NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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11:16 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR NEIL D. BRESLIN, Acting President

ANGELO J. APONTE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Senate will please come to order.

I ask all to rise and repeat with me the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: And welcome to West Point Day.

The invocation will be given today by the Chaplain of West Point, Colonel Michael Durham.

CHAPLAIN DURHAM: May we pray.

Heavenly Father, we offer today as our first President did, many years ago, this heartfelt prayer for our America.

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection, that Thou wilt incline the hearts of her citizens to cultivate a spirit of obedience to government, and to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, and that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, demean ourselves with

charity and humility.

Father, on this day, in this special place of service, as we pause to honor all that is noble and good at West Point and the Academy, we humbly ask that You would continue to hear from heaven, to forgive our wrongdoings, to fill our hearts with hope, and to heal our land, reminding us of Your abundant care and provision.

Guide, encourage and inspire, O Father, all those who lead and serve in government, beginning with our President and all those elected to serve the needs of the people. Especially we pray for these, the members of this State Senate.

Bless and keep safe, O Lord, the young men, many from this great state, who have answered a special call to serve in the defense of our nation, some of whom at this very moment are living out the treasured values of the Academy -- duty, honor, country -- while providing for the security and well-being of our people. Keep them and their families, we pray, comforted and safe in Your tender care.

Now, grant, O God, that our nation may always be a lighthouse for freedom, faith, and hope, and may our light so shine before men and nations that we may experience peace on earth and goodwill for all mankind.

All this we pray from the heart and in Your most holy name. Amen.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Colonel.

The reading of the Journal.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, April 27, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, April 26, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from

state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Smith, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate Bill Number 6019.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: So ordered.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Addabbo, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Senate Number 6989.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: So ordered.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe there are substitutions at the desk. I ask that you make the substitutions at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: On page 26, Senator Savino moves to discharge, from the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, Assembly Bill Number 9174A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Number 6215A, Third Reading Calendar 423.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Substitution ordered.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, I believe there's a resolution at the desk by Senator Larkin and Senator Adams. I ask that the resolution be read in its entirety and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein, has this resolution been deemed privileged and submitted by the office of the Temporary President?

SENATOR KLEIN: Yes, it has, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senators

Larkin and Adams, legislative resolution memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim April 28, 2010, 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 David A. Paterson to proclaim April 28, 2010, 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 was established within the borders of New York State, on the banks of the Hudson River; and

"WHEREAS, The Academy and its graduates are an integral part of the proud history of this state and nation; and

"WHEREAS, The leadership and sacrifices of the members of the Long Gray 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 many 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 in the forefront of our state's outstanding institutions of higher learning; and

"WHEREAS, Fifty-eight 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 decades, our nation has enjoyed the legacy of freedom, and the United States Military Academy at West Point has played a vitally significant role in the maintenance of peace and freedom; and

"WHEREAS, The members of this Legislative Body are proud to commemorate this

event, marking April 28, 2010, 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 David A. Paterson to proclaim April 28, 2010, 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 David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York."

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I would just like to start by welcoming the men and women of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Welcome.

I also want to recognize an extraordinary individual, Brigadier General William E. Rapp. General Rapp.

Dr. Rapp, who graduated from West

Point in 1984 and holds a Ph.D. in international relations, is a true American hero. And congratulations for that.

He commanded an airborne engineer company during Operation Desert Storm. Then he went on to command the 555 Combat Engineer Group and deployed in support of the 101st Airborne Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom. His medals and your achievement are too numerous to name.

I am personally humbled by his contributions to our country. And on behalf of the State Senate, I want to thank you.

The Legislature shares a common bond with the men and women of West Point. It is a legislator's job to advance democracy, and it is your job to preserve it.

We are honored by the presence of those individuals who have chosen to put themselves in harm's way to protect our country. You are the next generation of leaders who will continue the greatest and most successful experiment in democracy the world has ever known.

Since its beginning in 1802,

West Point has been one of the world's premier leader development and educational institutions. From the time of the Revolutionary War, when George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, one of the heroes of Saratoga, to fortify West Point as a strategic base to fight off the British, West Point has been in the center of both military and American history.

But what's cemented West Point's place in our history books more than anything else are the brave men and women who call it their home. Great leaders such as Grant, Lee, Pershing, MacArthur, Eisenhower, and Patton began their march in history at West Point. We are forever grateful for the lessons they've learned and contributions they have made because of the education they received at West Point.

