accept it.

But for you...life is going to be a lot of things.

You're going to grow up in a world in which people will live in colonies on the moon...in which electricity may only be found in museums...and in which people in every corner of our globe will breathe the fresh air of freedom.

Will New Jersey be on top of that world? Well...there are no guarantees. But I can tell you this...we're building the answer today.

To everyone connected with state government...thanks for making this the best job I've ever had.

To everyone in the War Memorial and those watching on television...thanks for listening to me one last time.

God bless you. And God bless New Jersey.

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In 1682 Thomas Farnsworth founded a settlement on the Delaware River which became known as Farnsworth's Landing. Eventually the name was changed to Bordentown.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS

*Governor Florio delivered his inaugural address after taking his oath of office on the stage of the War Memorial Building, Trenton, shortly after noon Jan. 16, 1990. The governor spoke for about 23 minutes, using a text somewhat longer than the version which appears here. The bold-face headings were inserted by the Manual editors as reference aids for the reader.*

**THIS DAY IS** a homecoming for me. After 15 years in Washington, I return to New Jersey, to the county where I earned my college degree, to the city where I began my career in public service 20 years ago. As I look out on this vast audience, let me simply say, it's good to be home.

Those who have stood here before me know well the challenges and obstacles that await me. Governors Hughes, Cahill, Byrne, and Kean—I thank you for the advice and wisdom you have offered. On a personal level, I want to thank Tom Kean, for your grace and courtesy during these past few weeks.

And as a citizen of New Jersey, I want to thank you, Tom, for all you have done to help bring our state's pride out of the shadows.

It may be presumptuous for me to begin by talking about what I want to be remembered for, when my time as Governor is finished. But I believe in setting goals, and meeting them. I believe in keeping my promises. I've done that all my life. So, let me tell you now that my goal is a simple one. When I leave here, I want to be remembered as the Governor who brought new ideas to preserve old ideals.

### **A special legislative session for auto insurance reform**

I said during the campaign that bringing down car insurance rates would be one of the first things I do. It will be. We will bring back fairness to a system that has abused the drivers of New Jersey for too long.

So I have asked the leaders of the Legislature, and they have agreed to call a joint session of the Legislature for next Monday to hear my proposals for bringing down the unfair tax we call car insurance.