

HONORING THE 2017 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2016*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

My Academy Review Board is composed of local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area; many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding young men and women every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal

information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in the Middle East, Africa or other troubled spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2017, 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Jordan Behrle, North Caldwell, West Essex HS.

James Coyne, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Arielle Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany HS.

Kurt Hill, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS.

Erik Jensen, Mendham, Randolph HS.

Noor Khan, Livingston, Livingston HS.

Benjamin Lee, Sparta, Sparta HS.

Pranay Malla, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Matthew Manion, Morris Plains, Morristown HS.

Michael Matarazzo, Cedar Grove, Cedar Grove HS.

Jamie Moul, West Orange, West Orange HS.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Shane Arcilla, Cedar Knolls, Morris Catholic HS.

Anthony Corso, Fairfield, West Essex HS.

Kyle Frey, Sparta, Pope John XXIII HS.

Travis Healy, Andover, Pope John XXIII HS.

Matthew Russo, Cedar Grove, St. Peter's Prep.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Dean Caravela, West Caldwell, James Caldwell HS.

Robert Dromsky-Reed, Kinnelon, Kinnelon HS.

Caroline Duemling, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Shannon Fashbender, Andover, Lenape Valley HS.

Kyle Gonzalez, Wanaque, Lakeland Regional HS.

Matthew Makuch, Lincoln Park, The Academy for Math, Science and Engineering.

Brandon Maravi, Wayne, St. Joseph's HS.

Paul Malatesta, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Emma Noury, Sparta, Sussex County Technical School.

Steven Oriuoli, Livingston, Livingston HS.

Brendan Reilly, Mendham, West Morris Mendham HS.

Grace Sheehan, Fairfield, Mt. Saint Dominic Academy.

Helena Seijas, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes HS.

Jake Siciliano, Fairfield, West Essex HS.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Dylan Berrier, Lake Hopatcong, Morris Catholic HS.

Andrew Bowlus, Carlisle Barracks, PA., Carlisle Area HS.

Timothy Cieslak, Wayne, Wayne Valley HS.

Michael Flanagan, Florham Park, St. Peter's Prep.

Anthony Giachin, Livingston, Newark Academy.

Wilson Maya, Madison, Morristown HS.

Rebecca Morel, Mendham, Villa Walsh Academy.

Ivan Peters, Boonton, Mountain Lakes HS.

Matthew Rothman, Pequannock, Pequannock HS.

Minkyu Yang, Livingston, Livingston HS.

TRAVON GODFREY

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my constituent, Travon Godfrey, who was tragically killed by gun violence on November 28th, 2016. In this tragedy, Oakland lost a community leader, a voice of truth, and a hopeful soul.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of meeting Travon at my town hall on gun violence, where he shared the painful impact that gun violence had in his life. He stated: "It shouldn't even be like that—especially when our kids can't grow up to see the age of 21. We can't even see what it feels like to be grown."

Travon was right. In 2016 alone, more than 13,000 lives have been lost to senseless gun violence.

That is 13,000 lives too many.

Mr. Speaker, Travon was just 19 years young. His life was senselessly cut short by the very violence he was working to prevent.

I do, however, take solace in the fact that he did not let his age prevent him from speaking out against injustice. He did not sit idly by or allow the weight of his pain at losing 9 friends to gun violence to consume him. Instead, he got involved.

Travon was a tireless advocate for his community, his friends and public safety.

He reminded us that senseless gun violence can be stopped—if elected officials find the political will to enact common sense gun reforms. It breaks my heart to stand here today and share his story—a story that he worked so hard to prevent.

Mr. Speaker, we must live in the light of Travon and prevent gun violence from stealing more young people in our community and every community across the nation.

Thank you, Travon, for being an example of what courage and strength looks like. You spoke truth to power in so many ways.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Travon during this very difficult time and in

the years ahead as we continue to mourn this devastating loss.

I will continue your fight, Travon.

I will continue to demand Congress pass common sense gun reform.

RECOGNIZING DAN HAYES ON RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**HON. DARIN LaHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2016*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Dan Hayes, of Brewers Distributing Company, in Peoria, for receiving the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight.

Dan joined the Brewers Distributing Company in 2002 as a warehouse relief driver. Since then, he has become the Director of Operations and a company-wide leader, implementing new and innovative ideas to further advance and grow the company's success. He is responsible for developing the Brewers Distributing Company's employee engagement group, known as Brewers In Motion, which works to further staff and employer relations. Dan is also a member of the Brewers Distributing Company's Strategic Planning Committee, where he has been instrumental in working to develop strategies to ensure the company's continued success in the future.

His leadership is worthy of recognition, and he is most deserving of the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight. Our community has greatly benefitted from his fourteen years of service to the Peoria region. In Illinois alone, beer distributors provide \$7.6 million dollars in economic development and charity support, and a combined total of \$3 billion in total economic impact. It is through the hard work and leadership of exceptional employees and individuals, like Dan, that the beer industry continues to flourish and contribute to our community.

