NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

April 9, 2024

11:21 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Chaplain Major David Reyes, of the 2nd Regiment of the United States Corps of Cadets, will deliver today's invocation.

Chaplain Major.

CHAPLAIN MAJOR 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.

(Response of "Amen.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, April 8, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, April 7, 2024, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Addabbo moves to discharge, from the Committee on Agriculture, Assembly Bill Number 6947A and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 6796A, Third Reading Calendar 749.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: So ordered.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Good morning. Let's begin -- because we have our special guests here today, let's take up previously adopted Resolution 1972, by Senator Skoufis. Let's read that resolution's title and recognize Leader Stewart-Cousins on that resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 1972, by Senator Skoufis, memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 9, 2024, as West Point Day in New York State.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you so much, Mr. President.

And I am so proud to rise today and to acknowledge the presence of West Point's

cadets, its leadership.

Thank you, Major Reyes, for your beautiful prayer, what you talked about is what we aspire to on a day-to-day basis -- wisdom and leadership and the ability to really continue to move not only the state forward but to serve as a beacon of light for our nation and beyond.

And that's why this day is so important. It's our 72nd annual recognition of West Point. And the relationship, as has been stated, is strong between the military and the Legislature.

I also want to say to you that last week we honored Korean veterans. We honored, the week before, Vietnam veterans. We as a body believe that it is so important to honor the heroes of our past, but we also know it is important to honor the heroes of our present and future. And that's where you come in.

My wonderful colleagues will talk about the influence of George Washington, of the wonderful deeds of Eisenhower and Patton. And I do want to recognize Senator Scarcella-Spanton, who heads our Veterans Committee, as well as Senator Skoufis, who will also talk about the

importance that West Point is in the district. And you'll hear from many of us today.

But I want to say that when we see you, we know that the future is in great hands. We know, as we look at the conflicts all over the world, and conflicts right here, when we have a member, our Senator Walczyk, who was called up to active duty, that leadership, real leadership is required.

We can all raise our hands. But when we get to that battlefield, when we get to that place of conflict, when we get to that fork in the road where decisions are required, we need leaders. We need leaders with integrity. We need leaders of courage. We need leaders who are unequivocal. And we need leaders who are fearless.

The fact that you as cadets -- and frankly, I've got to tell you, an amazing reflection of our state in its diversity -- but you as cadets know what it is in some way that you will be facing.

Nobody actually knows; I mean, if you ask any Senator, none of us actually knew what the Senate was really going to present. But

what we knew is that it was going to be an opportunity to serve. We're not in the military. We're not being called to face unknown conflicts. We're not being called to put our lives on the line. You all are. Which means that you are fearless. And when you are fearless, you can do anything.

And your presence here, because we know that you are fearless, inspires us. Which is why, every year, we look forward to this day -- to applaud you, to thank you, to take pictures with you, to congratulate you, to feed you, to pray with you. Because we are inspired by you.

So yes, Excelsior. Yes, onward and upward. But yes, know that this legislative body and the entire State of New York embraces you and knows that our future, our future of democracy and freedom and fearlessness, courage and integrity, are in very, very good hands.

Thank you so much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Madam Leader.

Senator Skoufis on the resolution.

SENATOR SKOUFIS: Thank you very

much, Mr. President.

And I certainly want to welcome in the warmest possible terms our cadets, our officers, all of our esteemed guests. And it's a testament to your importance and the admiration that we all have that amidst ongoing -- now, we would have preferred, certainly, to be done with the budget by now. But amidst ongoing budget negotiations -- over $200 billion, the second-largest state budget in the country -- we are breaking from that to honor you all. And rightfully so. Something we do every year.

And the Majority Leader's words are deeply felt. And I'm grateful for all of our being able to honor you today.

And so on the resolution, Mr. President, it's my great honor and privilege to rise today as the Senator from the 42nd District, home to the United States Military Academy, on this 72nd anniversary of West Point Day, a cherished tradition we have here in the halls of our capital and a morning of great pride to both all of my current colleagues as well as our past Senators over that time, including my predecessor, Senator and

Colonel Bill Larkin.

The vision of West Point belonged to President George Washington -- the Majority Leader's prediction was correct, we'd be talking about George Washington a little bit today. It was his vision. He sought to establish an institution devoted to the development of Army officers and engineers at that time.

The Academy's location along the Hudson River, as we all know, had strategic importance, a fact realized by both the Americans and the British during the revolution.

Despite attempts -- including the famous one by Benedict Arnold, and his betrayal -- West Point was never captured by the British and is today the oldest continuously occupied Regular Army post in the United States.

The Academy's long and unbroken record as an American symbol of fidelity is captured in both the pride we take in its history and the hope we derive as we look to the future at the leaders and defenders of American democracy who are trained in its halls every day, some of whom sit amongst us now.

It's impossible to walk the halls of

that institution without feeling the presence of the past. I feel it whenever I myself visit or see it there perched atop the west bank of the Hudson River.

Yes, it is a garrison. But more than that, it is a beacon to the very values emblazoned in the school's coat of arms: Duty, Honor, Country. A reminder to all who will seek it of the work and sacrifice of those men and women who built this country and threw their lot in on the great democratic experiment.

While the weight of this history might be intimidating to some, I also know that there is so much left to be written of the American story, and it will be written by the future leaders who sit with us today.

Democracy is a perpetual process rather than a one-time achievement. It is something that we must continue to earn, persisting as our predecessors persisted, facing challenges with the grit and determination that forged this country and our audacious system of government.

What's needed to do this is the kind of spirit that pushes one to the edge of our

capabilities and then some more. This is not something most endure. But the cadets who sit here today have this quality embedded in their DNA, and it's what brought them to West Point.

To our cadets. By pursuing your education in the Academy's hallowed halls and your accompanying commitment to protect our nation and the republic we hold so dear, you've become part of West Point's history. What lies after is a chapter that is yet to be written for our nation, one whose outcome your actions and your choices will help determine.

My colleagues and I are honored that you have joined us today. We are humbled by your determination and your willingness to serve, defending, protecting and uplifting our nation with your dedication.

Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. President. And of course, last but not least: Go Army, beat Navy!

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Skoufis.

Minority Leader Ortt on the resolution.

SENATOR ORTT: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to I think obviously echo the comments made by my colleagues. I want to thank Majority Leader Cousins for her comments; certainly the sponsor for bringing this resolution today.

West Point is a unique place because it of course really belongs to all of us, every American who pledges allegiance to that flag. The Academy at West Point produces not just soldiers, not just veterans. It produces the future leaders of America. It produces the future leaders of the United States Army.

Specifically, yes, it was the vision of our first president, George Washington, who not only saw the need for a professional military academy, but obviously saw the strategic vantage point, the strategic benefit of West Point. But of course it was founded and ultimately brought into reality by our third president, Thomas Jefferson.

And it was brought into being to create the leadership, the professional leadership of the United States Army

specifically, and in some ways, by extension, the United States military.

I think it's great and very humbling for us to have you here today. But I think it's important that you're here because there's an important role between the military and the elected government in a republic, in the United States of America.

We have a civilian-led military. In spite of all the experience, certainly, of our Joint Chiefs of Staff, generals in the Army, generals in other branches -- in spite of that, it is a civilian-led military. Our Commander-in-Chief is the President of the United States, and ultimately decisions regarding war, funding, you know, where we're going to put investment in future weapons systems, where we're going to -- where you may find yourselves, those are all decisions that are ultimately made by people that sit in chairs like us.

