

1 NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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4 THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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9 ALBANY, NEW YORK

10 April 9, 2024

11 11:21 a.m.

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13  
14 REGULAR SESSION

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18 SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY, Acting President

19 ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
3 Senate will come to order.

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

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

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

12 Chaplain Major.

13 CHAPLAIN MAJOR REYES: Please join  
14 me in prayer.

15 O God our Father, searcher of human  
16 hearts, I come before You today to give thanks  
17 for this Senate and its relationship with the  
18 United States Military Academy.

19 May Your blessing rest on both  
20 institutions as sources for wise governance and  
21 producing leaders of character. May they both  
22 exemplify the exhortation in Colossians,  
23 Chapter 3, which reminds us to set our minds on  
24 things above -- or, in other words, to pursue  
25 that which is Excelsior.

1 All of which I ask in the name of  
2 the Great Friend and Master of all.

3 Amen.

4 (Response of "Amen.")

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Reading  
6 of the Journal.

7 THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday,  
8 April 8, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to  
9 adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, April 7,  
10 2024, was read and approved. On motion, the  
11 Senate adjourned.

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

14 Presentation of petitions.

15 Messages from the Assembly.

16 The Secretary will read.

17 THE SECRETARY: Senator Addabbo  
18 moves to discharge, from the Committee on  
19 Agriculture, Assembly Bill Number 6947A and  
20 substitute it for the identical Senate Bill  
21 6796A, Third Reading Calendar 749.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: So  
23 ordered.

24 Messages from the Governor.

25 Reports of standing committees.

1 Reports of select committees.

2 Communications and reports from  
3 state officers.

4 Motions and resolutions.

5 Senator Gianaris.

6 SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you,  
7 Mr. President.

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

14 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
15 Secretary will read.

16 THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution  
17 1972, by Senator Skoufis, memorializing  
18 Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 9, 2024,  
19 as West Point Day in New York State.

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

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

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

1       cadets, its leadership.

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

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

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

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

1 importance that West Point is in the district.

2 And you'll hear from many of us today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21                    Thank you so much, Mr. President.

22                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Thank  
23    you, Madam Leader.

24                    Senator Skoufis on the resolution.

25                    SENATOR SKOUFIS:    Thank you very

1 much, Mr. President.

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

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

16 And so on the resolution,  
17 Mr. President, it's my great honor and privilege  
18 to rise today as the Senator from the  
19 42nd District, home to the United States  
20 Military Academy, on this 72nd anniversary of  
21 West Point Day, a cherished tradition we have  
22 here in the halls of our capital and a morning of  
23 great pride to both all of my current colleagues  
24 as well as our past Senators over that time,  
25 including my predecessor, Senator and



1 Colonel Bill Larkin.

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

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

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

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

25 It's impossible to walk the halls of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (Laughter.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
23 you, Senator Skoufis.

24 Minority Leader Ortt on the  
25 resolution.

1                   SENATOR ORTT:    Thank you,  
2   Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Leaders who do not waste your

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

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

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

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

20                   So I do not have a constituent here  
21 today who is a cadet. In fact, I've been here  
22 for 10 years and I've never, from the  
23 62nd District -- in spite all the best parts of  
24 it, we've never had a cadet from West Point here  
25 on West Point Day.



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

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

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

1 willingness to serve.

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

5 (Laughter.)

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

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

17 Mr. President, thank you for your  
18 indulgence.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
20 you, Senator Ortt.

21 It is now my honor to introduce  
22 Lieutenant General Steven W. Gilland, the  
23 61st Superintendent of the United States  
24 Military Academy at West Point.

25 Lieutenant General.

1 WEST POINT SUPERINTENDENT GILLAND:

2 Thank you, sir, I appreciate it.

3 (Standing ovation.)

4 WEST POINT SUPERINTENDENT GILLAND:

5 Good morning. Good morning. You are all too  
6 kind.

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

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

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

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

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

25 I am joined today by our

1 First Captain, Martayn Van de Wall, who sits down  
2 here to my left, and these 13 cadets,  
3 representing the 274 men and women of the  
4 United States Corps of Cadets, who hail from all  
5 corners of the Empire State -- from Brewster to  
6 Buffalo, from the boroughs of New York City to  
7 the towns and hamlets of the Adirondacks. One  
8 thing they all have in common is their desire to  
9 be of service to their nation as leaders of  
10 character.