However, there are some names who you may not find in history books which I want to recognize today because their participation led to a better Academy and a better country. In 1877, nearly a century before the integration of our schools, Henry O. Flipper

was the first African-American graduate from West Point. In 1915, Luis R. Esteves became the first Hispanic graduate from West Point. And in 1976, as part of Project Athena, 119 extraordinary women became the first women cadets accepted at West Point, with Andrea Hollen becoming the first to graduate.

It is hard to find words worthy enough to describe the courageous men and women of West Point, so I will repeat those spoken by one of your own: "Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be. They are your rallying points -- to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, and to create hope when hope becomes forlorn." And that was General Douglas MacArthur in his 1962 address at West Point.

When I think back on my time in the State Senate, I will always tell my children that during the worst fiscal crisis in 70 years, I had an opportunity to fight hard to create jobs and to make New York affordable

and protect those vital services. And I've had the pleasure of serving with great colleagues.

And I want to thank not only my colleagues for what they have done and are doing on a day-to-day basis with respect to dealing with this fiscal crisis, but most of all I want to honor the brave men and women of West Point, because you embody that historic motto: Duty, honor, and country.

Congratulations.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Sampson.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

To the leadership of one of our country's finest institutions, Brigadier General William Rapp, Command Sergeant Major Rodney Harris, Chaplain Thomas Mike Durham, First Captain Tyler Gordy, and Master Sergeant Dean Welch, we thank you for your leadership, we thank you for your commitment, and we thank you for investing your spirit, your heart, and your soul into these young men and women who

are our finest.

To my colleague Chairman Adams, to Colonel Larkin, we thank you for bringing this day about. This is one of the more special days that we have an opportunity in this chamber to acknowledge not only the leadership of this chamber and what they do to guide us but to also recognize the future leadership that sits before us.

Cadet Nalamothu, who is from Queens, and Cadet Rachel Kim, who is also from Queens, I in particular stretch your names out before us only because, as one who was raised in that borough, you mean a great deal to us. There are a number of other young people in that borough who have not received the education and the well-roundedness that you have received from this institution.

My challenge to you as you go forward in life -- and you will, and you will be a bright star in this constellation -- is that you remember those other young people who did not have your opportunity.

In life, everyone is branded with a purpose. One of the most critical things in

life to do is to find out what that purpose ask and then carve all that you do to fulfill that purpose. Today, you are halfway there. The other part of that is what you give back, not only to your country but to your peers.

You have peers in Queens, you have peers in this state and around the world who need your guidance and your leadership. The world is a different place. When I was growing up, I couldn't Twitter somebody in a matter of seconds. I couldn't Facebook my life on any webpage. I could not talk to someone around the world in less than two seconds. You have that ability. Which means that what you do and how you do it, more than just your peers will see it.

When you Facebook yourself, a good portion of the world sees who you are. So it's not just you representing West Point today in this chamber, it is not just you representing West Point when you go forward in all that you will do as individuals, but it's that you are representing a portion of a world. And the portion of the world that you represent are new leadership, new leadership

that will take this country and this state to heights that it has not been.

Maybe one day you'll be living on the moon. Perhaps your grandchildren will be traveling to Mars. But it's the leadership that you are being ingrained with today from Brigadier General Rapp and from Command Sergeant Harris that is going to allow you to move this country to a different place.

We are honored to have you here today. We are honored because of the leadership training that you heard Senator Sampson talk about historically. We are honored to have you here today because your name is going to be in that book, and one day someone sitting in the chair that Senator Valesky is sitting is going to cite your name as an individual that reshaped the future of this country and this planet.

So I am honored, colleagues, as I know you are, to be here to share a very rare and special moment in this chamber.

Senator Larkin, Senator Adams, you are to be commended for bringing this day about, because I believe that the future of

this country and this chamber will change because today we honored some of the finest young men and women that are being trained and are going to graduate out of one of the finest institutions not only in this country but in this world.

Leadership of this school, congratulations to you. Leadership that is coming forward to create a better world for all of us, thank you.

Mr. President, thank you also.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Smith.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

At this time I'd like to pause in the proceedings to welcome Larry Schwartz, the Secretary to the Governor, who joins to us present the Governor's West Point Day Proclamation to General Rapp and the West Point cadets.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary to the Governor, Larry Schwartz, will present the gubernatorial proclamation to

West Point.

