

House Resolution 1560

By: Representative Allison of the 8th

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating Virginia Military Institute on its 175th anniversary on November 11, 2014;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) is a state-supported military college in
4 Lexington, Virginia; and

5 WHEREAS, on November 11, 1839, Virginia Military Institute was founded on the site of
6 the Lexington state arsenal and the first cadets relieved personnel on duty; with few
7 exceptions, there have been sentinels posted at VMI every hour of every day of the school
8 year; and

9 WHEREAS, on May 15, 1864, the VMI Corps of Cadets fought as an independent unit at the
10 Battle of New Market; VMI suffered 52 casualties with ten cadets killed; the cadets were led
11 into battle by the Commandant of Cadets and future VMI Superintendent Colonel Scott
12 Shipp; and

13 WHEREAS, six of the ten fallen cadets are buried on the grounds of VMI behind the statue
14 "Virginia Mourning Her Dead" by sculptor Moses Ezekiel, a VMI graduate who was also
15 wounded in the Battle of New Market; and

16 WHEREAS, a prominent United States Army general during World War II was VMI
17 alumnus George C. Marshall, who was the Army's first five-star general and the only career
18 military officer ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize; and

19 WHEREAS, as of 2010, VMI had graduated 11 Rhodes Scholars since 1921; per capita, VMI
20 has graduated more Rhodes Scholars than any other state-supported college or university; it
21 has also graduated more than all the other senior military colleges combined; and

22 WHEREAS, VMI alumni include an Army Chief of Staff, George Marshall; an Air Force
23 Chief of Staff, John P. Jumper; and two Marine Corps Commandants, Lemuel C. Shepherd,
24 Jr., and Randolph M. Pate, making it the only college in the United States to have graduated
25 service chiefs of three of the four primary armed services; and

26 WHEREAS, VMI is known for its strict Honor Code, which is as old as the Institute itself
27 and was formally codified in the early 20th century; under the VMI Honor Code, a cadet
28 does not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do"; there is only one punishment for
29 violating the VMI Honor Code: immediate expulsion in the form of a drumming out
30 ceremony of dismissal; and

31 WHEREAS, other VMI alumni of prominence include Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Dabney
32 Coleman, Leonard T. Gerow, John P. Jumper, George Marshall, George S. Patton, Sr.,
33 George Patton, Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller, and Bobby Ross.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body congratulate the Virginia Military Institute on its 175th anniversary
36 on November 11, 2014, and express their sincerest wishes for continued success.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Virginia Military Institute.