And so it is humbling to know that this generation continues to produce Americans who willingly serve. You're born into, or you live in, the wealthiest country in the world, where there are options in front of all of you,

certainly. You can be what you want to be. You can do what you want to do. And yet you're choosing to serve this country. You're choosing to potentially, some of you, put yourselves directly in harm's way.

And for that, we commend you. I am always in awe of young Americans. Combat is a young person's endeavor. I don't want to say young person's game, because it's certainly not a game. But it is a young person's exercise. Having been there in combat at the ripe old age of 29, I can tell you I was an old man in a lot of ways over in Afghanistan. It is a young person's endeavor.

And to have young people like yourselves, who already know, who already understand, who believe that there is something bigger than all of you, who believe that you have all these freedoms and opportunities because other people came before you and sacrificed and fought to make them so -- and those need to be protected and safeguarded into the future.

Every generation needs to do its part to defend liberty. Every generation needs to do its part to defend our way of life, our

values, and our interests, be they here at home or abroad. And so I commend you for that.

But I would also say, you -- you're all leaders. You're all aspiring leaders, I'll put it that way. You're leaders-in-training right now. You're getting a crash course in leadership. I will tell you that you will find out, as you go off into the world -- maybe not always in the military, but certainly in the civilian world, leadership is a lost art. There's not enough people who actually know how to lead. Everybody wants to lead, or at least a lot of people want to lead. But how to lead. And of course to lead, you need to be able, first, to serve.

And that's what you're doing. And that's what you're being trained, to lead under fire, to lead when things are not going well. But you also deserve leaders. You deserve leaders on the elected side, be they in Washington, D.C., or at the statehouses, who understand what you're doing and who make decisions in the best interest of each and every one of you.

Leaders who do not waste your

talents, who do not waste your service, who do not waste your sacrifice. Leaders who understand the impact of our decisions upon all of you and your families.

You deserve that from us. You deserve leaders who get that, who get our part in that arrangement that we have that I talked about, the civilian-military arrangement in this country that is unique. It is unique in America, and it is important that we continue to protect it. But we need leaders on both sides of that equation who have the same goals and have the same understanding, both of history and where the world is going.

And I hope, I hope that we continue to have those leaders on the civilian side as well as the military side.

At this time I want to ask Jake Wesley, on your feet.

So I do not have a constituent here today who is a cadet. In fact, I've been here for 10 years and I've never, from the 62nd District -- in spite all the best parts of it, we've never had a cadet from West Point here on West Point Day.

However, as was mentioned, Senator Mark Walczyk from the North Country -- Senator Walczyk is currently deployed. He is a member of the New York Army National Guard, and he is deployed at this time. And as a result, he is not with his wife and his children, and he is not here doing the business that he was elected to do. Because his service not only extends to this room, but it extends to the military, to the New York National Guard.

However, Jake Wesley is his constituent, and he is here. I want to read a little bit about Jake. Jake is -- his intended branch is Signal. He is in Delta-1 Company. His major is military history. And he belongs to the Hunting Club and to company athletics. In fact, he already has an associate's degree. And he would like to return, possibly, to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to teach military history in the future.

Jake, it is great to have you with us, along with the rest of you cadets. I only wish Senator Walczyk was here to recognize you. But I am honored to be able to recognize you, on behalf of him. And I thank you for your

willingness to serve.

I thank all of my colleagues for supporting this resolution -- Jake, you can sit down now, I'm sorry.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ORTT: But, Mr. President, I want to thank all my colleagues for supporting this resolution. I want to thank the cadets who are here for your willingness to serve this country, for your willingness to be leaders for this country, not only in the U.S. Army, but we're going to ask you to be leaders for the rest of your lives in whatever endeavor you choose.

And I look forward to the fact that this generation is producing such fine young men and women who are here with us today.

Mr. President, thank you for your indulgence.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Ortt.

It is now my honor to introduce Lieutenant General Steven W. Gilland, the 61st Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Lieutenant General.

WEST POINT SUPERINTENDENT GILLAND: Thank you, sir, I appreciate it.

(Standing ovation.)

WEST POINT SUPERINTENDENT GILLAND: Good morning. Good morning. You are all too kind.

Leader Stewart-Cousins, Leader Ortt, members of this distinguished Senate, good morning and thank you so very much for having us here today.

And on behalf of our amazing team at the United States Military Academy, we thank you for this recognition and the many kind words that have been stated today. It is an absolute honor for us to be here with you.

Leader Stewart-Cousins, ma'am, thank you for the opportunity to address this chamber.

Senator Skoufis, sir, thank you for the opportunity today to come up here and for your hosting us.

And to Senator Scarcella-Spanton, ma'am, thank you for you and your committee, for all you do for our veterans and our servicemembers in this great state.

I am joined today by our

First Captain, Martayn Van de Wall, who sits down here to my left, and these 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 be of service to 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 6, 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 amphibious assault in history.

It was a pivotal day -- to some historians, referred to as the beginning of the end of World War II -- a day where devotion to duty and skill in battle were in no short supply.

Some 73,000 American troops were among the 156,000-strong Allied forces that would storm those beaches in northern France, to include many from the great New York State.

West Point graduates like Brooklyn-born General Jumpin' 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 1st Sergeant Ed Sowa, from Goshen, who gave the last full measure of devotion that day as a member of Rudder's Rangers at Pointe du Hac.

Devoted to duty, skilled in battle, heroes who helped liberate Europe and end a 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, to meet the demands of the war. All of them keenly aware of the events taking place half a world away. All of them knowing they would soon join the fight. And all of them, I am sure, wondering 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 sons 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 donned the cloth of our nation to serve, as soldiers or citizen soldiers of the National Guard or the Army Reserve.

And of course we think of our Army veterans and retirees, our soldiers for life, who continue to serve in various ways 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 prepared 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.

So on behalf of the West Point community, we greatly appreciate that support. At West Point we say it takes village to develop leaders. And we are honored to be part of your village.

Likewise, as good neighbors, we welcome the opportunities to be a part of your village, so to speak, to connect and build relationships, both locally and statewide, to work together to enhance the leader development experience and benefit our communities.

We're honored to be here, and we are 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 they can be.

Thank you for your continued support. And Go, Army!

(Cheers, applause.)

(Extended standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Lieutenant General, thank you for your speech and your service.

Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the resolution.

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you, Lieutenant General, for your very inspiring words this afternoon.

Especially thank you to Senator Skoufis, for all the work you have done to ensure that our State Senate recognizes the historic institution of West Point.

This prestigious institution has produced a long line of military officers who have served our nation with distinction and honor. But West Point is more than just a training ground for future leaders of the U.S. Army. It is an institution that instills in its

cadets a deep sense of duty, honor and country.

It is my privilege to recognize one of West Point's most outstanding individuals from my district who is with us today, Cadet Olivia Raykhman.

Olivia's determination to serve her country stems from her family's experiences in the Soviet Union. Inspired by her parents' harrowing escape from life-threatening antisemitism in the Soviet Union and their journey to establish a new life here in the United States, Olivia has been driven to pursue a path of service.

Within the corps, Olivia fulfills the role of squad leader in Company H-3, and she is slated to assume the position of summer leader as an experienced platoon leader this upcoming summer.

