

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

11:06 A.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

Chaplain David Reyes will offer a prayer.

CHAPLAIN DAVID REYES: Please join me in prayer. O, God, our Father, searcher of human hearts, I come before You today to give thanks for this Senate and its relationship with the United States Military Academy. May Your blessing rest on both institutions as sources for wise governance, and producing leaders of character. May they both exemplify the exhortation in Colossians Chapter 3 which reminds us to set our minds on things above or, in other words, to pursue that which is excelsior, all of which I ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of All, Amen.

MEMBERS: Amen.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Monday, April 8th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Monday, April the 8th, and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir. I would like to share a quote with our guests and our colleagues today. This one comes from Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., was the first African-American West Point graduate in the 20th Century with the class of 1936, and a Tuskegee Airmen commander during World War II. Mr. Davis retired in 1970 as a Lieutenant General, but was recalled to active duty by President Clinton in 1998 and promoted to a full Four-Star General. He also served as the Secretary for Transportation under President Nixon's Administration. Davis Barracks at West Point is named in his honor. His words for us today, Mr. Speaker: The privileges of being an American belong to those

brave enough to fight for them. Again, these words from Benjamin O. Davis.

Mr. Speaker, members have on their desk a main Calendar, and after any introductions and/or housekeeping, we're going to be calling for the following committees off the floor. The first committee we're going to call is Health, but there will be four other committees and I'm not sure exactly what order those will be in, Mr. Speaker, but Health will be our first committee; Education will follow; Labor will follow; Social Services will follow, as well as Transportation. We're going to begin our work today on the floor by taking up Resolutions on Page 3, and then after that we're going to go on consent to new bills from the main Calendar, beginning with Calendar No. 389, it's on Page 28. Members should also be aware that we are going to be conducting our traditional West Point celebration this afternoon as we proceed, and I would encourage members to remain in their seats while we honor these men and women. I will make additional announcements if there's a need for further floor activity, Mr. Speaker, or if there's a need for conference needs, we'll see how that goes.

That's the general outline of where we are, sir. If you have introductions or housekeeping, this would be a great time. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes for the purposes of a introduction.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, could you

please call the Health Committee immediately to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Health Committee, immediately, Speaker's Conference Room.

No housekeeping.

Mr. Zebrowski for the purposes of a introduction.

MR. ZEBROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an important guest with me today sitting next to me. This is my mother, Linda Zebrowski. My mom, a lifelong Rocklander, has had many careers throughout her life, but is currently a licensed real estate agent, in addition to raising six children in Rockland County, of which I am the third down. I couldn't quite possibly do this job without her for over these years. Number one, she's a good sounding board. She's the person who lets me know what people are thinking about on the streets, she's one of those barometer-type persons, you know, you have, when you're an elected official, you know, I'll come home, say something we'll do here and she'll say that sounds crazy and, you know. But in addition, she also, you know, shows up to my house at like 5:45 in the morning when my wife leaves to work at the hospital, I'm up here, and she gets my three kids dressed, fed, out to school. So quite literally, I would not be able to do it --

(Applause)

-- without -- without her. So I thought today would be a great day for her to come up and experience Albany and I would just ask, Mr. Speaker, if you could welcome her to the Chambers, I'd

appreciate it. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of your son, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations on your son and his accomplishments, certainly you have been instrumental in making sure that he is the man that we know and love. Thank you so very much for being here. Remember, you're always welcome here, you're family. Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Hyndman for the purposes of a introduction.

MS. HYNDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we are hosting the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, a sorority founded in 1913 by 22 African-American women who were devoted to social action, sisterhood, and scholarship. So we have sorors today from all over New York State, and coordinated by our Social Action Chairs, Michelle L'Champon and Donna Harris. We are devoted to making sure we uplift communities throughout the State of New York and throughout the country and the world. Social action is at our core, so when it comes to seeing the women in crimson and cream, I know people know we're about our business. And so although Assemblymember Rodneyse is remote and I am here today, we are women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, and as our saying goes, if you want someone to do the work and do it right, you always call a Delta. So please afford them all the cordialities of the House today.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Hyndman, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome this extraordinary group of women here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Congratulate you on your organization and the work you do to ensure the health and well-being of the people of this State. And we hope that you know you're always welcome here. Please continue the great work. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Pirozzolo.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I rise today for the purpose of an introduction. Today, I would like to introduce to you some very good friends of mine, Mike and Phylis Beck, with their grandson, Mr. Beckett Wells. Not only are they good friends of mine, they happen to be constituents. And I'm proud to have them here in the Chamber today because this would be a very good example of people who have moved -- they went to Buffalo, New York yesterday for a family reunion to experience the eclipse, so they are the epitome of people who are participating in what we all did yesterday, which was the astronomical event of the eclipse, they participated to the economy of New York by showing up at my hotel with eclipse t-shirts, and it was a wonderful thing. So I would like you to please sir, welcome them to the House and give them the cordialities of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf

of Mr. Pirozzolo, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here, Mike and Phylis, to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Hope you enjoyed your trip through New York State, your vision of the eclipse, as well as the time you will spend here in Albany. Continue to be the great citizens that you are, we are so pleased to have you. Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Rajkumar for the purposes of a introduction.

MS. RAJKUMAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honor and pleasure to introduce a group from Harlem, most importantly a special group of four-year-old children who belong to Heaven's Tiny Tot Daycare an institution in Harlem. And they have come here to learn about government in our State Capitol. They are also here on their first campaign to advocate to close the illegal smoke shops threatening their daycare. They are our future, and the State Assembly is overjoyed to welcome them today. Please also welcome Tiffany Fulton, Executive Director of Silent Voices United. Ms. Fulton is a leader in the Harlem community who empowers youth through community service, mentoring and safety resources. Ms. Tiffany Fulton is deeply comitted to community betterment. Her groundbreaking initiatives include the Got Tested HIV/AIDS Education Campaign; Read Quest Literacy Program, and she's also the author of *Harlem's Tales of Hope*. Please also welcome Tameka Silva, the founder herself of Heaven's Tiny Tots, serving the Central Harlem neighborhood since 2018. Ms. Tameka Silva's commitment

to our children and her passion is an inspiration to all who visit her center. Mr. Darrell Fulton, dedicated to helping the less fortunate in legal work and other business; Kenya Hill, Toya Carter, from Harlem's Heavens Tiny Tots; Gilda Gillim, Ruth McDaniels, founder of Breaking the Chains of your Mind, an organization that focuses on educating and empowering our disenfranchised communities, including incarcerated individuals.