(The proclamation was presented.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN:

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this point, with unanimous consent, I would like to ask Brigadier General William E. Rapp to step to the podium in order to address the Senate.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: May we have unanimous consent?

Excuse me. Senator Winner.

SENATOR WINNER: I believe Senator Larkin would like to be heard prior to that. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN:

Senator Larkin.

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, a lot of people have said great things to you at breakfast, and a lot of people were saying things here, and it's from the heart.

General Rapp, on behalf of all of my colleagues, to you, the role you play at

West Point and to our cadets, and the role you've played as a combat leader in the war on terrorism are second to none. I welcome you and the staff that you brought with you.

I would at this time like to introduce our cadets so that those in the audience who don't have a cadet will understand.

You know, the First Cadet -- and that's what he is, ladies and gentlemen -- Tyler Gordy, from the great state of California. I've had the privilege of meeting him more than one time. Please stand.

This is a gentleman that when out of high school joined the Army and knew he wanted to be somebody. And he became an Airborne Ranger and went to the Mideast. On his chest are some of his decorations. One is the combat infantry badge. Those of you who watch movies or have been in combat -- like my good friend Roy McDonald -- know that that signifies that you've had ground combat with the enemy. He's also a recipient of the Purple Heart, and he has the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

We salute you, and we wish you the greatest tour. He will be graduating in June. Thank you very much, First Captain.

The others I think are very much as important. Some of them are going to graduate this year; some, down the line.

Brittany Fearnside, Senator Farley's district, County of Schenectady.

Senator Padavan's district, Class of 2011, Hemanth Nalamothu.

Michael James Monty -- Senator Little -- from the great place of Plattsburgh.

Senator Farley again, Marc K. Meybaum, Class of 2012.

Daniel Walker, Class of 2010, Senator John DeFrancisco.

Joseph Grimm, Senator Morahan's, Rockland County.

Lee Wakeman, Class of 2012, Wallkill, New York, Ulster County, Senator John Bonacic.

Dylan Potter, Senator John DeFrancisco, from Marietta, Onondaga County.

Rachel Kim, Class of 2013, from Queens, Senator Padavan's district.

Nicholas Coronato, Class of 2012, Senator Breslin.

Daniel Chang, Class of 2013, Senator Mike Nozzolio.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future of America.

(Standing ovation.)

SENATOR LARKIN: You know, from Marlboro, they didn't think that I knew about you. But what's that old saying? You save the best to last. I don't want your mom and dad to get mad at me and not vote for me.

This is a young man, Joseph Amoroso, this is a young man that told me when he was in grammar school -- so that will tell you how long I've been here -- he said, "I'm going to West Point and I'm going to be an Army officer. And I will be ready to go in harm's way."

And I want you to know that we've never forgotten what you said. And that's why I cited you, because you're a prime example of what this country needs more of, men and women of your caliber, your instinct. And you never forgot what you wanted to do. I salute you.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

SENATOR LARKIN: We have another guest here, from the Class of 1956. I've never met the gentleman. I knew a lot of the Class of '56. Boy, when you were a captain in '56, you knew a lot of the grads, because they were young second lieutenants and they always said "Sir."

But Senator Addabbo brought us a guest this morning. Senator Addabbo's uncle from Beacon, New York, Senator Saland's area, is a Class of '56, General Salamone. Where are you sitting? There he is, over in the corner. Class of 1956.

(Applause.)

SENATOR LARKIN: You know, I love the Academy. And these guys all harass me -- the ladies don't -- but they call me "the Colonel." You know, I know guys who retired as majors who would have been damn glad to be called "Colonel," especially at the end of the month.

But my pride in West Point is that everyone I served with, you could always look

and you could always look to the left and the right, front and back, and they were with you. They were leaders.

And the thought about it, you, who will be in harm's way sooner than we can imagine -- and we need to count on you. When you look at West Point, man on the moon, Panama Canal, San Francisco Bay Bridge, many, many things. Of course, you know, Senator Padavan reminds me, General, the engineers, the engineers. Totten, you know.

But we have right here in front of us young cadets. We talked about the First Captain. I'm sure the General would say the same, and some of the other officers here would: When you can get a young lieutenant coming in that's got that kind of experience, you feel you've got a gift from heaven because you don't have to train him on everything. He's been there, he's tried, he's proven. And he's a leader.