Olivia has founded and leads the cadet ambassador program, holds the role of assistance cadet in charge of terrorism studies, serves as viewpoint at the Jewish chapel, and holds the esteemed position of senior fellow at the Mounger Writing Center.

Motivated by the threat of

internet-enabled terrorism, she aspires to serve as an Army cyber officer after graduation. Olivia and her fellow peers at West Point represent some of the most talented and dedicated individuals our nation has to offer. They come from all corners of the country to New York State, united by a shared commitment to serving their country and protecting our freedoms.

As we recognize West Point Day, let us also recognize the sacrifices that cadets make to attend this prestigious university. Each cadet has answered a call to service and willingly committed to risking their lives to defend our liberties, a decision many would not make.

Thank you so much to all the cadets for joining us today, and especially Olivia, a proud Manhattan Beach resident and current West Point cadet. We are all incredibly proud of you and we're happy to have you celebrating here in the Capitol today.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Scarcella-Spanton.

Senator Skoufis.

SENATOR SKOUFIS: Thanks very much again, Mr. President.

I rise because I have the distinct privilege of welcoming and introducing some of our West Point leaders who are here, the leadership team, as well as some of the support personnel.

First and foremost, who we just heard from, Lieutenant General Steven W. Gilland, the 61st Superintendent at West Point, who is a phenomenal leader not only for the Academy but also a trusted partner in the broader community.

With him is Colonel Terrence M. Kelley, director of public affairs and communications. Welcome.

Lieutenant Colonel Ashley Ritchey, executive officer.

Major Andrew S. Rodriguez, aide to the Superintendent.

Also accompanying the Superintendent is Staff Sergeant German Morales.

Mentioned before, and I'll mention again, Cadet Martayn Van de Wall, First Captain within the Corps of Cadets.

Then our support personnel who are

here: Major David Reyes, the chaplain, who opened up today's session. Thank you for your words before.

Mr. Jim Fox, USMA Public Affairs Office, community engagement.

Mr. Matthew Hintz, USMA public affairs office, community engagement. And special thanks to him for being a point person on coordinating today's events.

And Mr. Jorge Garcia, USMA Public Affairs Office, command information, who's helping with some of the media from West Point today.

And last but not least, just a few thanks. First and foremost, to our Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for always making today possible and the time possible for today amidst a very busy time of year.

Senator and Chair Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, who we just heard from.

The entire floor team, as well as Jordine Jones and the Senate Services Team; Shane Jones, Senate Events Team; certainly Ale Paulino, Secretary of the Senate.

And last but certainly not least, my entire staff, and particularly Nicole Clarke. There's a lot that goes into today's events, and I want to thank everyone who helped put this on, and certainly welcome everyone who's here from West Point.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Skoufis.

Senator Palumbo on the resolution.

SENATOR PALUMBO: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise today to speak on the resolution, to thank the superintendent, all the senior officers, and of course our cadets, all of you as a whole, for your tremendous service to our communities, this great state, and of course this great nation.

And I've had, I think, in my 11 years in the Legislature, I've only had one cadet. And today I have two, from both ends of Senate District 1.

I'm going to start with Cadet Edmundo Porras. Edmundo, please rise.

Edmundo's from Coram. He's assigned

to Company B-4. He intends to branch out into the Air Defense Artillery. He's studying kinesiology. His clubs and sports are combatives and paint ball. He's air assault qualified. So he of course chooses to jump out of perfectly well-working helicopters. We appreciate that. And he was inspired to serve because his father's service in the Army was as an enlisted soldier, and this is his opportunity to give back to this country.

Upon graduating from West Point, Edmundo plans on attending Baylor Physical Therapy Program, and until then he plans on serving in the Air Defense Artillery Corps and traveling.

So, Edmundo, thank you so much for your service. And welcome, my friend.

I also have Cadet Clare Gabriele, who's a team leader. Clare, please rise. Clare's from Southampton, New York, on the other end of the district, the eastern end. She's assigned to Company Bravo-1. She intends to branch into the Medical Service Corps. She's studying law and legal studies. So we always need more lawyers -- I'm one myself, Clare. So

keep up the good work.

She participates in company athletics. She plans on attending air assault this summer, so she too wants to jump out of perfectly good-working helicopters.

Her father is a grad of West Point, 1988. And her brother, as well, graduated last year. Is that correct, Clare? So this is a long family legacy of service. Both of her parents serve the community in the field of law enforcement. And she's grateful for the opportunity, of course, to give back.

And when she graduates from West Point, she plans to branch into the Medical Service Corps and hopes to be able to travel to interesting places throughout her time in the Army.

So Clare, thank you as well for your service. It's great to have you here.

And, Mr. President, to all of our other cadets and members here from West Point, we just thank you profusely. Without being too repetitive -- but it bears repeating -- without you, I can't stand here on this floor and say, within reason, just about whatever I want to say.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR PALUMBO: So this country is what it is because of our military.

So thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Palumbo.

Senator Stavisky on the resolution.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you to all those who have been mentioned.

I'm delighted to welcome a constituent, Cadet Chen, Tracy Chen. She has a twin sister who's in the corps. She's attending classes today. So that must be a remarkable family for parents who came to this country, who instilled in their children the idea of service, of patriotism, of love of country.

And the -- we're really honoring the two Chen sisters for their commitment to service, their commitment to helping others. And Tracy hopes to join the Air Corps and become a pilot.

So to all of the cadets, you are receiving a wonderful education. And I say that as chairperson of the Senate Committee on

Higher Education. However, we have no jurisdiction over you.

So the federal government has to continue to provide the funds to make the West Point cadets and the other service academies continue the excellence that we have here in New York State in our higher education system.

And again, we welcome you and we thank you -- not for what you've done, but what you're going to be doing in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Stavisky.

Senator Rhoads on the resolution.

SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, I've had the honor of being in this chamber for about 16 months at this point. And there are plenty of good days here, but the one date, every time we get the calendar, that you sort of circle is the day that we have the opportunity to honor West Point and have you here, in our chamber, to give you thanks for everything you do for our country.

And it's a great reminder to every

one of us to count our blessings. Because every single -- throughout our history, from the Battle of Lexington and Concord and to dozens of places across the world today, every generation has produced men and women of courage and character who have agreed to wear the uniform and serve in defense of freedom, both here at home and across the world.

And what we have in you today is a representation of that amazing tradition in this generation of Americans. Young men and women who are willing to step forward, not only to serve our country but to be leaders of the most elite military force that exists in the world today. And that is what you represent, as being West Point cadets.

And so it's a tremendous honor not only for me, but for all of us, to welcome you here, to thank you for your passion and your dedication and your commitment to our country, to its founding ideals, and to preserving that for future generations.

And of course the leadership at West Point, thank you for everything that you do, not only in your own service, but to mold these

future leaders as you are displaying incredible leadership yourselves. Thank you.

And I want to now -- with apologies to Leader Ortt, who's apparently had no cadets in 10 years, so I'm two for two. So I'm pretty excited about that. And I want to recognize a cadet from my hometown in Wantagh, Carly Woelfel. And Carly, if you'll please stand.

Carly is an amazing representation of what it means to serve. And she talks about her passions. She has a passion for engineering, she has a passion for loving life which brought her to West Point. But she has a passion for serving her country, which is a passion I think that is shared by every one of the cadets that is sitting here today as representatives of the 200-some-odd cadets that we have over in West Point.

