

**2019 -- H 6146**

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LC002705  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

HONORING AND THANKING BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVE GILLAND,  
COMMANDANT OF CADETS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST  
POINT, FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION WHICH  
RESULTED IN THE GRADUATION OF THE LARGEST NUMBER OF AFRICAN-  
AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE HISTORY OF WEST POINT

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, Lima, Kazarian, and  
Casimiro

Date Introduced: May 23, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Commandant of Cadets at the United States Military Academy is head  
2 of the Department of Tactics and, under the Superintendent, is responsible for the administration  
3 and military training of all cadets at the Academy. To assume this important position, an Officer  
4 must be a West Point graduate of unblemished character with a record of both academic  
5 excellence and numerous accomplishments in their active duty responsibilities; and

6           WHEREAS, In 2017, Brigadier General Steve Gilland was selected to be the 77th  
7 Commandant of the United States Corps of Cadets, United States Military Academy at West  
8 Point. General Gilland is a distinguished 1990 West Point graduate. As an Infantry Officer,  
9 General Gilland served in numerous tactical assignments including Air Assault, Mechanized  
10 Infantry, Armor, Rangers and Special Operations units. General Gilland also served as the  
11 Commander at multiple levels of the United States Army and served our nation with valor and  
12 honor in deployments to the Middle East, Africa, and Afghanistan; and

13           WHEREAS, General Gilland holds numerous military decorations including the Legion  
14 of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the  
15 Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster,  
16 the Army Commendation Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal  
17 with V Device, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal with  
18 three Oak Leaf Clusters; and

1           WHEREAS, Thanks to General Gilland’s strong and passionate support for diversity and  
2 inclusion, and the astute leadership he provided in implementing policies to accomplish these  
3 goals, in 2019 the United States Military Academy will graduate its most diverse class by race  
4 and gender in its illustrious history. Most notably, thirty-four African-American women will be  
5 graduating in the class of 2019. General Gilland and the leadership of our armed forces know that  
6 a diverse military makes our nation stronger, more united, and better able to face whatever  
7 foreign threats our great nation may face; now, therefore be it

8           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
9 Providence Plantations hereby honors and thanks United States Military Commandment of  
10 Cadets, Brigadier General Steve Gilland for his brave and meritorious service to our nation, and  
11 for his passion and support of policies that have dramatically broadened the diversity of West  
12 Point’s 2019 graduating class; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Brigadier General Steve Gilland, Commandant  
15 of Cadets, United States Military Academy.

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