



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MITCH BOLINSKY  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423  
Mitch.Bolinsky@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER  
AGING COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Mitch Bolinsky  
Before the Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
Supporting House Bill 6713  
February 17, 2015*

My thanks to the Honorable Co-Chairs, Senator Flexer and Representative Hennessy; Ranking Members Senator Martin and Representative Yaccarino; as well as the entire Committee on Veterans' Affairs for your consideration today of HB 6713, AN ACT INCREASING THE RETIREMENT AGE FOR THE HORSE GUARD COMMANDANTS

Since 1808, the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard has served at the Governors pleasure. One of the last active cavalry militia units in the United States, 2GHG, as it is known, is an active duty militia unit. Troopers perform mounted military drill and ceremonial musical rides, in addition to State forest mounted patrols, search and rescue, special needs riding programs.

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard is a treasure and the pride of Newtown, where it has been headquartered since 1988. Under the steady leadership of our Commandant: Major Gordon Johnson, the 2GHG turns heads and is source of Connecticut pride at every appearance and event. Under Major Johnson, the 2GHG operates on a shoestring budget and is a model of efficiency.

This proposed legislation would simply amend section 27-53 of the general statutes to extend the retirement age for horse guard commandants to seventy years of age. The current age of retirement for a commandant is sixty-four years of age. By extending the retirement age as proposed, this very special unit that calls Newtown home, can continue under the command of a special leader, Major Gordon Johnson. Ladies and gentlemen, the legislation before you is very narrow, as there are only two such commandants in the state of Connecticut. Today, I testify for one.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Representative Mitch Bolinsky