

**Inaugural Remarks by the Honorable Stacy L. Garrity**  
**Treasurer of Pennsylvania**  
*Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

Distinguished guests, friends, family, and fellow Pennsylvanians: Thank you for being here today.

Before starting, I want to call your attention to an act of grace too often missing in public life. Joe Torsella, the man who precedes me in office, spoke to us by video today. Joe and I differ in our politics. That's what elections are about. Yet, Joe has risen above politics in the days since November 3 and helped ensure a smooth transition.

That generosity of spirit marks him as an outstanding man, and a great Pennsylvanian. Joe, as we say in the military, "Thank you for your service."

This day doesn't belong to any one party or to any one person. It belongs to all of us, a people defined by where we're from. I come from a place where we don't lock our doors. We live in the belief that all mankind is our friend and that people are, at their core, good. We live within the boundaries of what William Penn called his Holy Experiment, a place grounded in common decency and fair play.

It is a place of friendship, and we live out the words of Penn, who wrote:

*A true friend advises justly, assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all patiently, defends courageously, and continues a friend unchangeably.*

We find fulfillment in being charitable to others, but don't seek charity for ourselves. Where I come from, people believe in taking responsibility for their own lives. But we know that as a people, we have a moral obligation to help others. In return, we expect a certain standard of behavior from those we help. It's a social contract that blends personal freedom with the essential impulse to do good for others.

I learned these things from a woman who is here with us today. Her name is Beverly Arbie. She held a pretty high office in her own right. She's my mom. With her is a man whose strength of character and steady guidance helped shape me. He's my father, Howard Garrity.

And both my father and mother supported their daughter when she went off to war in the deserts of Iraq. I can't begin to imagine how hard it was to live with that worry – and never let it show as they supported my decision.

Also here is someone who also waited for those deployments and who has always acted as a partner in life, my better half. His name is Dan Gizzi.

The poet John Milton said, "They also serve, who only stand and wait." These three waited. And today, as their daughter and wife begins a new chapter, this is their moment, too. And now, I'd like them to stand and be recognized. Mom, Dad, Dan: Thank you.

To those who supported me in this campaign, the volunteers, the staff, and to my sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles who supported me in life, I can only offer a humble word of thanks and a promise to live up to your expectations.

I am here today as Pennsylvania's new treasurer. It is now my job to be the steward of taxpayer money, and to make certain that government is open, honest, and accountable. There are many arcane and technical aspects to the new task before me. I am ready to confront them.

I told you about where I'm from because this job is every bit as much about the place we live and the people we are, as it is about the wealth we guard and the currency we spend.

It's about making sure that unclaimed property – billions of dollars of your money – is returned to its rightful owners. It's about promoting college savings for working families and the ABLE account to assist people with special needs. It's about creating a system that will allow taxpayers to go online and examine every check written from the Treasury. It's their money, and they deserve to know how every dollar is spent.

If there is an emblem of my hopes for this office, it can be found in this small coin that we had made for today. It's called a challenge coin. They were first created so that someone, when challenged, could prove they belonged to the military. In the years since, they've become an emblem of ideals, of goals, and a reward for missions accomplished.

Mine carries two symbols: One representing the motto of the military police: "To Assist, Protect, and Defend." The other side is our state seal, with its motto: "Virtue, Liberty, Independence." Service to our country, liberty at home: These are, truly, two sides of the same coin.

If there is any philosophy I bring to this office it is that government has a moral obligation to do what is best for people and to always remember that the economy is here to serve people – not the other way around. Free markets are, to my thinking, the best avenue to prosperity. Personal freedom and self-determination are the truest expressions of human nature. Service to others, be it in an elective office or wearing the uniform of our country, is the highest calling. And getting

the job done in good faith and with honest effort, is the watchword by which I promise to serve you.

We have just come through a year of unprecedented challenges, hard feelings, and some deep losses. There's a saying that if you focus on the rearview mirror, you'll miss where you're headed. I say we look ahead toward a place of optimism and cooperation.

Let's start the journey.

God bless all of you, God bless Pennsylvania, and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.

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