West Point isn't just an academic institution. Forbes said it was the best in the nation this year. And we New Yorkers are proud of it.

But you know, some people look at the Academy as a group of people walking up and down -- they forget that some of those training days are over, General, right?

Two weeks ago we had the Special Olympics, 800 cadets, 800 cadets that could have had a Saturday off were out there helping, showing their concern for their fellow human beings and to show that they wanted to be a part of them. They didn't do that so somebody would take pictures. The next day in the paper I think it was about that big of an article. Shows you our media priorities.

But the priorities for the members of the Academy was to participate in an event that they've done every year for many years. And yes, in the summer they bring children from disadvantages across the Hudson Valley to the Academy, and they get training. They participate in many, many programs that nobody ever gives them credit for.

This year there's approximately 16,000 applicants started way back in last November to apply to go to West Point.

Approximately 1100 will make the final call and report in the last couple of days of June. If you've never been there, it's a day -- "R" Day, it's called. You never forget, do you, sir? It's great.

Some of you ought to go because you could volunteer to be a cadet for a day. The end of the day, you'll go home and you won't harass anybody because you'll be too tired.

But just think about it, 16,000 want to get in with a thousand seats. The requirements, the credentials to be a cadet. And then the pride. You go to West Point, and the first time you see a parade -- I'm going to pick on my leader.

The first time we had a game at West Point, Dean said: "I could have gone there." And his wife said, "Yes, but could you have made it?" Dean said, "If I went, I would have done it." And I thank him. And he's been back many, many times, sir, because he respects the Academy.

And everybody here today is very proud to join with you. Some years ago, people, when we had this in the '70s, wouldn't

go near the cadets because they wanted to stand back. But today the new breed is understanding that this is the future of America. Whether they'll just finish their five years and go out into civilian life and become some part of it -- just look at some of them, what they've done.

One of the great graduates of our Academy, if you read Vanity Fair, ladies -- John, you can buy it -- it's got a big article about General Petraeus. General Petraeus is from Cornwall, my home. And he was called "Peaches" because he always had a fresh face on him. But look what he's done. General Petraeus at Central Command is responsible for 20 countries, and some of you will be there with him. General Rapp has served with him. They're personal friends.

The Corps, when you hear it and you hear the alma mater and you think, always remember this: These men and women have done a lot, will do a lot. But along the way, they never forget duty, honor, and country. May God bless each and every one of you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank

you, Senator Larkin.

Senator Adams.

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator Larkin, as well as the men and women who are here who also served in the armed forces in our country. As the chair of the Veteran Affairs and Homeland Security Committee, I'm glad I was able to partner with Senator Larkin in this important day.

I think it's an important day -- as I was telling our cadets, it's more important for us to have them visit our chamber than it is for them.

I believe, as always, that sports is an important analogy to help us understand how we coexist as human beings. And whenever a team is losing or whenever a team is having difficulty in gaining its poise of being a champion, they go through a rebuilding process. And that rebuilding process entails getting a marquee player to build the team around, one person that will exemplify what is expected of the spirit of the team and how do

we regain the crown and regain the championship ring that we need.

Well, Team America is hurting. Team America needs marquee players. Not only in the military service, but after you complete your five years and go on to whatever profession, it is important that we need marquee players to reinfuse the spirit of what makes this country great -- the duty, the honor, the service.

We need marquee players to go into the banking institutions and make sure that we regain the poise that is needed to bring home the ring to so many people who are losing their homes and losing their pensions and losing their savings. I think that out of your ranks of your peer group, the thousands of men and women who walk through the West Point gates, they have the responsibility to go into that institution and become the particular key player to build the team around.

Our educational system is hurting. As one of you stated, you want to go in and become a history teacher to teach history and

rebuild and regain the poise of the champions in our educational system.

When you look at our technology, we're being outgunned, outmanned and outrun all across the globe. We have fallen behind the curb and no longer are leading the way in technology. We need a marquee player to go into technology and become the future of what we're going to do in technology.

In the sciences, other countries believe that we don't have the best to produce the scientists that are needed to come up with the scientific discoveries that's going to take us into the next generation. We need a marquee player to build the sciences and make sure that we regain the crown that we deserve.

And so when I hear that someone in grammar school stated that they wanted to go to West Point -- in grammar school -- all of us in this room can have eyes, but vision comes from the heart. You have to be a visionary to know that you can go beyond what is visually in front of you. And when we spoke in our chamber to hear already you have the vision of what you want to do, you want to

go to West Point and lead our country and become the marquee player.