11 This year marks the 80th anniversary  
12 of Operation Overlord, better known in history as  
13 D-Day. In the early morning hours of June 6,  
14 1944, American and allied paratroopers landed on  
15 the beaches of Normandy, France, followed by tens  
16 of thousands more troops in what would become the  
17 largest amphibious assault in history.

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

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

1 West Point graduates like Brooklyn-born  
2 General Jumpin' Jim Gavin; Clarke Fales, from  
3 Niagara County; and Frank Colacicco, of Utica --  
4 fighting alongside many others, like  
5 Binghamton native Frank Lillyman, the first  
6 Allied paratrooper to land in France, and  
7 1st Sergeant Ed Sowa, from Goshen, who gave the  
8 last full measure of devotion that day as a  
9 member of Rudder's Rangers at Pointe du Hac.

10           Devoted to duty, skilled in battle,  
11 heroes who helped liberate Europe and end a war.  
12 And while that battle raged on, on the other side  
13 of the Atlantic another group of New York  
14 natives -- about 37 in all -- stood in formation  
15 on the Plain of West Point with more than 400 of  
16 their classmates, preparing to receive their  
17 diplomas, graduate, and commission as Army  
18 officers -- a year early, to meet the demands of  
19 the war. All of them keenly aware of the events  
20 taking place half a world away. All of them  
21 knowing they would soon join the fight. And all  
22 of them, I am sure, wondering what duty would  
23 demand of them.

24           So as we reflect on the events of  
25 eight decades ago, we think of those who fought

1 on D-Day, particularly the sons of the  
2 Empire State. We think of those who laid down  
3 their lives for the cause of freedom, and we  
4 think of the countless New Yorkers in the years  
5 before and the years since who donned the cloth  
6 of our nation to serve, as soldiers or citizen  
7 soldiers of the National Guard or the  
8 Army Reserve.

9                   And of course we think of our Army  
10 veterans and retirees, our soldiers for life, who  
11 continue to serve in various ways beyond the  
12 Army. And we think of the next generation,  
13 represented by these 13 outstanding young men and  
14 women assembled here today, who will soon assume  
15 the mantle of service and leadership as Army  
16 officers, prepared to carry on the legacy of  
17 excellence set by those who have come before  
18 them. Leaders of character bound by a common  
19 devotion to duty, a commitment to honor and a  
20 desire to selflessly serve their country.

21                   Our mission at the United States  
22 Military Academy is to develop those leaders of  
23 character for our Army and our nation, leaders  
24 prepared to support and defend the Constitution  
25 and to serve and protect the United States of

1 America. That's what we owe you, the citizens of  
2 our nation.

3 That mission would not be possible  
4 without the tremendous support of our state  
5 leaders here in Albany, as well as from our  
6 neighbors throughout New York, Orange County, and  
7 the Hudson Valley region.

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

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

19 We're honored to be here, and we are  
20 proud to be part of New York's legacy of service.  
21 Thank you for honoring West Point and our cadets  
22 today. On behalf of the United States Army, we  
23 thank you for your continued help and support in  
24 inspiring a renewed call to service in our young  
25 people, to help them see the Army as a life

1        accelerator and a place where they can be all  
2        they can be.

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

5                    (Cheers, applause.)

6                    (Extended standing ovation.)

7                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:

8        Lieutenant General, thank you for your speech and  
9        your service.

10                    Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the  
11        resolution.

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

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

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

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



1       cadets a deep sense of duty, honor and country.

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

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

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

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

25                Motivated by the threat of

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

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

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

22 Thank you.

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

25 Senator Skoufis.

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

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

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

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

16                  Lieutenant Colonel Ashley Ritchey,  
17                  executive officer.

18                  Major Andrew S. Rodriguez, aide to  
19                  the Superintendent.

20                  Also accompanying the Superintendent  
21                  is Staff Sergeant German Morales.

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

25                  Then our support personnel who are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7                   Thank you, Mr. President.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Thank  
9                   you, Senator Skoufis.

10                  Senator Palumbo on the resolution.

11                  SENATOR PALUMBO:    Thank you,  
12                  Mr. President.

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

19                  And I've had, I think, in my  
20                  11 years in the Legislature, I've only had one  
21                  cadet. And today I have two, from both ends of  
22                  Senate District 1.

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

25                  Edmundo's from Coram. He's assigned

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

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

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

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

1 keep up the good work.