She's a local runner. She is an engineer for the Steel Bridge Competition Team, an avid reader. And while away, she frequents Jones Beach, I'm sure, which is right in our hometown of Wantagh, cooks and gardens with family.

She is a major in mechanical

engineering, and upon her graduation from West Point she plans to be an engineer at Fort Lewis in Washington. But she also wants to go on to attend graduate school for engineering work as a bridge engineer and wants to teach at the high school level. And ultimately would love to be a New York State park ranger, which I'm sure some of us in this chamber might be able to help her with, no question about it.

But to Carly and to all of our cadets, thank you. Thank you for being here. Thank you for reminding us of our responsibility in this partnership. As you agree to go and serve and defend freedom, it's our responsibility in this chamber to take the freedom that you've secured for all of us and make sure that we're promoting issues and causes that keep our communities safer, that keep our communities more prosperous, and that keep our communities free.

So thank you for reminding us of our responsibilities as we celebrate you as you undertake the responsibilities that you've undertaken as being cadets at West Point.

God bless each of you. Thank you for your service. And God bless America.

I proudly vote aye on this resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Rhoads.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Among all the well-deserved thanks and gratitude we've been expressing today were the leaders of West Point who have joined us. But we neglected to recognize Seth Gianessi, who's also with us. He is the company tactical officer for Company A-4. And so we certainly don't want to leave any of the brave men and women who have joined us today to go unrecognized.

So thank you, Mr. Gianessi, as well.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Gianaris.

Senator Tedisco on the resolution.

SENATOR TEDISCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

As we thank and welcome all of our cadets and show our appreciation for your service to this great nation, it's my special honor to

welcome, from the 44th Senate District, Cadet Micaela Choi, of Burnt Hills.

Cadet Choi is majoring in systems engineering at West Point. She is the Officers' Christian Fellowship Worship Leader, a member of the Army Tae Kwon Do Club, and Club Beyond Young Life Leader.

As a child of two West Point graduates, Cadet Choi was able to see firsthand the type of outstanding individuals the Army and especially West Point produces. Cadet Choi wants nothing more than to be more like the caring leaders of character that her parents were and are.

This, paired with Cadet Choi's desire to serve our country in a serious time of need, greatly influenced her decision to go to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

So we welcome you. We show our appreciation. And we thank you for being a part of the best, the brightest, most courageous and compassionate fighting force for good in the whole world, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

God bless you, and thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Weber on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank the sponsor for continuing this great tradition of West Point Day here in the Senate chamber. And thank you to Leader Cousins for really continuing this great tradition. It's something that I know my colleagues here have said earlier: It's one of the best days of the session days. So I thank you for continuing that tradition.

And to all the leadership at West Point, thank you, thank you, thank you, for everything that you do for keeping us, our nation, safe.

You know, the one thing I noticed when speaking to some of the cadets is not only how old I feel, but how young they are. And I think that's a great reminder for not only presidents now, but future presidents. That the people that go off to war, the soldiers that go off to war are usually the younger generation, young kids, as I call them. And it should be a reminder that, you know, we always need to make

sure that that's in the back of our minds when that time calls.

You know, the 38th District in Rockland County is lucky enough to have two cadets here today. So the first cadet is Ella St. Louis. Would you rise?

Ella is a Clarkstown South graduate -- right? Clarkstown South graduate. She's from Company G-3, and she's from New City, New York.

You know, I got a chance to talk to her earlier, and she has a brother, right, a brother that was a graduate of West Point as well. She's in her freshman year. She's in Company G-3. And when she's done, when she graduates, she wants to go into computer science. But before then, she wants to go and be stationed in Okinawa, which is exciting.

So congratulations. And thank you. Thank you for doing what your generation has always done, and that's stepped up and be the next future leaders in our country. So thank you for being here today.

The other cadet we have here today is Christina Vozzo. Christina, stand, please?

Christina's from Valley Cottage, New York, a graduate of Nyack High School. She's in Company F-4. And again, she comes from a line of West Point graduates. Her father graduated from West Point in 1974.

And she wants to be a PA, get a PA after she graduates, but also wants to serve and be stationed in Fort Drum. And I know that's exciting. I know we had Fort Drum Day here I think last year sometime, and we recognized a lot of the soldiers and institution there as well.

So, listen, our country is in great hands with not only yourself, your colleagues, but all of the cadets here. We thank you for your service. We thank you for being the future leaders of this country.

And I vote, proudly vote aye on this resolution today. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Harckham on the resolution.

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

First I want to thank Senator Skoufis for the resolution; the Majority Leader -- Madam Leader, thank you for

keeping this tradition alive. The Minority Leader, thank you for your comments every year as well.

I grew up in -- just a couple of miles away from West Point as a young person. And so West Point had an outsized influence in my life. My father served in combat in France and Germany in World War II, and he was an enlistee. And he said there was always a marked difference between the officers who are from West Point versus the other commissioned officers who are not from West Point.

And so, you know, I hope you take that responsibility with you, that you will be recognized for your leadership, but also there's a higher bar for you to live up to.

But growing up near West Point as a youth, West Point to me was football games, it was the parade of the cadets, it was the museum, it was the history, it was the monuments. And it wasn't until later in life that I got to appreciate the leadership.

And we want to thank all of you who are charged with shaping leaders, and those of you who have chosen this pathway and this life.

And while I don't have cadets here, I had the chance to meet Ella and Christina, coincidentally from where I grew up and where my grandparents lived in Rockland County.

And the point I want to make is that we are in a very cynical world, a very cynical political climate. And too often I've been to events where there's some old grouch, you know, lamenting the state of youth of today.

You know, shut up. Enough. I look at you and your commitment to this country, to our ideals, to our values, and I am really confident we're in a good place.

Thank you. God bless you.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Harckham.

Senator Weik on the resolution.

SENATOR WEIK: Thank you, Mr. President.

I am so grateful to have the guests that we have here today. Thank you to the superintendent and the leadership from West Point.

West Point is such a respectable,

honorable institution. And I'd like to say that point I have a cadet here today who's not the first that I've represented. And Long Island has a strong representation in West Point, and we're very proud of that.

I have the great honor today to recognize Cadet Navroop Singh. Excuse me, I'm sorry. Thank you so much.

Cadet Singh is a mechanical engineering student. He's a member of the Finance Club. And Cadet Singh and I got to chat. He's also a participant in the Ski Patrol, and that has allowed him the opportunity to travel and experience a lot of new and different opportunities.

And he was talking so much about what a great institution West Point is, and what it serves to really create the opportunities that well-rounded individuals who will become the leaders of our nation have. And so we thank you for that opportunity to create and to really form and mold our young generation.

Cadet Singh was inspired by family who also served in the military. He wanted to be part of something bigger than himself and to push

beyond the limits of what you think you can do. And that's a great thing that he put out there, because individuals who aspire to be leaders are what we need for today.

And having children the same age, I have to say I'm so proud of you. As we chatted, he is a bright, intelligent, articulate individual who is respectful and definitely the makings of a leadership for the future. So I thank you so much.

God bless all of you. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Weik.

Senator Martins on the resolution.

SENATOR MARTINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I too rise to salute the Academy, to thank the leadership for being here today and to provide the guidance forward for our cadets as we continue the great tradition of honor, duty and country that has been the hallmark of the Military Academy for all these years.

Mr. President, this is one of the highlights of the year where we actually get to look at the future leadership of our country and

of our state and agree, both sides of the aisle, to a person, that the future indeed looks bright.