There's a lot of uncertainty. There's a lot of things that we don't know. Our future seems to so many as gray as the uniforms you wear. But I am clearly confident that no matter what question mark that lingers over the United States of America, on the shores of the Hudson River, West Point is the exclamation point that states we will be fine as a country. And I thank you for that.

I thank you for committing your life to understanding that all across our country we need marquee players to rebuild and make sure you bring home the ring. We are the champions. And we are the champions because of men and women like you.

Thank you very much.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Adams.

Senator Addabbo.

SENATOR ADDABBO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Larkin and Senator Adams for their efforts on West Point

Day, and of course for introducing today's resolution.

I join my colleagues today in honoring West Point and its officers and cadets who are here today.

You know, West Point has centuries of distinguished existence, and its over 66,000 graduates are truly deserving of our respect and gratitude for their commitment and dedication to our country.

But to me, personally, I get to say thank you publicly for the first time, today, to General Luciano Salamone, who in my family is affectionately known as Uncle Leo or "the General." I don't think I've ever said it, I don't think we've ever spoken about his career. But it is an honor for me today, before my colleagues and our guests, to Uncle Leo, the General, to say thank you.

Thank you to you, to the cadets, to all the graduates for their commitment and dedication to our country and what you mean not only to us here but to the people throughout our great state and the people throughout this great country. So thank you

very much.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Addabbo.

Senator Huntley.

SENATOR HUNTLEY: Yes, Mr. President. I just would like to welcome West Point to our chamber again.

Every year it's very important to me, when they visit us, that I'm available. And I met with them this morning, and I'm very happy. And it really gives you a good feeling to know that young people have made a choice in life and it's a good choice.

Everything else basically has been said about them. We all know how great they are. But I just want to tell you my first visit to West Point. Many years ago, we used to go to West Point on field trips, take young people and whatever. And it was very impressive.

And on one of the trips, my husband accompanied me as a chaperone. So when we get to West Point, we're walking around and meeting some of the cadets and whatever. I

guess based on the fact that I'm a mother, I started referring to them as "dear," "honey." You know how sometimes mothers have those expressions. So when we got on the bus to go back, my husband said to me, he says, "How dare you?" He said, "They're men. You can't call them 'dear' and 'honey.'"

But anyway, today I made the same error. I went over to one young man; when he extended his hand, I said, "Oh, it's nice to meet you, dear." So I hope he's not offended.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you very much, Senator Huntley.

Senator DeFrancisco.

SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, I'm honored to have two cadets here today, Daniel Walker and Dylan Potter.

And I just want to be brief, because just about everything has been said. My only message is thank you. Thank the two of you, and all of you. You have made a great choice but also a great sacrifice. And I know that you've made that sacrifice understanding full well of what your future will bring, and

that is most likely you're going to be put in harm's way.

Many people wouldn't have that courage. Many people wouldn't have that dedication to their country. And for myself, for these two cadets and all the rest of the cadets, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are the best of the best.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator DeFrancisco.

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd like to thank these guys personally. I served in Vietnam as a forward observer, on the Cambodian border and in Cambodia with the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division. Last year I had an opportunity to talk for the first time as a Senator, and I thanked them. The first patrol I went on, my commanding officer was a West Point graduate.

I thank you for what you've done today. I fear, I pray, I'm concerned about what you're going to be doing in the future. I know you're prepared better than anybody on

that battlefield. But I think all of us now have seen enough television and talked to enough veterans, this is going to be tough. Iraq, Afghanistan, and who knows what in the future.

It's tough on these men and women, it's tough on their family structures, it's tough economically. There are people -- when they come home, we're going to be there for them. We're going to be there for their soldiers who work for them, who serve under them, who in many cases come from lower economic income levels, different parts of our country, all different colors, all different ethnic groups, all different religions. That's what makes this country great. That's that what makes West Point and our military establishment great.

Senator Sampson said something very significant. The integration of the American military was one of the most significant things in American history. It works. It works for a lot of reasons. The most important reason it works for is affection, believe it or not, in a military unit.

My second commanding officer in Vietnam, and the hardest part over there I had, was an African-American, Major Nelson from Michigan. The number-two guy in my unit was a captain, an Hispanic American from Puerto Rico. We not only fought together, we loved each other as brothers.