Mr. Speaker, please welcome this group and extend to them all the privileges of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Rajkumar, Mr. Gibbs, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Thank you so very much for taking the time to visit us, come and share. Hope this day will be beneficial. And to the marvelous young people you have brought with you, continue to do the work that will ensure their future. Thank you so very much for being here.

(Applause)

We will go to --

Resolutions on Page 3, 1082, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 1082, Ms. Rajkumar.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Punjabi Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of

Vaisakhi to be celebrated April 13, 2024.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rajkumar on the resolution.

MS. RAJKUMAR: As the first Punjabi-American ever elected to State Office in New York, it is with enormous pride that I have introduced a first of its kind resolution, whereby we will recognize the month of April as Punjabi Heritage Month in our Great State, and officially name Vaisakhi Day in New York State in honor of the Sikh American community. How magnificent our Legislative Body is ever growing in its diversity, and how magnificent our State where anyone of any background can thrive if they have a dream that they are willing to work for.

So it is true that I am a daughter of the Punjab, a State of North India. My ancestors are from Amritsar, from the Old City of Patti, and this region of Punjab is the heart of the Sikh community. And like many Punjabi families across our great country, my family settled here for the American Dream, and I am proud to now be the Assemblywoman for Richmond Hill, known by many as "Little Punjab," the Sikh Capital of the United States.

I would like to tell you a bit about the Sikh-American community. At every Gurdwara, Sikh Temple, food is made and offered free of charge to anyone, no matter their religion, gender, background or ethnicity, and they do this every day serving free food to all. Sikhs are required to defend the freedom of worship of other religions, just as they would defend their own. As my uncle always

told me, the Sikhs are our protectors. Sadly, Sikh-Americans are among our nation's most targeted religious groups. There's been a 200 rise in hate crimes against Sikh-Americans the past few years. But on this Punjabi Heritage Month, we commit to ending the hate against Sikh-Americans and all groups.

And now, this April is Vaisakhi, one of the most historically significant celebrations for the Sikh community. In Richmond Hill, the dhol drums play, Gurdwaras are adorned with color. On behalf of Richmond Hill and Punjabi-Americans across the State, I proudly submit to you this historic resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 1083, Ms. Jackson.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 25th, 2024, as Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 1084, Mr. K. Brown.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor

Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 2, 2024, as Custodial Worker's Recognition Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

Ms. Solages for the purposes of a introduction.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to pause the proceedings today to introduce a wonderful group. So I am, as everyone knows, I'm from the community of Elmont. And in Elmont, we pride ourselves on education. And so I have some elite students here who are part of the Elmont's Model UN Program. And so first, I want to recognize the founder of this program, Lee Marcus who is really someone who has herald -- herald a good group of kids through a wonderful program, and also their advisor, Nkenge Gilliam, if they could stand. Today marks the 45th Anniversary of the Model UN Program at Elmont Memorial High School, and Lee Marcus has advised this program since 1978. And Elmont has won various awards and commemorations at conferences not only across the United States but internationally. These students travel around the world debating foreign and domestic issues, and currently, the Elmont Model UN team, which is also here, is one of the best debaters around. So the delegation has won about four awards at Princeton's Model UN Program. They won seven committee awards at UC Berkley, including Christopher Cherry who won the best delegate of the International Security Committee. And

thanks to their decades of work, Lee Marcus has put the Model UN Program on the map of not only in Elmont but across the Sewanhaka Central High School District, and so they've carried this tradition, it's a tradition that many students go through, and I just want to say thank you, Lee Marcus, for bringing civics and engagement to the Elmont community. And so on behalf of the 22nd Assembly District and the Assembly Chamber, if you could please extend the cordialities of the House to these elite members, as well as these advisors.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Solages, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these students and staff from the Elmont High School. We certainly extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations to both the founders and those young people who have entertained and decided to be a part of this. We congratulate you. We hope it will lead to a great future where you will have better understanding of the world and make this a better world. Thank you so very much for being with us.

(Applause)

We will go to Page 28, Calendar No. 389, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04563, Calendar No. 389, Stirpe, McMahon, Steck, Bronson, Lupardo, Gunther, Darling, Otis, Levenberg. An act to amend the General Municipal Law, in relation to including lakes in adopt-a-municipal park, shoreline or roadway programs

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04957, Calendar No. 390, Jean-Pierre, Colton. An act to amend the Correction Law, in relation to providing incarcerated individuals with access to breast cancer screenings and information about breast self examinations.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Jean-Pierre, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, will you please call the Health Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediate -- I'm sorry, the Education Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Education Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately, please. Thank you.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05004, Calendar No.

391, Hyndman, Benedetto, Gibbs, Aubry, Gunther, González-Rojas, Glick, Woerner, O'Donnell, Stirpe, Zinerman, Simon, Tapia, Bendett, K. Brown, Novakhov, Jackson, Brook-Krasny. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to the distribution of information about fentanyl test strips and their uses.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Hyndman, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, will you please call the Social Services Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately?

