

Assembly Resolution No. 1069

BY: M. of A. Eachus

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
March 19, 2026, as West Point Day in New York State

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point and to call upon Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 19, 2026, as West Point Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, By an act of Congress on March 16, 1802, the United States Military Academy at West Point was established within the borders of New York State on the banks of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, The historic academy and its graduates are an integral part of the proud history of this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, During the American Revolution, both the American patriots and the British realized the strategic importance of the prominent plateau on the west bank of the Hudson River; General George Washington considered West Point to be the most important strategic location in America; and

WHEREAS, In 1778, General George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish engineer, to design fortifications for West Point and later transferred his headquarters to West Point in 1779; and

WHEREAS, American Continental Line soldiers constructed forts, gun batteries, and redoubts, and in 1778, installed a 65-ton iron chain across the Hudson River which spanned from West Point to Constitution Island to block British invasions along the main transportation waterway; and

WHEREAS, Fortress West Point was never captured by the British, despite Major General Benedict Arnold's treasonous attempt to turn over the garrison to the British forces in 1780; and

WHEREAS, In 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, it is of utmost importance to acknowledge the storied history and countless contributions of West Point, the oldest continuously occupied regular Army post in the United States, and its vital role in the journey to our nation's freedom from British rule; and

WHEREAS, The leadership and sacrifices of the members of the Long Grey Line have helped this country withstand countless threats to our cherished democratic way of life; and

WHEREAS, The alumni have excelled not only on the battlefield but in countless fields of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, The Academy continues to provide our country with able and

dedicated future leaders; and

WHEREAS, Its scenic campus is a mecca each year for thousands of visitors from across our State, continent, and other countries; and

WHEREAS, The United States Military Academy is of the highest echelon of our State's noble institutions of higher learning, boasting rigorous academic standards, extreme selectivity, and an incredible, multi-faceted history; and

WHEREAS, Over seventy years ago, the late James T. McNamara, then a member of the New York State Assembly, and a member of the Academy's class of 1939, was the author of the State Legislature's first "West Point Day" Resolution; and

WHEREAS, For centuries our Nation has enjoyed a legacy of freedom, and the United States Military Academy at West Point has been a vital and significant role in the maintenance of peace and such priceless freedom; and

WHEREAS, The members of this Legislative Body are proud to commemorate this occasion, marking March 19, 2026, as West Point Day in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point and to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 19, 2026, as West Point Day in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.