We have men and women who frankly could have gone anywhere for college, sought all kinds of opportunities in the world -- and sought service as the primary focus for their academic years, and continued service to country and to family and to community as they go forward.

So I rise to salute the institution. I rise to salute the Senate's continued commitment to West Point Day and to maintaining that relationship between this great institution and our service academy.

I too have the privilege of having two members and two cadets here today from the 7th Senate District in Nassau County on Long Island. It really is a privilege to have spent a few moments speaking to both of them earlier today.

But the focus of these young adults, the commitment to accountability -- I guarantee you that they don't miss appointments. I guarantee that they don't show up late to things. And I guarantee you if there is something on their schedule that they have to get done by a

certain date, they don't miss that date.

Mr. President, I guarantee you that our future is indeed bright, and I want to take a moment to highlight the two cadets who are here from my district.

First I'd like to ask Cadet Jacob Crossman if he would stand for a moment.

Cadet Crossman is a team leader as well. He is in Echo-3 Company, and he hails from Jericho, New York, having attended and graduated from Jericho High School.

He participates in Future Applied Systems Team and Society of American military engineers. He's also on the company soccer and grappling team. So he is a well-rounded individual, as we would expect from anyone who graduated from Jericho High School.

He was inspired to serve his country in part because of some interactions with Navy SEALS and his work with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

He's passionate about his work in Future Applied System, where he develops tactics and implements drones in infantry operations.

Mr. President, as a young adult he

sees the opportunity not only to participate but to excel and to contribute, which is what we would expect from anyone, and takes great pride in that.

He is the co-cadet in charge of the Society of American Military Engineers, where he connects cadets to local engineering opportunities. And he's a Stokes Fellow in the Mounger Writing Center.

Upon graduating from West Point, he wants to continue in service. He wishes to be assigned to the 11th Cyber Battalion in Fort Eisenhower in Georgia -- we wish you would stay in New York, but we do admire your commitment to service in this country and certainly understanding where your talents lie -- and hopes to pursue a path in Army Acquisitions, where he will develop the technology that equips soldiers for future battlefields in the hopes of keeping them safe so that they can come home safely.

We salute you, Cadet Crossman, and thank you very much for being here.

Mr. President, I also have the privilege of introducing Cadet Daniel Chan.

Cadet Chan also hails from the 7th Senate District. He's a graduate of Syosset High School, and he is a member of Foxtrot-1 Company.

He intends to pursue I guess service in the Medical Corps. He hopes to be a doctor, an orthopedic surgeon. He has participated in Premed Society, Domestic Affairs Forum, and tutors as well as participating in the club flag football program.

He's always wanted to serve his country, and so this is just one step along the way. Cadet Chan is passionate about his service. He is currently the cadet in charge of CH-101 tutoring and involved in research about bio-bandages through a cadet-run group.

He hopes to be assigned to the Medical Corps and continue his service to the country. Again, nothing new for a graduate of Syosset High School and a great member of our community.

Cadet Chan, thank you very much for being here. Congratulations. And thank you for your service.

Mr. President, I'll just wrap up by saying we have hope in this great state when we

look at the cadets here, the service that they have committed to, and the leadership that they bring. And we look at the leadership here on the other side of the chamber, inspired to provide those cadets with the guidance and structure that they need.

As long as we have a commitment in our country and in this state to this military academy and to the best and the brightest continuing to serve, continuing to serve, we indeed have a bright future.

I'm proud to vote aye.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Martins.

Senator Mattera on the resolution.

SENATOR MATTERA: Thank you, Mr. President.

And thank you to Leader Stewart-Cousins for this very, very important resolution. I thank you. This is my fourth year, and this is just so, so important.

And to thank Lieutenant General Gilland and all officers. We had such a great conversation before. It was an inspiration to me

as being a leader. You know, getting into the apprenticeship program, we were having the discussion that we had the Helmets to Hard Hats program with the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters.

And I was explaining to the Lieutenant General that, in other words, the cadets -- I know they're going through a lot right now. And when they do become veterans, that I would love, if they wanted to get into the trades with the Helmets to Hard Hats program, we have that with the building trades. So we're here.

But this is to all of our cadets, all the cadets, to say thank you. You are the elite. You are the elite for the future, to protect our country from harm's way.

You know, the commitment to serve is unprecedented in all ways. So if we did have any kind of, God forbid, a conflict, I know you'd be there to protect all Americans.

You know, we have a lot of leaders in this room, we have a lot of military people that I'm so proud to be in this chamber with that are Senators, and how important it is. And

that's where I love to see more military people to come into this chamber for the future.

You know, just like our leader Rob Ortt, Senator Ortt, he is our leader. There he is. He's a 1st Lieutenant with the Army. He is a Bronze Star recipient. And you know what, never really talks about it. But it means a lot to me as a leader for what he has done for our country.

And I'm hearing the story with our leader when those towers went down, he went right away after college and he went and enlisted for our country. And I just know what all our military does for us to protect us from harm's way. And I am dedicated, and all of us in this chamber.

So I'm not going to continue because I like to run on. But I'm just so proud to be here today. I'm proud of West Point Day. Again to our Leader Stewart-Cousins, thank you very much.

So I just want to say God bless our military. God bless all of our cadets. And especially God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Ashby on the resolution.

SENATOR ASHBY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Unfortunately I do not have a cadet here today, but I do want to thank the leadership and all that they do each and every day.

And I did want to highlight one cadet here today who has been mentioned already, from Senator Stavisky's district, Cadet Chen. We may know in this chamber that you need a congressional nomination in order to go to West Point, but there is another way to do this. You can also apply and go through as an enlisted member. And this is what Cadet Chen has done.

And in my limited time in the United States Army, I -- I would not be here with you today, I probably would not be alive without the help of enlisted members and NCOs.

It's a harder way to do it, but the knowledge and the leadership that they display each and every day benefits our officer corps, benefits it in a way that I think -- it's not directly applicable, but you think about what the

staff provide here? You think about how influential that can be. Magnify that times 100, and that's what our enlisted and our NCO corps does for our officers.

So Cadet Chen, I want to thank you for your decision to serve twice -- as an enlisted member, and now in the officer corps -- that no doubt will have an incredible benefit on the United States Army and the leadership of our country in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Ashby.

Senator Breslin to close.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

As I sit here for a long period of time, and I've served here for many, many years, I've concluded that we look at you, and you -- you're looking up to us as Senators. The fact is that we're intimidated by you.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: We respect you to a degree that you can't imagine. You are doing what many of us dreamt about doing, and you are

achieving goals that many of us failed to conclude.

And as I look at you and chat with you, I'm so impressed with the quality of the continued leadership brought on by our leaders from West Point.

And I think about when I was growing up and spending my freshman year in high school, I had a brother who was a senior in high school, who was president of his class, and he was I think number one academically, was voted the outstanding football player in the area, basketball player and baseball player. And where did he end up? West Point. To the total delight of my parents. I did not.

And my brother ended up staying in service, being a company commander with the 82nd Airborne in Vietnam. Ending up as a 27-year-old major with a number of medals coming back from Vietnam, and then going on to teach counterinsurgency at the College of the Americas. Counterinsurgency -- I think that's a warm way of saying teaching them to be as violent as they're being violent to us.

But each year I look forward to this

date because I meet so many future leaders of our country, and I go home smiling. I go home saying, Don't believe what you see on the news, believe what you see with your own eyes. See those leaders who will make a difference and will lead this country the way it should be led.