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: The Social Services Committee meeting will be in the Conference Room -- Speaker's Conference Room immediately.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09125, Calendar No. 392, Burdick. An act to incorporate the Bedford Hills Fire Department Benevolent Association and providing for its powers and duties.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the Transportation Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Transportation Committee, Speaker's Conference Room immediately, please.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09269-B, Calendar No. 393, Berger, Davila, Cunningham, Maher, Glick, Hyndman, Simon, Chang, Solages, Kim. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to requiring electronic benefit transfer systems to

provide for benefit recipients to be able to cancel, lock or unlock a credit or debit card associated with electronic benefit transfer services.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. As we begin our traditional welcome of West Point guests, and I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the Assembly as we are all New Yorkers, I'd like to say how truly honored we are to have such prestigious and historic institution as West Point located in the State of New York. West Point graduates can be counted throughout the history as some of the nation's greatest leaders, and I suspect I am confident a number of those here with us today are future leaders. From military commanders, to elected officials, to pioneers in industry, West Point graduates have made and continue to make extraordinary contributions to both society and to our nation. The cadets that join us here today have chosen a path of service. In my opinion, there's nothing more honorable, more nobler, more worthy of

our respect and admiration than the opportunity to serve. I applaud these fine young men and women for placing service before self. May we pause in our deliberations to honor their courage, thank them for their selfless sacrifice, and wish them good health and safety as we continue -- as they continue their careers.

Mr. Speaker, I now look forward to hearing your remarks, sir. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you. It is my honor and privilege to interrupt the proceedings of the House to continue a special tradition. More than 70 years ago, the Assembly, through the efforts of Assemblyman and West Point graduate, James T. McNamara, adopted its first West Point resolution to honor the United States Military Academy. I'm honored on behalf of Speaker Carl Heastie and all my Assembly colleagues to begin our annual recognition of West Point and the cadets who visit us today.

With us today we have Lieutenant General Steve Gillian, 61st Superintendent, United States Military Academy.

(Applause)

Colonel Terrence Kelley, Director of Public Affairs and Communication, United States Military Academy.

(Applause)

Lieutenant Colonel Ashley Ritchey, Executive Officer, United States Military Academy.

(Applause)

Major Andrew Rodriguez, Aide to the

Superintendent.

(Applause)

Cadet Martayn Van de Wall, First Captain, United States Corps of Cadets.

(Applause)

Staff Sergeant German Morales, Personal Driver to the Superintendent.

(Applause)

And the fine cadets who will soon be introduced by members of the State Assembly.

The highly respected West Point Academy has stood tall and proud in New York's beautiful Hudson Valley since 1802.

The young men and women who attended West Point represent the best and the brightest of our communities. The Academy graduates have a legacy of leadership and excellence. For more than 200 years, United States Military Academy at West Point has served as a testament to the principles of honor, duty, and country. The legacy of truly unmatched, it is the oldest of the five service academies. In just a moment, we will take up a resolution honoring the legacy of the Academy, and the role it has played in shaping the history of our State and the nation. We thank you for visiting us today and for your unwavering commitment to our nation.

(Applause)

Assembly resolution No. 1080, the Clerk will read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 1080, Mr. Eachus.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 9th, 2024, as West Point Day in New York State.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Jean-Pierre on the resolution.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great honor and pleasure that I stand here today as a Chair of the Veterans' Assembly Affairs Committee, participating in this annual event dedicated to the United States Military Academy at West Point. It is an absolute privilege to welcome the Lieutenant General Steven W. Gillian, 61st Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, the outstanding cadets, and the senior Army personnel joining us from the prestige and historic institution.

Located in the heart of the Hudson Valley, the United States Military Academy was established in 1802 under legislation signed by President Thomas Jefferson for the purpose of training officers to lead our nation's army. Since then, West Point has been the place where young people are modeled into leaders through the intense military training and a rigorous academic curriculum.

Duty, Honor, and Country is the fundamental for the United States Military Academy culture and motto. As -- as of this past March, West Point's updated mission statement is: "To build, educate, train, and inspire the Corpse [sic] of the Cadets. To be the

commissioned leaders of character committed to the Army values and ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and nation."

For over 200 years, West Point graduates have steadily fastly [sic] entered their country's call, leading American soldiers in dangerous missions and conflicts around the world. A popular expression at the Academy is that much of the history we teach was made by the people we taught. Its alum -- its alum include 77 Medal of Honor recipients, two U.S. Presidents, and countless other leaders in government, business, science, academia, and of course the military. West Point's graduates embody a rich history and tradition of patriotic commitment and achievement that we are proud to have in New York State.

One constant at West Point is that its curriculum is always changing to meet the needs of the nation. We face uncertain times in the 21st Century. Conditions in the world are ever shifting, and we must stay diligent. Although we can never know for certain what the future holds, we can take comfort in knowing that young people such as those here today stand strong, proud, and prepared to face the challenges that lie ahead.

We owe the cadets our respect -- our respect and gratitude. I salute them for their service. On behalf of the entire Veterans' Affairs Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome and congratulate all the cadets here today, and welcome the distinguished faculty and staff of the United States Army Academy accompanying them today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Manktelow on the resolution.

MR. MANKTELOW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Assembly Minority Conference I'm the ranking member of the committee, and it's my pleasure and honor to speak today about these young men and women, these cadets. And having a little bit of background as myself as an Army veteran and many of my family members understanding how they got to where they are or how they didn't know if they were going to get to where they were, and having a chance to interview a lot of these individuals prior to becoming cadets, understanding their background, what they've gone through, not only personally but through their schooling, through their families and what the dedication that these young men and women do. And it's such a -- such a great honor to recognize these cadets and everything they stand for, and it's an honor that we know that these young men and women, these cadets, will protect the values of our life, the values of our country and the values and the protections of all of us. So are we in great hands? Absolutely. Because of why? These young men and women and their family members and the individuals that instruct them and get them to know where they need to be.

