

quickly eliminated all power and radio contact with nearby coast guard escort ships. The attack violently awoke soldiers, killing scores of men and injuring many others. Despite the panic and chaos, four chaplains, George Fox, Alexander Goode, Clark Poling and John Washington, immediately jumped into action, calming frantic soldiers and tending to the wounded. They swiftly began opening storage lockers, distributing life jackets. With an insufficient amount of supplies, the four chaplains removed their lifejackets and distributed them to others. Their decisive and heroic actions assisted in the swift survival of 229 men. Along with 672 other men, the four chaplains tragically lost their lives while assisting others as the USAT *Dorchester* slowly sank into the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the USAT *Dorchester*, as the members of the Middletown VFW Post #2179 and Ladies Auxiliary honor the lives of the four heroic chaplains and the other 672 men who lost their lives aboard this transport ship on February 3, 1943. The soldier's gallant actions and resilient efforts aboard the USAT *Dorchester* are positive examples of what dedication and commitment to their comrades and their love for their country can accomplish.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2011
12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

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 our 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 these 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 six 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 these men and women 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 high school seniors 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.

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 Afghanistan, Iraq, or other hot 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 2011 12TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Erin Crow, Livingston, Tabb H.S., Yorktown, VA
Beau Langdon, Livingston, Livingston H.S.
Brian Moscioni, Mendham, Gill St. Bernard's School
Alexander Gilbert, Long Valley, West Morris Central H.S.
Menachem Felzenberg, Morristown, Homeschooled, West Point, NY
Alan Sayil, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.
Nicholas Longhi, Succasunna, Seton Hall Prep

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Michael Francis, Somerville, Immaculata H.S.

Sean Ryan, Madison, St. Peter's Prep
David DelCorso, Bridgewater, Seton Hall Prep
Jason Kratsch, Caldwell, James Caldwell H.S.
Thomas Healy, Byram, Pope John XXIII H.S.
Michael O'Rourke, Boonton, Boonton H.S.
Caitlyn Hughes, Randolph, Randolph H.S.
Antonio Amavisca, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.
Alexander Rodgers, Hopatcong, Jefferson H.S.
Sean Kenney, Boonton, Pope John XXIII H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Delphine Slotten, Mendham, Newark Academy
Benjamin Minden, Roseland, West Essex H.S.
Swatii Amin, Dover, Morris Knolls H.S.
Jared Percevault, Landing, Roxbury H.S.
Joseph Boyland, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.
William Bocard, East Hanover, Regis H.S.
Julianne Steurer, Morris Plains, Parsippany Hills H.S.
Benjamin Reibman, Chatham, Chatham H.S.
Kera Pezzuti, Montville, Montville H.S.
Michael Lami, Madison, Madison H.S.
Sergio Jimenez, Hopatcong, MAPS

NAVAL ACADEMY

Charles Boles, Chatham, Chatham H.S.
Maria Minor, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.
Clayton Petty, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.
Matthew Infante, Chester, Delbarton School
Benjamin Drill, West Caldwell, Solomon Schechter Day School
Daren Schenk, Pine Brook, Montville H.S.
Caleb DeMoss, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.
Connor Maguire, Budd Lake, Mt. Olive H.S.
Thomas Morreale, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.
Patrick Ennis, Chatham, Chatham H.S.
Thomas Mahala, Bernards, Seton Hall Prep

HONORING PAT O'BRIEN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Pat O'Brien and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. O'Brien's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the citizens and communities of the East Bay. We are grateful to him for his service to our constituents.

Mr. O'Brien held his first park and recreation job at the age of 13, giving swimming lessons and performing maintenance at a local salt water swimming club. After serving in the U.S. Army, he came back to California where he worked at Southgate Recreation and Park District in the Sacramento area. From 1980 to 1988, he served as Southgate's general manager prior to taking on the same position with the East Bay Regional Park District.

For the past 22 years, he has guided the largest regional park agency in the United