And I'm blessed to be here with you and your officers to celebrate West Point Day. And in particular, I'm here to finally celebrate somebody from Albany, the Gateway to the West, the lawmaker, the Empire State. And that's Daniel Pollydore.

Daniel, will you stand up?

Daniel is a graduate of Albany High here in Albany. We visited together a couple of years back, and I hope we continue to visit in the future. Daniel wants to be in ordinance. He'd like to end up Korea after. But he was fortunate enough to already spend a semester in France. Which is different than a lot of the officers who'd remember the academic -- the academics that you learned 40 years ago. They didn't include trips to other countries to study.

And Daniel has done an amazing job at West Point. You'll continue to do that. I

look forward to having a relationship with you when you're back in the Albany area.

And you are a credit to Albany, the State of New York, and to our country.

God bless each and every one of you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Breslin.

To our incredible, brave, hope-providing leaders now and future leaders, our guests, I welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you all of the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Lengthy standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The resolution was adopted on March 19th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, let me remind our colleagues that there will be a reception in honor of our guests from West Point at 1:00 p.m. And be mindful, it has been relocated from last year to the fourth floor of the Capitol, just upstairs from the chamber.

And with that, this resolution is open for cosponsorship, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: There will be a reception in honor of our guests from West Point upstairs on the fourth floor at 1:00 p.m.

The resolution is open for cosponsorship.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: At this point we're going to continue with motions and resolutions. But I want to simultaneously call an immediate meeting of the Finance Committee in Room 124 of the Capitol.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: There will be an immediate meeting of the Finance Committee in Room 124 in the Capitol.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: On behalf of Senator Serrano, I wish to call up Senate Bill 724, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the desk.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 336, Senate Print 724, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Secretary will call the roll on reconsideration.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is restored to its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I offer the following amendments.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The amendments are received.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Moving on, I move to adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 2211.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: All those in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 2211, please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Now let's take up Resolution 2211, by Senator Webb, read its title and recognize Senator Webb to speak on the resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 2211, by Senator Webb, commending Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., upon the occasion of its Annual Delta Day at the Capitol in Albany, New York, on April 9, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Webb on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBB: Thank you, Madam President.

I proudly rise today to support this resolution proclaiming April 9, 2024, as Annual Delta Day in the State of New York.

This declaration is a testament to our collective recognition and appreciation of the impactful work carried out by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an organization that has been at the forefront of social change,

education, and community service for over 111 years, of which I am a proud member of, and the first New York State Senator who is a member of this prestigious organization, along with my colleagues in the Assembly, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn and of course Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, who's here with us today in the chamber.

Founded in 1913 by 22 visionary women on the campus of Howard University, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., has committed itself to promoting academic excellence, providing scholarships, supporting the underserved, and actively participating in the establishment of positive public policy.

Their relentless dedication to educating and promoting participation in our democracy and addressing community issues through thoughtful solutions has been instrumental in fostering social change.

The annual Delta Days, established by the National Social Action Commission in 1989, symbolizes the sorority's proactive engagement in the national public policy-making process. It is a time when members from across this great state

gather at our State Capitol, underscoring the significance of collective action and civic engagement in advancing the well-being of our communities.

With over 350,000 members worldwide, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., implements its mission through a five-point programmatic thrust addressing economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement. The impact of these initiatives is a testament to the power of unity and dedication in creating sustainable change.

One of the first public acts of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was marching in the women's suffrage march in Washington, D.C., on March 3, 1913 -- keeping in mind that this was during a time of significant racial segregation and injustice.

The legacy of the sorority is also marked by distinguished leaders, including Dorothy Height, who was a beacon of civil rights whose leadership and advocacy have paved the way for future generations.

I am continually inspired by the examples of these dynamic women and its countless members, including notable New Yorkers like the late great United States Representative Shirley Chisholm, who was the founding member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Caucus; also, former New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Earlene Hooper; former New York State Assemblywoman Annette Robinson; former New York State Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright; and former Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall. These women, and countless others, have used their voices and platforms to advocate for justice and equality.

Celebrating Annual Delta Days at the Capitol is not only a recognition of the sorority's past and most certainly present achievements, but also a commitment to its future endeavors. It reaffirms our dedication to the principles of service, leadership and advocacy that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., embodies.

This resolution acknowledges the vital role that the sorority plays in fostering community well-being, advocating for social justice, and empowering individuals to lead and

serve.

And in closing, as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., I am reminded of the strength that is found in our collective efforts and enduring impact of our work. Together we continue to strive towards a more equitable, justice and compassionate society.

I am profoundly grateful to my Senate colleagues for their support of this resolution. I also want to thank our New York State Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Social Action Coordinators Donna and Michelle for your continued service to Delta and, of course, New York State.

Madam President, I proudly vote aye, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Webb.

Leader Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you, Madam President.

And I just want to thank you, Senator Webb, for bringing this annual resolution

forward and certainly for representing the Deltas so well.

And I also want to acknowledge my friend Assemblywoman Hyndman, who also is proudly representing the Deltas, and send my regards also to Rodneyse.

But (waving to gallery) you know I had to do that because I missed you all this morning. Hey! But I didn't want to miss saying hello to you today.

And obviously this is a very special day because it's West Point Day. But, you know, when we think about service and really applauding service and selflessness, we have to acknowledge that there are sororities such as the Delta that have -- Deltas have spent over a hundred years doing service for our communities.

Senator Webb talked about the principles that inspire you to do the work. But I want to stand as somebody who has had the opportunity to work with you and to be part of your constant push towards education and involvement. You're reminding people that it is okay to ask questions about how to get involved, because you set such a high example of how this

happens -- with dignity, with integrity, with intelligence, and with the eye towards just making sure that the legacy of those great women who came before you are being fulfilled every day.

In February, I was able to join you here in the Capitol where there was a huge symposium on maternal health. The questions that were asked, the answers that came forward, the stories that were told -- our conference room was converted into a place where hundreds of women -- well, you know, I don't want to act like we broke any fire rules or anything. Maybe not hundreds.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: But it felt like hundreds of women and men who were there taking part in this very, very educational forum about maternal health with top-level, you know, experts in the field.

And then in March I was able to join you, the Westchester Alumnae Chapter -- yay, I know -- as part of a panel: "Unbossed, Unbought." And even in that, it's the political ramifications of your involvement and how do you really make sure that, again, the legacy and the

service of the Deltas is transforming us all today.

And as I told them, since the first act that the Deltas really did officially was to, you know, work towards women's suffrage, that they understand the power of the vote. And that power is as powerful today as it has ever been, and it is important today that we remember it is because of that power that people like me, and certainly my colleagues here, are able to sit here in service.

So again, welcome to the Capitol for Delta Days, and thank you so much for all that you do.

And thank you, Senator Webb, for bringing this resolution.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Leader Stewart-Cousins.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Madam President.

You may be wondering, why am I in this seat.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: Why is my mic not

on? Because even the camera person is not used to me being in this seat.

But if I gave the Deltas my back -- my seat is right there -- I would never hear the end of it.

But you know who always has our back? Delta Sigma Theta. Even though they may not tell me when it's Delta Day and I wear the wrong color.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: But those of you from my district, you know that's something -- if the AKA is doing something, I'm wearing red. If it's Delta Day, I'm wearing blue.