As a sergeant in the army, understanding that our officers play a huge role in what we do no matter where we went. As you all know I'm definitely partial to armor so I hope there's a few

armored officers here, maybe not, but I'm partial to them. So again, as we honor West Point, as we honor those young men and women, those cadets, we also honor their -- their families as well for what they're giving all of us. Their time, their commitment, possibly their life, we say thank you for everything you're standing for, everything you will stand for and everything you will do. So thank you for taking the time to be here this -- this afternoon. Thank you for your commitment, your service and thank you for serving our country. May God bless all of you, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

Ms. Hunter on the resolution.

MS. HUNTER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Women Veterans and a proud US Army veteran, I'm honored today to welcome the entire West Point Command, especially the members of the Corps of Cadets. The first cadets graduated from West Point in 1802, women were first admitted in 1976 and in 1980, sixty-two graduated forever changing the Academy. More than 6,000 women have added their names to the Register of Graduates and joined the Long Gray Line.

To each cadet, I wish you the very best as you can continue to learn the important role you play in the world today. It is always my privilege, Mr. Speaker, to speak these words; Go Army, Beat Navy! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Eachus on the resolution.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad we could assist with their military training today by making them hurry up and wait.

(Laughter)

Each year it is my distinct honor as the representative of the 99th District to sponsor and introduce this resolution before us today, to recognize historic West Point located right in my district, which for me at least, is a very nice break from the ongoing budget negotiations. I know we have some new members here this year so here's some quick history. By an Act of Congress on March 16th in 1802, the United States Military Academy at West Point was established on the banks of the Hudson River. Before then the location served as a critical strategic military stronghold during the American Revolution blocking several British invasion attempts along the river. Today, West Point stands strong as the oldest, continuously occupied regular Army Post in the United States. Today it stands as also one of the finest educational institutions in the world. Notable graduates include some names you may recognize: Ulysses S. Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Patton and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. The resiliency of this institution structure and tenacity of its cadets and graduates cannot be understated. As many of you know, last year on July 9th, a once-in-a-century storm barrelled through the Town of Highlands causing untold amount of damage to homes, roads and

unfortunately taking the life of one of my constituents. West Point was not spared from this devastation. Seeing historic levels of flooding and millions of dollars in damage. However, leadership and a West Point saw this yet another long list of challenges to take on. They were indispensable in ensuring that recovering efforts were underway, that residents were kept safe and that there were more than enough able-bodied volunteers to begin rebuilding. Although it occurred on July 9th, many cadets were still at the Academy doing their summer service. A testament to the institution's values and it is tough to imagine the difficulties we would have faced if not for their assistance.

That brings us to today. Every year since 1952, West Point has sent us the best and brightest to this iconic institution. These cadets exemplify the Academy's motto; Duty, Honor and Country. It is still their motto. They are not only expected to overcome their own personal challenges that come with the pursuit of growth, but also carry the burdens of all citizens regardless of who they are or where they come from, to protect their freedoms abroad and at home, to stand up against the injustices of all forms, in their own words; to not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those injustices of all forms. This is a burden not to be taken lightly and not for the faint of heart. Many before them have taken this oath and many have given the ultimate sacrifice and adheres to it. Make no mistake, the cadets you see here today will be the grand leaders of tomorrow. They represent the resiliency, strength and grit that has made the United

States of America the greatest nation the world has ever seen. I have continued hope for the protection of our democratic way of life knowing they will be leading the way. West Point itself is a historical reminder of the price it takes to secure our freedoms as a world-class educational institution and as the location boasting some of the most incredible views of our State's natural landscape. I encourage all my colleagues if they had not had the opportunity to do so, to come to my district and see this incredible institution firsthand. And I, too, will repeat the most important statement. Go Army, beat Navy! Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Chang on the resolution.

MR. CHANG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly support this resolution 1080 memorializing West Point. As a retired Navy for 24 years and serving a tour in Afghanistan, I work with many of the West Point officers and I'm impressed with their professionalism, the bravery and the knowledge and scope on the battlefield that was in. Very, very impressed. And I expect our future cadets will lead the same as well and -- and I hope that West Point will continue on its finest institution of breeding leaders, quality of people and leaderships. And one final say is Navy beat Army! Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Slater on the

resolution.

MR. SLATER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise quickly to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution forward and for celebrating this great day. You heard firsthand the historic power of West Point having -- and representing the Hudson Valley. The importance that it has every single day in our region. For me personally, I spent many weeks in the summer at West Point attending their soccer camps. I was married actually right at Hotel Thayer, right on Post and my in-laws live a half a mile right outside the gates. And I actually was just there last week with my son. I have gotten to know many of the incredible cadets who have gone through the West Point program, most notably my dear friend Captain Chris Bingham, who is a national champion in boxing and I could attest to the profound impact that he has had on me and my family every single day. But as you heard, this day represents the best and the brightest. It's a celebration of the greatest traditions that reflect the greatest country in the world and I really think that it's important for us to remember that freedom isn't free. The leaders behind us are answering the call to duty. They're going to step up to that Long Gray Line and be part of a tradition that many of us will not understand, and I think that their sacrifice and their commitment to this country is incredible. And when you realize that they're 18, 19, 20 years old and they have that calling, they have that feeling of patriotism, it really is an inspiration to us all.

And so Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just lend my voice

as a officer in the navy reserves, I may be rooting for the other team during Army football games but it is great to have them here and I applaud their leadership and commitment to our country. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay; the resolution is adopted.

(Applause)

It is now my privilege to call upon Lieutenant General Steven Gilland, 61st Superintendent, United States Military Academy to join me here on the rostrum to accept this resolution and to address this esteemed Body.

(Applause)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEVEN GILLAND:

Well, how do you follow all of that?

(Mic cut out)

Mr. Speaker, sir, thank you for the opportunity to address this Assembly this afternoon. Assemblyman -- Assemblyman Eachus, sir, thank you for hosting us today. And to Assemblymember Jean-Pierre, ma'am, thank you and your committee for all you do for our State's veterans -- to our State's veterans and thank you regardless of service, thank you to all of you and our veterans for what you have done for our nation.