And when you get into those places in Afghanistan, you get into those places in Iraq, they've got one thing in mind: To hurt Americans. All of us. God bless you for standing up for us, protecting us. God bless your families, your instructors. You're going into some wild territory.

But we care. And when you come back, we're going to be there. In the past, this house, other houses, were not for American soldiers, back in Korea and Vietnam. But this house, other houses, our governors, we've made up for that mistake. We're there for you.

So this is no piece of cake you're walking into. This is going to be harsh reality. All the bombastic words of politicians, you're going to be the folks that

enforce them, and it's going to be hard. And I just want to thank you, as just some low-ranking soldier who never knew where I was half the time in Vietnam and had to depend upon folks like yourself so much.

Thank you for what you do. God bless you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you Senator McDonald.

Senator Marcellino.

SENATOR MARCELLINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I want to thank the men and women from West Point for coming here. Thank you for what you do. You've heard the praises from my colleagues.

And while you're out there defending our freedoms and defending our great country, I just want you to know something. You have in this house a major defender of West Point, a major person -- I won't call him a major, I've got to call him a colonel. Because there's no bigger proponent, there's no better standard-bearer for your institution than Colonel Larkin. And we call him "the

Colonel" affectionately.

He loves West Point. He defends West Point. God forbid and God help anyone who says anything even remotely critical of your great institution -- Colonel Larkin is in their face in a second, in a heartbeat, he's got your back, just like you have our backs.

We thank you, God bless you. And say a prayer for this man, because he's there for you every minute of the day. God bless you folks.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Marcellino.

Senator Foley -- Senator Farley, please. Excuse me.

SENATOR FARLEY: Foley, Farley, they sound alike.

Let me thank you for your service, for all of you. And, you know, these are very dangerous times, and you are the people that protect us.

And let me just say something as a veteran and as a law professor. What a fine institution you have. There's several presidents coming from your school. And

besides an institution that trains young men and women to represent our country, you're really a fine academic institution. And we're very, very proud of that.

I do want to pay tribute to my two cadets that are here, Brittany Fearnside, who comes from my hometown of Niskayuna, and also Marc Meybaum, from Wilton and Gansevoort. We're very, very proud of you.

And I have to say again, thank you for your service. But you're such a -- your entire West Point institution is loved, not only by this body but by the general public at large. We're very, very grateful for your service. And thank you and Godspeed.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Farley.

Senator Leibell.

SENATOR LEIBELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

And as the ranking member on the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, I want to join with my colleagues in welcoming you to Albany and to, in particular, the State Senate chamber.

We have so many wonderful things about New York State, many honors for New York State. But I cannot think of any greater honor for New York than having the United States Military Academy within its borders, the Long Gray Line.

Now, my district is just on the other side of the Hudson from you, Cold Spring. So I can hear, from my side of the river, reveille, and I can hear taps. And I think of you fellows and ladies frequently over there. My lifestyle is a little bit easier than what you're going through.

But I do want to thank you for what you're doing. And I hope you'll go back to barracks, to your roommates, and let them know that we appreciate you, we love you, and we congratulate you for serving this greatest of all nations. You are appreciated.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Leibell.

Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard on the resolution?

Hearing none, the question is on

the resolution. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senators Larkin and Adams have indicated they would like to open up the resolution to cosponsorship by the entire house. Any Senator not wishing to be on the resolution please notify the desk.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this point, with unanimous consent, I would like to ask Brigadier General William E. Rapp to step to the podium in order to address the Senate.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you, Senator Klein.

General Rapp.

(Standing ovation.)

GENERAL RAPP: I must admit to being taken aback by that applause.

I thank you for all of your service to this great state, and I thank the cadets who are here.

Senator Colonel Larkin, Senator Adams, the members of the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee, all of those who have served our country in the armed forces, and to this distinguished body in the Senate, thank you for having us up here. The Military Academy absolutely treasures and appreciates West Point Day held each year in Albany.

I personally am glad to be here. My family has strong ties to New York. My mother was born and raised in a little town called LeRoy, just west of Rochester. And my dad was in the Army. I moved around a lot, but I spent 10 years of my 48 living in New York State. So it's especially fun for me to be here today.

The Army has a strong presence, as you know, in New York and greatly appreciates the tremendous support that the Legislature, towns and communities and families throughout New York have given our mission in so many

ways.