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

6 Her father is a grad of West Point,  
7 1988. And her brother, as well, graduated last  
8 year. Is that correct, Clare? So this is a long  
9 family legacy of service. Both of her parents  
10 serve the community in the field of  
11 law enforcement. And she's grateful for the  
12 opportunity, of course, to give back.

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

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

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

1 (Laughter.)

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

4 So thank you, Mr. President.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
6 you, Senator Palumbo.

7 Senator Stavisky on the resolution.

8 SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you,  
9 Mr. President.

10 And thank you to all those who have  
11 been mentioned.

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

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

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



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

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

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

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
13 you, Senator Stavisky.

14 Senator Rhoads on the resolution.

15 SENATOR RHOADS: Thank you,  
16 Mr. President.

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

25 And it's a great reminder to every

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

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

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

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

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

3 And I want to now -- with apologies  
4 to Leader Ortt, who's apparently had no cadets in  
5 10 years, so I'm two for two. So I'm pretty  
6 excited about that. And I want to recognize a  
7 cadet from my hometown in Wantagh, Carly Woelfel.  
8 And Carly, if you'll please stand.

9 Carly is an amazing representation  
10 of what it means to serve. And she talks about  
11 her passions. She has a passion for engineering,  
12 she has a passion for loving life which brought  
13 her to West Point. But she has a passion for  
14 serving her country, which is a passion I think  
15 that is shared by every one of the cadets that is  
16 sitting here today as representatives of the  
17 200-some-odd cadets that we have over in  
18 West Point.

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

25 She is a major in mechanical

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

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

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

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

1 I proudly vote aye on this  
2 resolution.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
4 you, Senator Rhoads.

5 Senator Gianaris.

6 SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you,  
7 Mr. President.

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

17 So thank you, Mr. Gianessi, as well.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
19 you, Senator Gianaris.

20 Senator Tedisco on the resolution.

21 SENATOR TEDISCO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 God bless you, and thank you.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Senator  
2     Weber on the resolution.

3                   SENATOR WEBER:     Thank you,  
4     Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
20  Harckham on the resolution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 Thank you. God bless you.

15 (Laughter.)

16 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
17 you, Senator Harckham.

18 Senator Weik on the resolution.

19 SENATOR WEIK: Thank you,  
20 Mr. President.

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

25 West Point is such a respectable,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11                   God bless all of you. Thank you.

12                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
13      you, Senator Weik.

14                   Senator Martins on the resolution.

15                   SENATOR MARTINS: Thank you,  
16      Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

14 I too have the privilege of having  
15 two members and two cadets here today from the  
16 7th Senate District in Nassau County on  
17 Long Island. It really is a privilege to have  
18 spent a few moments speaking to both of them  
19 earlier today.

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

1       certain date, they don't miss that date.

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

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

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

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

18                   He was inspired to serve his country  
19      in part because of some interactions with  
20      Navy SEALs and his work with the Naval Sea Cadet  
21      Corps.

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

25                   Mr. President, as a young adult he

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 I'm proud to vote aye.

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
15 you, Senator Martins.

16 Senator Mattera on the resolution.

17 SENATOR MATTERA: Thank you,  
18 Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
3 Ashby on the resolution.

4 SENATOR ASHBY: Thank you,  
5 Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11                Thank you, Mr. President.

12                ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Thank  
13    you, Senator Ashby.

14                Senator Breslin to close.

15                SENATOR BRESLIN:    Thank you,  
16    Mr. President.

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

22                (Laughter.)

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

1 achieving goals that many of us failed to  
2 conclude.

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

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

16 And my brother ended up staying in  
17 service, being a company commander with the  
18 82nd Airborne in Vietnam. Ending up as a  
19 27-year-old major with a number of medals coming  
20 back from Vietnam, and then going on to teach  
21 counterinsurgency at the College of the Americas.  
22 Counterinsurgency -- I think that's a warm way of  
23 saying teaching them to be as violent as they're  
24 being violent to us.

25 But each year I look forward to this

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

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

13 Daniel, will you stand up?

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

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



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

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

5 God bless each and every one of you.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Thank  
7 you, Senator Breslin.

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

13 Please rise and be recognized.

14 (Lengthy standing ovation.)

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

17 Senator Gianaris.

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

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

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    There  
2     will be a reception in honor of our guests from  
3     West Point upstairs on the fourth floor at  
4     1:00 p.m.