(Applause)

I am joined today by First Captain Martayn Van de Wall and 13 cadets representing the 274 men and women of the United States Corps of Cadets who hail from all corners of the Empire State. From Brewster to Buffalo, from the boroughs of New York City to the towns and hamlets of the Adirondacks, one thing they all have in common is their desire to serve their nation as leaders of character. This year marks the 80th Anniversary of Operation Overlord, better known in history as D-Day. In the early morning hours of June 6th, 1944, American and allied paratroopers landed on the beaches of Normandy, France followed by tens of thousands more troops in what would become the largest and biggest assault in history. It was a pivotal day, one that some historians referred to as the beginning of the end of World War II. A day where devotion to duty and skill and battle were in no short supply. Some 73,000 American troops were among the 156,000 strong allied force that would storm those beaches in Northern France to include many from the Great State of New York. West Point graduates like the Brooklyn born General "Jumping" Jim Gavin, Clarke Fales from Niagara County and Frank Colacicco of Utica fighting alongside many others like Binghamton native Frank Lillyman, the first allied paratrooper to land in France. And First Sergeant Ed Silla (phonetic) from Goshen who gave the last full measure of devotion that day as a member of Rudder's Rangers at Pointe du Hoc. Devoted to duty, skilled in battle, heros who helped liberate Europe and end a world war. And while that battle raged on, on the other side of the Atlantic, another group of

New York natives about 37 in all, stood in formation on the plain of West Point with more than 400 of their classmates preparing to receive their diplomas, graduate and commission as Army officers, a year early at that to meet the demands of the war. All of them proudly keenly aware of the events taking place half a world away, all of them knowing soon they would join the fight, and all of them I'm sure pondering what duty would demand of them.

So as we reflect on the events of eight decades ago, we think of those who fought on D-Day, particularly the soldiers of the Empire State. We think of those who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. And we think of the countless New Yorkers in the years before and the years since who have dawn the cloth of our nation to serve as soldiers or citizen soldiers of the National Guard and Army Reserve. And of course we think of our Army veterans and retirees, our soldiers for life who continue to serve in various ways well beyond the Army. And we think of the next generation represented by these 13 outstanding young men and women assembled here today who will soon assume the mantle of service and leadership as Army officers prepared to carry on the legacy of excellence set by those who have come before them. Leaders of character bound by a common devotion to duty, a commitment to honor and a desire to selflessly serve their country. Our mission at the United States Military Academy is to develop those leaders of character for our Army and our nation. Leaders prepare to support and defend the Constitution and to serve and protect the United States

of America. That's what we owe you, the citizens of our nation. That mission would not be possible without the tremendous support of our State leaders here in Albany, as well as from our neighbors throughout New York, Orange County and the Hudson Valley region. On behalf of the West Point community, we greatly appreciate that support. At West Point, we say it takes a village to develop leaders, and we are honored to have you as part of our village. Likewise, as good neighbors, we welcome the opportunities to be part of your village so-to-speak to build and connect relationships both locally and Statewide, to work together to enhance the leader development experiences that our cadets enjoy and be a benefit to all of our communities. We are honored to be here and proud to be part of New York's legacy of service. Thank you for honoring West Point and our cadets today. On behalf of the United States Army, we thank you for your continued help and support in inspiring a renewed call to service in our young people, to help them see the Army as a life accelerator and a place where they can be all that they can be. Thank you for your continued support and go Army!

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, several of our colleagues represent districts where these outstanding men and women come from. It is appropriate now that we will allow that time for our members to introduce those cadets that are from their districts and perhaps we can while doing so, think that maybe some of them

may stay in the Davis Barracks or Benjamin Davis was a quote we used for today, he was a 1939 graduate of this fine institution. So Mr. Speaker, if you would please acknowledge our colleagues.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Berger.

MR. BERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to rise today and introduce my constituent Cadet Tracy Chen. Cadet Chen was inspired to serve in the Armed Forces after hearing about her cousin's experience serving in the Army. In Cadet Chen's words, I wanted to attend West Point to challenge and improve myself in all aspects. More so, to extend the mentorship that I have been given and to have a long lasting influence on soldiers' lives. Following the Academy, Cadet Chen intends to pursue a career in Military Aviation and become a Chinook pilot. With less than 1 percent of our citizens serving in the all-volunteer military force, Cadet Chen embodies what it means to lead and to sacrifice for her country. I ask all in this Chamber to pause and recognize the awesome service of Cadet Chen and her classmates for their steadfast dedication and to the United States and their fellow citizens, thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Welcome and thank you for joining us today, Cadet Chen.

Mr. Blumencranz.

MR. BLUMENCRANZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my distinct honor and privilege to introduce Cadet Daniel Chan.

Daniel from Syosset, New York started to believe that he had the need to serve at a very young age studying military greats and diving into history he learned that he also wanted to serve his community. He plans on serving in the Medical Corps where he soon hopes to become a doctor and is actively involved in the cadet-run group that studies bio-bandages and ways in improving medical services in the future in the military. I hope you could give him the cordialities of the floor. Thank you very much and thank you for your service.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Welcome Cadet Chen and thank you for being here today.

(Applause)

Ms. Fahy.

MS. FAHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been a number of years but I couldn't be more proud today to also introduce one of our fine cadets and in this case it is Cadet Daniel Pollydore who is from Albany, New York, where I live as well. And Cadet Pollydore is an Operations Sergeant Major in the 4th Regiment, 1st Battalion. His major is French, we don't hear that every day from our cadets, I love that. He participates in the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs in the WDKT radio and as well as many athletics. His training is in Air Assault, Cadet Troop Leadership Training and is already trained at Camp Humphreys, Korea. He went -- in his short bio, he notes that he went to West Point seeking challenges and aspiring to become a leader in service to our community. Wish we had thousands more like you. Throughout his time at West Point, he's faced

challenges but has remained resolute in pursuit of becoming an Army officer. He's had the privilege of meetings with many leaders and already believes he's had an impactful experience with an opportunity to study in France for a semester. He plans upon graduation to join the ordinance branch and hopes to again post in Korea. Later he hopes to become a foreign service officer. So Mr. Speaker, if you would please grant Mr. Cadet Pollydore the privileges of the House. Again, it's my honor to introduce him.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, and welcome Cadet Pollydore for joining us here today. Thank you for being here.