Last year the Army needed 107,000 soldiers to enlist. New York continues to answer that call and last year put in 3,800 New Yorkers into the regular Army and over 1300 into the Reserves.

We have two major military installations in New York State. Right now there's 17,000 soldiers stationed at Fort Drum, many currently deployed away from home in harm's way. And along with these soldiers, there's almost 15,000 family members in the Fort Drum area. So on behalf of all those who climb to glory with the 10th Mountain Division Team and community, I thank you for your support you continue to give to them.

West Point is a slightly smaller military installation. We've got nearly 4,000 active-duty service members and their families, in addition to the 4500 cadets. But our mission is large. It's our job to produce leaders of character for our Army and for this great nation. And the Academy could not accomplish this mission without the continued

support of the New York Legislature and the surrounding communities outside our gates.

The people of New York and the installation of West Point have a long and an illustrious history of military service going back to the founding of our nation. Soldiers from this great state were instrumental in the stunning American victory at Saratoga, which was the turning point in the Revolutionary War. West Point is the longest continually garrisoned military installation in the country. And it protected this City of Albany from the British troops who owned New York City from coming up, using the Hudson to split the colonies in half during the Revolutionary War.

Today New York has one of the largest veterans populations in the nation, with over 1 million of the nearly 24 million living veterans. And veterans of New York have served their country in all branches of the military, on active duty as well as the Guard and Reserves.

And you continue to provide West Point with your outstanding sons and

daughters, and I thank you for that. Over 300 New Yorkers are currently serving as cadets at the United States Military Academy, and they're excelling every day.

Our cadets, our cadets and staff and faculty appreciate the support of New York and strive to give back to the communities, through service projects such as Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics, as you've heard, through academic outreach programs, through sports clinics and military demonstrations.

Today, along with Cadet Tyler Gordy, the First Captain of the Corps of Cadets, who hails from the State of California, I brought with us these members of your great state, New York. And I'm proud of these young men and women. They have signed up to serve our country at a time of war.

You'll notice that five of them are seniors. On the 22nd of May they'll graduate, become second lieutenants in the United States Army, and go start serving in our country. The likelihood is high that all five will be in harm's way this time next year.

Among this group to my left you'll find athletes, members of national championship teams, Dean's List students, cadet leaders, first-generation Americans benefiting from the opportunities of this great nation, those with strong family ties to the Academy and with military relatives currently serving in support of GWOT. They are all future leaders of our country, and they've all signed up to live above the common level of life. And I'm very proud of them, as you can be as well.

Leaders are made, not born, and that's what we try to do at West Point. We challenge them every day. We challenge them physically and academically. We challenge them to excel. We challenge them to reach above that common level of life.

And we cannot do that without the support of this great state and of you all, and the relationship we have with New York is critical to our success.

I'd ask you to come, please see your Academy. Come to West Point. See how beautiful of a place it is, and see what is

happening there.

I want to thank you for today. It's an absolute honor to be here. And I'll have to end as I always do: Go Army, beat Navy.

(Laughter.)

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Thank you very much, General Rapp.

Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, at this time can we please go to a reading of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 298, by Senator Parker, Senate Print 3601C, an act to amend the Social Services Law.

SENATOR WINNER: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is laid aside.

SENATOR KLEIN: Lay it aside for the day, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 357, by Member of the Assembly Latimer, Assembly Print Number 5894A, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 370, by Senator Stachowski, Senate Print 6748, an act to amend the Highway Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 375, by Senator Stachowski, Senate Print 7149, an act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 9. This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 383, by Senator Aubertine, Senate Print --

SENATOR KLEIN: Lay the bill

aside for the day, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 389, by Senator Foley --

SENATOR KLEIN: Lay the bill aside for the day, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 391, by Senator Stewart-Cousins, Senate Print 7241, an act to amend the Town Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: The bill is passed.

Senator Klein, that completes the

reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Excuse me, Senator.

Senator Winner, why do you rise?

SENATOR WINNER: Senator Breslin, we would like to have an immediate Republican conference after session. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: There is no further business at the desk, Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: There being no further business, Mr. President, I move that we adjourn at the call of the Temporary President, intervening days to be legislative days.

ACTING PRESIDENT BRESLIN: First of all, there is an immediate meeting of the Senate Republican Conference in their conference room after session.

And you are reminded that there is a West Point luncheon in Room 332 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Senate, on motion, the Senate stands adjourned at the call of the Temporary President, intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 12:11 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)