But the Deltas are incredibly amazing and powerful, not just in my district but well beyond. Senator Webb is the first member of DST to be a Senator. So like the old Apple commercial said that there's an app for that; well, there's a Delta for that. If you want a Senator, there's a Lea for that. If you want an Assemblymember, there's an Alicia for that. If you want a City Councilmember, there's a Lisa for that. If you want a mayor, there's a Shawyn for that.

And if you want a member who is civically engaged, if you want someone who stands up for their community, if you want someone who gives a damn when it's not just election time but every time, there's a Delta for that.

As you know, I like to joke about it, I like to joke about me being a member of WDP, We Didn't Pledge, Inc.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: But you should know that the cofounder of WDP, my friend Joy Knight, is now a Delta.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: So I just really want to thank the members of Delta Sigma Theta and all the members of the Divine Nine for all of the great work that you do in our communities to uphold what we do in this chamber. It truly is an honor and a blessing to be able to work with you on so many issues of importance -- maternal health. You also stand with the fellas as well. When there's a fatherhood event, the Deltas are there.

And I want us to make sure that we understand and appreciate, our sisters, the work

that you do for us and the work that you do in all of our communities throughout -- not just throughout New York State, but through the entire country and anywhere where a Delta may be.

Thank you, Senator Webb, for this resolution, and I proudly vote aye.

And I thank you, and I apologize for throwing up the Rockefeller sign when I was in college. I didn't know any better. I should have known better.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: I vote aye, Madam President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Senator May on the resolution.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Madam President.

And I also want to thank Senator Webb for this resolution, and the Majority Leader for supporting it.

Because I would be lost without the wisdom and the dedication and the incredible hard work of my constituent services director, Tatiana Parker, who I know gets a lot of her

energy and her determination to do the great work she does for my district from her identity as a Delta soror.

And I have attended a number of Delta events with her and seen where that energy comes from and just how much they all do -- she does in her work, but also outside of her work for our community. And I couldn't be more grateful.

So thank you, all of you. And thank you, Senator Webb, for representing this wonderful organization.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator May.

Senator Comrie, I neglected to see you were in a different seat as well.

Senator Comrie on the resolution.

SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you, Madam President.

Since Senator Bailey moved, I figure I'd better honor the Deltas by moving also.

Thank you, Senator Webb, for bringing this yearly resolution for Delta Day.

I'm very pleased that the Deltas are

continuing to come up to Albany to advocate for issues. They're up here advocating for the Childcare Privacy Act, among other things.

The Deltas have been such a powerful group, along with the entire Divine Nine. But the Delta Sigma Theta -- which I have many Deltas that are leaders in my community, not just Assemblymember Hyndman, but City Councilmembers Selvena Brooks-Powers and Nantasha Williams, City Councilmembers that are active Deltas. I have District Leader Roslin Spigner, who's part of the Social Club.

And, you know, I can say that the Deltas are a group that are all women that are focused on making things happen. One of the biggest scholarship events that happen in my district are through Delta Sigma Theta. They have yearly healthcare symposiums. As the leader said, they have opportunities -- I've worked with Deltas where they tutored young people in the basement of my office so that they could pass the SAT exams, that they could learn how to do everything from how to present themselves at a formal dinner to going on trips.

The Deltas and all of the

Divine Nine have been focused on paying it forward, giving people opportunities, teaching people about issues, helping young people become orientated to the idea of going to college, how to get there, and how to present themselves as powerful young women.

I want to thank the Deltas for everything that you do to continuously push all of us elected officials to make sure that we're aware of the issues that are critical, that we're fighting for homeowners that need help, that we're doing things for young people within our house, and for continuing to be a thorn in our sides when necessary. You know, we appreciate -- I appreciate everything that you do to make sure that people are informed, aware, and given those opportunities too.

So thank you for being here. Thank you for continuing to lobby. Thank you for everything that you're trying to do to make sure that we pay it forward and make sure that our next generations can be smart, viable people that we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,

Senator Comrie.

Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the resolution.

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Thank you so much, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator Webb, for introducing Delta Day.

So I too -- Senator Bailey inspired me to move my seat over today so that my back wasn't faced towards some of my favorite constituents, including Michelle Akyempong up there.

But I just wanted to say that the Deltas are incredibly integral to everything we do in our district, whether it's a back-to-school event, a community fair, a Healthy Heart Day -- you name it, they are at the forefront of everything we do in the community.

And we partner with them on everything they do, because they do amazing work to make sure our mothers are kept healthy, our babies have what they need, our fathers have what they need. And I just can't thank you enough.

And I'm honored to represent you and honored to have my constituent here up in the

house, in the gallery.

So thank you so much. And Happy Delta Day, everyone!

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you.

Senator Cleare on the resolution.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to first congratulate Senator Webb on bringing this very important resolution.

I often talk about, in my district, how we can't do this work alone and we have to have partners in the community to do this work. The Deltas have been a great partner to all of us across this city. I've attended many, many events that you have put forward, whether it's health, whether it's social justice. Whatever it is, y'all are always there. Education.

And I echo all the words that were said before, but I want to emphasize and highlight one thing that's really so important to me. Each of you could have come out from your schools and done great things in this world that highlighted yourselves. But you all looked back, and you give back. And it's so important for

people to see that, to see you give back. You don't have to, but you do.

And I thank you for that because it means so much to our younger people. It means so much in our communities to see you. And you're just a wonderful gift. And I'm glad to be here today honoring you.

Thank you. And Happy Delta Day!

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you, Senator Cleare.

To our guests, our friends from Delta who are here for Delta Day, we welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you the privileges and courtesies of the house.

It's my honor to recognize you.

Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Madam President, let me just say I think it's great that our colleagues want to be seen by the people they're recognizing and introducing, but let me remind them if they're going to move their seats, please let the floor team know so we can make sure that the desk recognizes the right location for them.

This resolution is open for cosponsorship, at the request of Senator Webb.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Please take up the calendar, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 457, Senate Print 4133A, by Senator Mannion, an act to amend the Highway Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 536, Senate Print 3302, by Senator Sepúlveda, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Sepúlveda to explain his vote.

SENATOR SEPÚLVEDA: Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to express my

vote.

We have a major problem with some of the animals that will be protected under this piece of legislation. We only have about 415,000 African elephants left in the world. We have 20,000 African lions left in the wild, 18,000 white rhinos left in the wild, 700,000 African leopards, 5,500 black rhinos, and 69,000 giraffes left in the wild. If we don't protect the species, these animals are going to disappear.

And so it's critical that we in New York State, we have to take the lead to make sure that individuals that bring, for example, ivory here and sell ivory for about $100,000, when it's illegal -- luckily this individual was convicted of violating the law. But we need additional protections to make sure that these animals continue to exist during our lifetime. And if we don't, then I'm afraid that they're going to face extinction.

Thank you. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Sepúlveda to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Cleare to explain her vote.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Sepúlveda for bringing this very important bill to the floor.

And it's very fitting that we take it up after a successful Animal Advocacy Day yesterday. Africa has been pillaged for centuries. And even in the year 2024, people still travel to the continent to hunt endangered species that are considered trophies by some.

This sickening practice has no place in Africa or in New York State, and this bill wisely recognizes that principle by banning the importation, transportation and/or possession of those so-called trophies.

This bill is similar to a ban that is already on the books with respect to ivory and rhinoceros horns and is clearly the humane, respectful and compassionate thing to do. We have to preserve these endangered species for future generations to enjoy.