(Applause)

Mr. Durso.

MR. DURSO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is my pleasure to introduce Cadet Navroop Singh from the great town of Massapequa. Cadet Singh is majoring in Mechanical Engineering, takes part in the ski patrol and finance club. Part of -- being a part of Company B3 and his intended branches, infantry and engineers. Cadet Singh is inspired to serve his country and attend West Point due to his family's history of service. He remembered hearing stories of his great-grandfather and great uncle serving during World War II. These men inspired Cadet Singh to be part of something bigger than himself. Cadet Singh believes the Army is a great place to be all that you can be and pushes you beyond the limits of what you think you can do. Cadet Singh's future plans upon graduation of West Point will

be to become part of the Infantry branch and be assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Italy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Cadet Singh for his choice to serve our country and welcome him to the Chamber today, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Welcome Cadet Singh. Thank you for being here.

(Applause)

Mr. Lavine for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. LAVINE: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I think it's obvious to the -- the cadets and the -- the officers who are here today that one of the highlights of being in -- in service in the State Assembly is to introduce cadets from our district on -- on West Point Day. And it is my honor, unique honor to introduce Cadet Jacob Crossman. Jacob, will you please rise. So Jacob is from Jericho, New York. In high school he was the recipient of the County Executive's Award for Community Service and Academic Excellence. He was the recipient of the Arthur Kaminski and Allard -- Allard Lowenstein Memorial Scholarships. He was elected class representative to the high school Hall of Fame ceremony, varsity swim captain, science olympiad, build officer, National Honor Society Vice President and varsity track sprinter and judo class leader. He is now dedicated towards working in the Future Applied Systems Team which develops tactics that assist in drones infantry operations. It's good you know something about science because the rest of us certainly don't. Cadet

Crossman is also a co-cadet in charge of the Society of American Military Engineers which connects cadets to local engineering opportunities and a Stokes fellow in the -- in the writing program. In the future he will be working in the cyber branch to become a 17B Electromagnetic Warfare Officer assigned to the 11th Cyber -- Cyber Battalion in Fort Eisenhower in Georgia. So let me -- I want to -- I want to paraphrase briefly something that was written by President Theodore Roosevelt who lives not far -- whose home, Sagamore Hill, is not from Jacob's home and not far from my home either. West Point's duty has been to fit men to do well in war, but it is a noteworthy fact that West Point has also fitted them to do singularly well in peace. The highest positions of the land have been held not exceptionally but again and again by West Pointers. West Pointers have risen to the first rank in all of the obligations of civil life and that was Theodore Roosevelt's remarks on the centennial of the Military Academy. West Point consistently ranks among the top universities and colleges in the entire world, and we are certainly proud of -- of Jacob Crossman and proud of West Point.

And Mr. Speaker, I urge you and respectfully request that you provide all the cordialities of the House to Jacob Crossman. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Welcome Cadet Crossman. We are pleased to have you here today, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Flood.

MR. FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honor to introduce Cadet Edmundo Porras. Mr. Porras is a resident of Coram, New York which is in the 4th Assembly District. Mr. Porras is also majoring in kinesiology. He's currently in Company B4. He was inspired to serve and to go to the military after -- after watching his father do the same and serve our country and he was given the opportunity to serve and he believed that he was paying back the organization by future service. So he's following a long line of, you know, history of serving his country. Upon graduating from West Point, he's attending -- he's planning to attend Baylor Physical Therapy Program, but before that he's going to be serving in the Air Defense Artillery.

Mr. Speaker, would you please grant Mr. Porras the cordialities of the floor and would we recognize his contributions to the State, thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. Cadet Porras, welcome to the New York State Assembly, we are pleased that you're with us today. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Thiele.

MR. THIELE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say with great pride this is the 30th West Point Day that I've had the opportunity to participate in, and it is my final West Point Day that I will have the opportunity to participate in. It is a day of great pride for me to always participate in this day. It's one of my favorite days here

in the Assembly, and it always make me think of my late father who served in the United States Army during World War II, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was the recipient of a Purple Heart. One of the best memories I have with my father was finally being able to take him to West Point to see the campus and to see an Army football game, a winning Army football game. But believe it or not, after -- over those 30 years I have never until today had the chance to introduce a student from my district, the 1st Assembly District on the floor on West Point Day. So it is with the greatest of pride that I have the opportunity to introduce Cadet Clare Gabriele. Cadet Gabriele is from Southampton, she graduated from Southampton High School. She is majoring in law and legal studies. She participates in company athletics. This summer she is planning to attend Air Assault Summer 2024. After spending all of her summers in the Hamptons, Air Assault Summer is something that probably will look familiar to her. But she is the youngest of five children. I think she has that distinction by about seven minutes as I remember from reading in the *Southampton Press*. While in high school she was involved in softball and field hockey. She was inspired to come to West Point because of her dad who graduated from West Point in 1988 and her brother who recently graduated in 2023. Both of her parents serve in the field of law enforcement. Upon graduation, Cadet Gabriele intends to join the Medical Services Corps. She says I hope to be able to travel to interesting places throughout my time in the Army. I hope that she finds Albany today to be one of those interesting places.

And Mr. Speaker, I ask that you welcome her here today and extend to her all the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Welcome Cadet Gabriele. We are pleased to have you here. Thank you for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. Novakahov.