5                   The resolution is open for  
6     cosponsorship.

7                   Senator Gianaris.

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

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

16                  Senator Gianaris.

17                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    On behalf of  
18    Senator Serrano, I wish to call up Senate Bill  
19    724, recalled from the Assembly, which is now at  
20    the desk.

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The  
22    Secretary will read.

23                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
24    336, Senate Print 724, by Senator Serrano, an act  
25    to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

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

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

5                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

6                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 61.

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

10                  SENATOR GIANARIS:    I offer the  
11   following amendments.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The  
13   amendments are received.

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

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

21                  (Response of "Aye.")

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Opposed,  
23   nay.

24                  (No response.)

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The

1 Resolution Calendar is adopted.

2 Senator Gianaris.

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

7 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
8 Secretary will read.

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

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator  
15 Webb on the resolution.

16 SENATOR WEBB: Thank you,  
17 Madam President.

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

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

1 education, and community service for over  
2 111 years, of which I am a proud member of, and  
3 the first New York State Senator who is a member  
4 of this prestigious organization, along with my  
5 colleagues in the Assembly, Assemblymember  
6 Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn and of course  
7 Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, who's here with us  
8 today in the chamber.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       serve.

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

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

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

17                  Thank you.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER:    Thank you,  
19      Senator Webb.

20                  Leader Stewart-Cousins on the  
21      resolution.

22                  SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS:    Thank  
23      you, Madam President.

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



1 forward and certainly for representing the Deltas  
2 so well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (Laughter.)

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

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

1 service of the Deltas is transforming us all  
2 today.

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

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

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

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

19 Senator Bailey on the resolution.

20 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
21 Madam President.

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

24 (Laughter.)

25 SENATOR BAILEY: Why is my mic not

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

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

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

10 (Laughter.)

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

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

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

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

9                   (Laughter.)

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

13                  (Laughter.)

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

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

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

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

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

11            (Laughter.)

12            SENATOR BAILEY: I vote aye,  
13    Madam President.

14            ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
15    Senator Bailey.

16            Senator May on the resolution.

17            SENATOR MAY: Thank you,  
18    Madam President.

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

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

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

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

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

13 Thank you.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
15 Senator May.

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

18 Senator Comrie on the resolution.

19 SENATOR COMRIE: Thank you,  
20 Madam President.

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

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

25 I'm very pleased that the Deltas are

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

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

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

25 The Deltas and all of the



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

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

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

24 Thank you.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,

1 Senator Comrie.

2 Senator Scarcella-Spanton on the  
3 resolution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 house, in the gallery.

2 So thank you so much. And

3 Happy Delta Day, everyone!

4 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you.

5 Senator Cleare on the resolution.

6 SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you,

7 Madam President.

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

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

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

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

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

8 Thank you. And Happy Delta Day!

9 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Thank you,  
10 Senator Cleare.

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

15 It's my honor to recognize you.

16 Please rise and be recognized.

17 (Standing ovation.)

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

21 (Response of "Aye.")

22 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Opposed,  
23 nay.

24 (No response.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

1 resolution is adopted.

2 Senator Gianaris.

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

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

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

16 Senator Gianaris.

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

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The  
20 Secretary will read.

21 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
22 457, Senate Print 4133A, by Senator Mannion, an  
23 act to amend the Highway Law.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
25 last section.

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

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
4 roll.

5 (The Secretary called the roll.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
7 the results.

8 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
10 is passed.

11 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
12 536, Senate Print 3302, by Senator Sepúlveda, an  
13 act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
15 last section.

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

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
20 roll.

21 (The Secretary called the roll.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
23 Sepúlveda to explain his vote.

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

1 vote.

2 We have a major problem with some of  
3 the animals that will be protected under this  
4 piece of legislation. We only have about  
5 415,000 African elephants left in the world. We  
6 have 20,000 African lions left in the wild,  
7 18,000 white rhinos left in the wild,  
8 700,000 African leopards, 5,500 black rhinos, and  
9 69,000 giraffes left in the wild. If we don't  
10 protect the species, these animals are going to  
11 disappear.

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

22 Thank you. I vote aye.

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

25 Senator Cleare to explain her vote.

1                   SENATOR CLEARE:    Thank you,  
2   Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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



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

3                   Announce the results.

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

8                   Ayes, 54.   Nays, 7.

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The bill  
10   is passed.

11                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
12   540, Senate Print 6211C, by Senator Martinez, an  
13   act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Read the  
15   last section.