I commend Dan on his service and hard work that has led him to receive the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight. I want to thank Dan Hayes for his service to Central Illinois, and congratulate him on this most deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE FORT WORTH ASSEMBLY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2016*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Worth Assembly in celebration of its 75th anniversary and its history of ushering accomplished young women into society and womanhood.

First organized by Mrs. Lottie Mae Hamilton in 1941, the Fort Worth Assembly has fostered an organization that helps guide young African American women to a path of excellence within the Fort Worth community.

Since the initial presentation of 22 college trained women to society during the first Fort

Worth Assembly Debutante Ball on November 28, 1941, the organization has grown to present more than 800 young women to society during their annual holiday event. The Fort Worth Assembly has introduced young women who have gone on to impact the community, world, and future generations in various fields, including the arts, sciences, and legal professions.

Along with the annual presentation, the Fort Worth Assembly continues to promote and instill exemplary values to young women at an early age through the formation of the Les Petite Cygnes, or the Little Swans, and the Junior Debutante groups.

Thanks to the leadership of the past presidents, Mrs. Lottie M. Hamilton, Mrs. Beulah Yerwood, Mrs. Kathryn Glaze, Mrs. Mildred Scott, Mrs. Sophia Thomas, Mrs. Thelma Pennigar, Mrs. Hester McDaniel, Mrs. Mildred Sims and Mrs. Bonnie Winkfield, and current president, legacy debutante Mrs. Charlece Thomas James, the Fort Worth Assembly has continued to thrive.

The work and dedication of the 25 founding women and the past presidents will be recognized on December 17th as the organization marks its 75th Fort Worth Assembly Debutante Ball Presentation, which will introduce another class of outstanding young women to society.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE BETTY BOUKUS

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2016*

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Connecticut State Representative Betty Boukus, a beloved public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of Connecticut families. Betty passed away on Friday at the age of 73. She leaves behind her husband, Gary, of more than 50 years, one son, four grandchildren, and countless friends who cherished her as an incomparable community leader and exemplary human being. I am proud to count myself among them.

Betty was elected to the General Assembly in 1994, immediately distinguishing herself as a fierce champion for the people of her beloved Plainville and New Britain. She enthusiastically immersed herself in her role on the Bonding Subcommittee, working diligently to ensure taxpayer dollars were directed to those projects that would do the most public good. Betty's efforts helped turn important initiatives to expand our state's flagship university and create new local open spaces from idea into reality. She was truly a ground-up legislator, bringing kids and families who felt left out of the political system back into the process of governing. Betty gave them a voice, helped them advocate for their needs, and restored their faith in democracy.

In her spare time, Betty organized an annual Secret Santa program to collect gifts for local veterans. That's just who Betty was. She always put people—and never politics—first. She didn't lob insults or take cheap shots. Whether you were a Democrat or Republican, you could count on her to greet you with a warm laugh and a big hug. A teacher by train-

ing and by nature, Betty went out of her way to serve as a mentor to her colleagues in the General Assembly. She was extraordinarily generous with her time and counsel. In giving advice, she mastered the difficult art of being both truthful and kind. Her wisdom and her example made me a better public servant and a better person.

Even as her health declined, Betty was determined to serve her neighbors to the very end, guided by the principles that had made her a leader in her community for decades: integrity, optimism, and a commitment to helping as many people as she could. Betty's loss leaves a hole in our hearts, but we take solace in the knowledge that the lasting good she fought for throughout her career will always be with us.

HONORING THE EIGHTH SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BAN KI-MOON

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2016*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN).

As we come to the end of Ban Ki-moon's second consecutive term as the Secretary-General, I want to recognize his hard work, dedication, and commitment to improving the lives of others around the world. As Secretary-General he successfully guided the UN as it worked to resolve conflicts and advance a wide range of development issues that have had a positive impact on vulnerable people across the globe.

Secretary-General Ban has worked as an advocate for women's empowerment, successfully supporting the establishment of UN Women—the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women leverages resources to build on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system. UN Women works to empower women and girls by eliminating discrimination and advancing gender equality—goals consistent with the UN agenda Secretary-General Ban has championed. Mr. Ban has been a strong advocate for women's rights and gender equality, having spearheaded campaigns like "Unite to End Violence against Women", and increasing the number of women holding senior management positions by approximately 40 percent.

During his time as Secretary-General Mr. Ban advocated for the advancement of sustainable development across the globe. One of his most prominent initiatives, the 2007 Climate Change Summit at the Bali International Conference Centre, brought together representatives from over 180 countries to adopt the Bali Road Map, which laid the foundation for the beginnings of a global climate agreement.

Finally, Mr. Ban's tireless efforts to support nations in crisis or experiencing instability cannot be understated. He has worked to strengthen humanitarian efforts, especially after disasters in Myanmar in 2008 and Pakistan and Haiti in 2010. Mr. Ban has given a voice to the most poverty-struck and vulnerable populations in the world, including the