

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 421 and 422.

HONORING THE 2019 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

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. In fact, 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 1830s, 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 can-

didates 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. Although from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common vision, 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 not appear on paper.

This year the board interviewed 50 applicants. The Board's recommendations are then forwarded to the academies, where recruiters review files and notify applicants 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 2019, 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Matthew Forget, St. Peter's Preparatory School
James Galbraith, Morristown High School
Sarah Houser, Morristown High School
Justus von Lengerke, Montclair Kimberly Academy
Lazarra Mazza-Hilway, Passaic Valley High School
John Pendergrast, West Morris Mendham High School

Paul Rickershauser, Morristown High School
Bradley Rindos, Chatham High School
Rachel Schneider, Passaic County Technical Institute
Tori Seeland, Sparta High School

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Connor Collins, Mountain Lakes High School
Mission Kercher, Mountain Lakes High School
Ryan Mayes, Chatham High School
Mason Morales, Bloomfield High School
Grace Rose, Passaic Valley Regional High School
Carter Sheridan, Sparta High School

MILITARY ACADEMY

Russell Eberding, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School
Reilly Hughes, Montclair Kimberly Academy
Sean Lee, Chatham High School
Patrick McGurrin, Sparta High School
Colin Morgan, West Orange High School
Pierce Moul, West Orange High School
Maria Pacelli, Wayne Valley High School
Connor Tsikitas, St. Joseph's Regional High School
Edward Wolf, Depaul Catholic High School
Kai Youngren, Newark Academy

NAVAL ACADEMY

Matthew Dubois, Xavier High School
Stuart Fechhelm, West Morris Mendham High School
Nicolas Galup, St. Peter's Preparatory School
Douglas Gologorsky, Montville Township High School
Arush Naidu, Delbarton High School
Calvin Poche, University of Wisconsin-Madison
William Stoddard, Sparta High School
Quinten Tomaro, Chatham High School
Sarah Williams, Morristown-Beard School
Antonio Zaccaria, West Essex Regional High School

HONORING THE 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals who served on the 6th Congressional District Education Advisory Committee.

The members of the Advisory Committee met with my team regularly to discuss important education issues in Indiana. During the time I've served in Congress, numerous education issues have been at the center of the national stage. This Committee advised me on everything from school nutrition to higher education finance. The Committee's valuable insight helped me better represent Hoosiers from the 6th Congressional District in Congress.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Committee, including Dave Pfaff, Dave

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.