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

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
19   roll.

20                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Announce  
22   the results.

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

1 Also Senator Oberacker.

2 Ayes, 57. Nays, 4.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
4 is passed.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 590, Senate Print 485B, by Senator Comrie, an act  
7 to amend the Public Authorities Law.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
9 last section.

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

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
13 roll.

14 (The Secretary called the roll.)

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
16 the results.

17 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 701, Senate Print 3117A, by Senator Mannion, an  
22 act to amend the Workers' Compensation Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 7. This

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

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
4 roll.

5 (The Secretary called the roll.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
7 the results.

8 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
10 is passed.

11 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
12 739, Senate Print 253A, by Senator Serrano, an  
13 act to amend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
15 last section.

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

19 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
20 roll.

21 (The Secretary called the roll.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator  
23 Serrano to explain his vote.

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

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

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

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

1 sector as an economic engine.

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

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

6 Senator Cleare to explain her vote.

7 SENATOR CLEARE: Thank you,  
8 Mr. President.

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

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

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

24 I thank you again, and I proudly  
25 vote aye.

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

3                   Senator May to explain her vote.

4                   SENATOR MAY:    Thank you,  
5   Mr. President.

6                   I also rise to thank the sponsor for  
7   this legislation.

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

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

22                  I vote aye.

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

25                  Announce the results.

1 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
3 is passed.

4 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
5 744, Senate Print 142, by Senator Gianaris, an  
6 act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
8 last section.

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

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
13 roll.

14 (The Secretary called the roll.)

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
16 the results.

17 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
19 is passed.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 745, Senate Print 761, by Senator Krueger, an act  
22 to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

23 SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Lay it  
25 aside.

1                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
2     746, Senate Print 3431A, by Senator Skoufis, an  
3     act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Read the  
5     last section.

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

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Call the  
10    roll.

11                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

12                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Announce  
13    the results.

14                   THE SECRETARY:     In relation to  
15    Calendar 746, voting in the negative:  
16    Senator Brisport.

17                   Ayes, 60.   Nays, 1.

18                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     The bill  
19    is passed.

20                   THE SECRETARY:     Calendar Number  
21    747, Senate Print 5325, by Senator Martinez, an  
22    act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

23                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Read the  
24    last section.

25                   THE SECRETARY:     Section 3.   This



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

3 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
4 roll.

5 (The Secretary called the roll.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
7 the results.

8 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
9 Calendar 747, voting in the negative:  
10 Senator Brisport.

11 Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
13 is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 748, Senate Print 6365, by Senator Hinchey, an  
16 act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
18 last section.

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

21 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
22 roll.

23 (The Secretary called the roll.)

24 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
25 the results.

1 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
3 is passed.

4 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
5 749, Assembly Print Number 6947A, by  
6 Assemblymember Pretlow, an act to amend the  
7 Agriculture and Markets Law.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the  
9 last section.

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

12 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the  
13 roll.

14 (The Secretary called the roll.)

15 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
16 the results.

17 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
19 is passed.

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

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

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

1                   SENATOR CLEARE:    Thank you,  
2   Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13                    Thank you.

14                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Thank  
15    you, Senator Cleare.

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

19                    Please continue to rise and be  
20    recognized.

21                    (Standing ovation.)

22                    ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
23    Gianaris.

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

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    The  
2   Secretary will ring the bell.

3                   The Secretary will read.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
5   745, Senate Print 761, by Senator Krueger, an act  
6   to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

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

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

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Thank  
14   you, Senator Lanza.

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

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

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

25                  Senator.

1                   SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK:

2       Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 Further, in addition to protecting  
19 animals, my amendment will protect New Yorkers as  
20 well. One study found that 75 percent of abused  
21 women who have a companion animal report a  
22 history of their companion animal being  
23 threatened or harmed by their partner. And  
24 90 percent of the time it was done with children  
25 being present and witnessing the violence.

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

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

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

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

24                  Thank you.

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:     Thank



1       you, Senator.

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

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

7                   (Response of "Aye.")

8                   SENATOR LANZA:    Show of hands.

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

11                   Announce the results.

12                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 20.

13                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Senator  
14      Gianaris.

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

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

21                   Read the last section.

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

24                   ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY:    Call the  
25      roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce  
3 the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: In relation to  
5 Calendar 745, voting in the negative:  
6 Senator Brisport.

7 Ayes, 60. Nays, 1.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill  
9 is passed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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