I thank you again, Senator Sepúlveda, and I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Cleare to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 536, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt and Stec.

Ayes, 54. Nays, 7.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 540, Senate Print 6211C, by Senator Martinez, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 540, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Lanza, O'Mara and Ortt.

Also Senator Oberacker.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 4.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 590, Senate Print 485B, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 701, Senate Print 3117A, by Senator Mannion, an act to amend the Workers' Compensation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 7. This

act shall take effect on the 120th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 739, Senate Print 253A, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 120th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Serrano to explain his vote.

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

The arts are transformative. They provide opportunities for education, entertainment, and are therapeutic in so many ways. The arts are also a major economic engine for our state.

S253 is a bill that requires New York State, via the New York State Council on the Arts and Empire State Development, to develop programmatic criteria and an application process through which to approve and certify local arts districts. By applying and being approved to become a cultural district, the municipality would be eligible for state assistance in the form of technical assistance in applying for grants, marketing expertise guidelines for state and other resources, increased tourism opportunities, and other development opportunities.

Cultural districts empower local arts and cultural organizations to become stakeholders in the development of our neighborhoods and will highlight their communities. We see the success of cultural districts in other states. And New York has the tools to continue to foster the arts and cultural

sector as an economic engine.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Serrano to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Cleare to explain her vote.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise -- as a proud member of the Senate Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation Committee -- to explain my vote.

I want to thank our chair for advancing this bill and reporting it out.

This bill will establish statewide guidelines and criteria for the establishment and designation of arts and cultural districts. Certainly many areas of my Senate district, including Harlem and East Harlem, are rich in culture, tradition and impact. From the multifaceted Harlem Renaissance to the vibrant arts of El Barrio, I am confident we will shortly have a number of arts and cultural districts in our neighborhoods.

I thank you again, and I proudly vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Cleare to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator May to explain her vote.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I also rise to thank the sponsor for this legislation.

I know we're familiar with Broadway as a cultural district, or Harlem. But as the chair of the Cities 2 Committee, I also want to say all of our smaller cities around the state have vibrant arts and cultural areas that are very important engines of economic development and job creation, as well as defining the quality of life in those communities.

And so for the sake of our smaller cities all over the state, I think this is really important legislation. I hope that our Assembly colleagues will agree this year and pass it as well, so that we can move this along. Thank you for bringing this forward.

I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator May to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 744, Senate Print 142, by Senator Gianaris, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 745, Senate Print 761, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Lay it aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 746, Senate Print 3431A, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 746, voting in the negative:

Senator Brisport.

Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 747, Senate Print 5325, by Senator Martinez, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This

act shall take effect on the 180th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 747, voting in the negative:

Senator Brisport.

Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 748, Senate Print 6365, by Senator Hinchey, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 749, Assembly Print Number 6947A, by Assemblymember Pretlow, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Please recognize Senator Cleare for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Cleare for the purposes of an introduction.

SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today we are joined in the gallery by a group from Harlem that includes Ms. Tameka Silva and her mom.

Tameka is the founder and owner of Heaven's Tiny Tots Daycare and Family Learning Center, which is a family-run small business that serves children from the ages of two to five and provides a vast array of enriching programs tailored to each child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

Dozens of Heaven's Tiny Tots have come to Albany today because there is an illegal smoke shop that is trying to locate right next to their home. I think we can all agree that logically it makes absolutely no sense for a community hub that serves hundreds of children at their most formative age to be located right next to a smoke shop.

So we are using this opportunity to educate Heaven's Tiny Tots about the legislative process in Albany, and they have come to add their faces and voices to the collective cry from many of our neighborhoods to protect them and all

other similarly situated childcare providers from the intrusion by inappropriate institutions that may have a place somewhere in society, but not in proximity to prekindergarten children.

I hope that we will have an opportunity to pass legislation soon in this chamber that protects them.

But for now, Mr. President, please welcome this conscientious Harlem entrepreneur, her staff -- our young advocates are here, but they're having lunch right now -- and their families with open arms.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Cleare.

To our guests, we welcome you on behalf of the Senate. We extend to you all the privileges and courtesies of this house.

Please continue to rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let's take up the controversial calendar at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 745, Senate Print 761, by Senator Krueger, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Lanza, why do you rise?

SENATOR LANZA: Mr. President, I believe there's an amendment at the desk. I waive the reading of that amendment and ask that you recognize Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank you, Senator Lanza.

Upon review of the amendment, in accordance with Rule 6, Section 4B, I rule it nongermane and out of order at this time.

SENATOR LANZA: Accordingly, Mr. President, I appeal the ruling of the chair and ask that Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick be heard on that appeal.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The appeal has been made and recognized, and Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick may be heard.

Senator.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to appeal the ruling of the chair. The proposed amendment is germane to the bill at hand because this bill protects animals by changing the aggravated animal cruelty statute to make it easier to prosecute animal abusers. The proposed amendment and the bill at hand affect the same statute.

While I support this legislation and recognize the importance of protecting animals, we cannot adequately do so unless we increase penalties for those who harm animals, including repealing the disastrous cashless bail reform laws that have made all New Yorkers, including our beloved animals, less safe.

We know that horrific crimes against animals are often a warning sign. And innocent animals, including our pets, rely on us to protect them. Our broken bail system requires that anyone arrested for harming an animal -- even those charged with felony aggravated animal cruelty -- be released immediately without bail. This includes a person who intentionally engages in conduct which is intended to cause extreme

physical pain to an animal or intentionally injures an animal in an especially depraved or sadistic manner.

It is unfathomable that we have a system that allows the offenders who harm our pets in this way to go back out into their communities where they can hurt more innocent animals. We continue to see story after story of individuals being released and rereleased due to the state's bail laws, despite repeatedly and even violently breaking the law.

Yesterday was Animal Advocacy Day, and I offer this amendment to advocate for our companion animals to ensure that someone who commits the crimes laid out in this legislation is not simply free to do so immediately after being processed.

Further, in addition to protecting animals, my amendment will protect New Yorkers as well. One study found that 75 percent of abused women who have a companion animal report a history of their companion animal being threatened or harmed by their partner. And 90 percent of the time it was done with children being present and witnessing the violence.

Study after study has linked animal abuse with other forms of violence, especially domestic violence.

New Yorkers continue to suffer the consequences of our bail laws, while criminals continue to benefit from them. Judges have been handcuffed as our laws prevent them from setting bail unless a criminal is charged with an offense that falls within the limited class of bail-eligible crimes. And even when a crime is bail-eligible, judges are not able to consider the danger of a person who poses a danger to our communities, to our citizens, to our pets when making a custody decision.

We must change the laws that are harming our communities and hurting New Yorkers. Our conference will continue prioritizing the safety of the innocent and vulnerable over the criminals that victimize them. And that includes increased penalties against those who harm innocent animals.

For these reasons, Mr. President, I strongly urge you to reconsider your ruling.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank

you, Senator.

I want to remind the house that the vote is on the procedures of the house and the ruling of the chair.

Those in favor of overruling the chair, signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

SENATOR LANZA: Show of hands.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: A show of hands has been requested and so ordered.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 20.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, we've agreed to restore the bill-in-chief to the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill will be restored to the noncontroversial calendar.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 745, voting in the negative:

Senator Brisport.

Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of today's calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to adjourn until Thursday, April 11th, at 12:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, April 11th, at 12:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 1:03 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)