MR. NOVAKHOV: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my first time introducing West Point cadets today and I believe it's first time for Olivia Raykhman. And you know we have a lot in common with Olivia. First of all, I know Olivia's parents personally. And Olivia's father, Vitaly is my doctor. I also know Olivia's brother and he's a great actor and I seen his show -- one of the shows, like off-Broadway shows, *Christmas From Hell* that was, right? Yes. And you know, we -- we -- we do have a lot of things in common with Olivia. First of all, her parents are from the USSR and they -- as Olivia says she was inspired to serve you to knowing the life-threatening anti-Semitism my parents, her parents, Olivia's parents nearly escaped in the Soviet Union and how far they have come in a country they now call home. I also call this country my home and I still fight anti-Semitism as I did back in the Soviet Union. I still fight it. Unfortunately, I have to fight it here in the great State of New York. Olivia's goal of becoming an Army cyber officer is fueled by knowing that all a terrorist might need in the future today to create chaos and splinter democratic societies is an internet connection. So we are -- Olivia will make sure those terrorists don't have any internet

connection. Olivia is majoring in Russian and Terrorism Studies, which I think is extremely important today knowing from which part of the globe the threats are coming from. And Olivia is the Founder and the President of the Cadet Ambassador Program and Assistant Cadet-in-Charge of the Terrorism Studies Minor, and also the Vice President of the Jewish chapel.

Mr. Speaker, please extend the cordialities of this floor to my neighbor Cadet Olivia Raykhman. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you. Cadet Raykhman, welcome to the New York State Assembly. Thank you for joining us here today.

(Applause)

Mr. Zebrowski.

MR. ZEBROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure today to introduce Cadet Christina Vozzo. Cadet Vozzo hails from the hamlet of Valley Cottage in my district in the town of Clarkstown, my hometown. She is majoring in Kinesiology, she participates in the Corbin Forum of Company Athletics. She was the 2023 Cadet Field Training Regiment Staff Member for her leadership detail at West Point. And her intended branch is Medical Services and she currently serves in the F4 Company. Cadet Vozzo is following in the honorable footsteps of her father who was a 1974 West Point graduate and she grew up in close proximity to West Point where she no doubt learned the importance of serving. Upon graduation, Cadet Vozzo hopes to become a Medical Service Officer

and she would like to pursue a career as a Physician Assistant, particularly as an Army Physician Assistant.

As we welcome her here to the Chambers, Mr. Speaker, I'll leave you with her quote which was *I always felt like my calling was to serve and to give back*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you. Cadet Vozzo welcome to the New York State Assembly. Thank you for joining us today.

(Applause)

Mr. Smullen.

MR. SMULLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really great to be here on West Point Day in the New York State Assembly. I firmly believe that our service academies are the number one institution of national unity in the United States of America in the 21st Century, West Point being the oldest of those academies. They bring people from all over the United States and from our territories from all walks of life, from all states, together in a common mission to support and defend the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. And it is my great pleasure today to introduce Cadet Jake Wesley from Johnstown, New York. Jake is a fine young man, I've known him for many years. His journey to West Point has been one of perseverance and dedication. Jake attended prep school for a couple years to get himself ready for West Point, and here he is today a sophomore majoring in Military History and intending to go into the Signal branch. Member of the hunting club and doing company sports

at West Point.

So Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure if you could welcome Jake from Johnstown to the New York State Assembly.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Smullen, the Speaker and all the members, Jake, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly and hope that you have had a great day. Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

Mr. Zebrowski.

MR. ZEBROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was particularly excited when I learned that I had two cadets to introduce today. So second we have Cadet Ella St. Louis. Cadet St. Louis also hails from the town of Clarkstown, same town as our previous cadet and also my hometown and from the hamlet of New City where I -- I grew up. Cadet St. Louis is majoring in Systems Engineering. She participates in the boxing club, cultural affairs seminar and the studio arts club. She in cadet basic training and she is in the G3 Company and her intended branch is the Military Police. Now Cadet St. Louis also is following in the footsteps of her brother who was just entering West Point when she was in high school. At first didn't know if she was going to go to West Point but seeing her brother service, learning from him, getting a glimpse into his life in the Academy, soon she knew that that was also the place for her and she has since said that it has been critical in the betterment of herself being at the Academy. In the future, Cadet St. Louis plans to join the Military Police and to

hopefully be assigned to the 247th Military Police in Okinawa, Japan. She hopes to major in Computer Science and hopes, Mr. Speaker, to stay in the Army for several years to continue both her training and to giving back to society and our country as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and please welcome her.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. Welcome Cadet St. Louis here to the New York State Assembly. We are pleased that you've joined us today and thank you very much.

(Applause)

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a delight today to be able to introduce for the second time a cadet that's joining us today, Micaela Choi. I introduced her back when she was a freshman and she's now a junior. I introduced her in 2022. But Micaela had been to this Chamber and into the Capitol before because not only is she from my hometown, but my hometown high school BH-BL, which I know that I bring a lot of different teams in, she was part of the 2019 BH-BL Women's Volleyball State Champions so she came in that -- in that respect, too. Cadet Choi is an ACT NCO majoring in Systems Engineering. She is a part of Company 13 and her military training includes CTLT at Fort Cavazos and AIAD at Center for Army Analysis. She is -- and we've heard many times that there are a number of people -- of cadets here who have family members who also went to the Academy, she -- she is one of those people. She's the child of two West Point graduates, so she got to see

firsthand the type of people in the Army and especially the USMA turned her parents into, which were leaders of quality. This paired with her desire to serve her country in a serious time of need greatly influenced her decision to go to the United States Military Academy. She studies Systems Engineering, as I said and she's in a leadership role in multiple clubs including the Officers of Christian Fellowship, the Taekwondo team and Club Beyond Young Life. Upon graduating from West Point, she plans to branch engineers with hopes to transitioning to a functional area to put her Systems Engineering degree to work.

So Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud to introduce Micaela again to all of you and would you please welcome her to the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. Cadet Choi welcome back. We are so pleased to have you, hope to see you again. You are always welcome here. Thank you for joining us today.

(Applause)

Mr. Maher for the purposes of a introduction.

MR. MAHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege, on behalf of one of our colleagues David G. McDonough, to introduce Cadet Carly Woelfel. Cadet Woelfel is from Rockville Center, New York with Company C2. She is an engineer and her major is Mechanical Engineering. Her club sports are company Sandhurst and Corbin Leadership Forum. She is part of the training

with fall Sandhurst (C2), CLDT XO and she's an energetic, authentic, kind, inquisitive young lady. She's passionate about serving her country, engineering and loving life which has brought her to West Point and has kept her there through and through. While there, she's been a local runner, an engineer for the steel bridge competition team and an avid reader. While away from West Point, she's been a frequent to the beach, a cook and gardening with the family. Cadet Woelfel's plan for the future include upon graduating from West Point going to serve in Germany where she will also be serving with NATO. Following this she aspires to go to graduate school for engineering, work as a bridge engineer and teach at the high school level. She also is interested in being a New York State Park Ranger, I know we can all appreciate and get excited over that. According to her and she is absolutely correct, her opportunities are exciting and endless.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Assemblyman David G. McDonough, we appreciate Cadet Woelfel's excitement, energy and willingness to serve. We thank her and her family for her service. May God bless her.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Cadet Woelfel, thank you for joining us today. You are always welcome here. Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Jean-Pierre.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honor to introduce First Captain Martayn Van de Wall who holds the highest position in the cadet chain of command. First Captain

Martayn Van de Wall hails from West Friendship, Maryland and grew up listening to the heroic stories of his grandfather, a Dutch resistance fighter in World War II. He is part of the Infantry branch and majors in International Relations. He is also a Stamps Scholar, a Truman Scholar and a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. While at West Point, Captain Van de Wall partakes in company Sandhurst, the Sapper Training program and the Writing Fellows program. He successfully completed the Army Sapper Leader course and graduated from the Sabalauski Air Assault School. He also participated in a semester exchange of the U.S. Naval Academy. As First Captain, Van de Wall is responsible for the overall performance of the corps [sic] of cadets which is approximately 4,400 strong. Van de Wall's brother, a member of the class of 2020, was also a First Captain marking the second time in the history of West Point that siblings were selected as First Captains. After graduation, Van de Wall hopes to lead soldiers as an Infantry Officer and pursue graduate scholarship opportunities and conflict in international relations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Jean-Pierre, the Speaker, and all the members, we welcome you, Captain, here to the New York State Assembly, but also to all of your colleagues who you have brought here. The cadets and soldiers, this is a special day for us. We are so pleased that you've been able to join us and been able to share in this pleasure. Thank you so very much for being here.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to introduce to the Body, Lieutenant General Steve Gilland who gave us remarks earlier, the 61st Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Thank you for your remarks, sir. Lieutenant General Gilland commissioned into the United States Army upon graduation from United States Military Academy in 1990. As an Infantry Officer, he served in a variety of tactical assignments in air assault, armor, mechanized infantry, ranger and special operations unit. He has served in the 24th Infantry Division, the 2nd Infantry Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, the United States Army Special Operations Command, the 1st Cavalry Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 2nd Infantry Division, Combined Division and the 3rd Armored Corps [sic] and the United States Military Academy. Lieutenant Gilland has commanded multiple levels throughout his career. Most recently as Commanding General of the 2nd Combined Division of Korea. He has participated in numerous operational deployments in the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan. Prior to assuming the duties as United States Military Academy of the 61st Superintendent, he served as the Deputy Commanding General of the 3rd Armored Corps [sic] in Fort Hood, Texas. Welcome to New York, sir. Lieutenant General Gilland holds a Master's Degree in Military Operations, Art Science from the Air Force Command and the Staff College. His awards are numerous, Mr. Speaker, and I am honored to mention just a few of them. They include the Distinguished Service

Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Defense Supervisor [sic] Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters and the Bronze Star Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Lieutenant General Gilland has been happily married to his West Point classmate Betsy for more than 33 years. Team Gilland are the proud parents of three children.

Lieutenant General Gilland, we are honored to have you here. Thank you so very much for joining us, sir.

And Mr. Speaker, we are also joined by a number of West Point support personnel staff we should mention: Major David Reyes, Captain; Mr. Matthew D. Hintz, United States Military Academy, Public Affairs Officer Engagement -- Foreign Engagement, and Mr. Jorge Garcia, United States Military Academy, Public Affairs Officer, Command Information and Photographer. I also wanted to acknowledge the presence in our Chamber of members of the West Point Parent Club of Upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, will you please welcome these distinguished guests to our Chambers and offer them the cordialities of our floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the Speaker and all the members again, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our thanks and congratulations for the service that you have provided this country and this State. Thank you and know that you're always welcome here. You're always a part of our family.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes our opportunity to honor these fine young men and women and officers. We thank them for their presence and honor their courage and thank them for their selfless service and sacrifice.

If you could now please call our Labor Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly.

Committee on Labor in the Speaker's Conference Room immediately, please. We are on page 29, Calendar No. 394, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09469, Calendar No. 394, Benedetto, Lupardo, Sayegh. An act to amend Chapter 374 of the Laws of 2014 amending the Education Law relating to the leasing of real property by boards of cooperative educational services, in relation to extending the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09470, Calendar No. 395, Benedetto, Lupardo, Sayegh. An act to amend Chapter 396 of the Laws of 2012 amending the Education Law relating to service to out-of-state school districts by boards of cooperative educational services, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping, but numerous fine resolutions that we will take up with one vote.

On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 1085-1089 were unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stands adjourned and that we reconvene at the call of the

Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands
adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 1:59 p.m., the Assembly stood
adjourned until the call of the Speaker.)