

MILITARY ACADEMY
NOMINATIONS FOR 2012

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

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 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.

The 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 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 50 applicants. Nominations included 9 to the Naval Academy, 10 to the Military Academy, 5 to the Merchant Marine Academy and 8 to the Air Force Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31, 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 Afghanistan 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 2012, 11TH DISTRICT
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Page Femia, Kinnelon, Villa Walsh Academy

Christian Longhi, Succasunna, Seton Hall Prep

Mathieu Gacydos, Randolph, Randolph H.S.

Brian Mascioni, Mendham, Gill St. Bernard's School

Ryan Swift, Whippany, Morristown H.S.

Brandon Sharp, Whippany, Seton Hall Prep

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Alexander Rodgers, Lake Hopatcong, Jefferson H.S.

Bansi Patel, Livingston, Livingston H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Gregory Horne, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.

Michael Lami, Madison, Madison H.S./MAPS

Amos Lee, Bridgewater-Raritan, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.

Timothy Lynch, Mendham, Pope John XIII H.S.

Jared Love, Florham Park, Episcopal H.S./MAPS

James Morsch, Morristown, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Thomas Rapp, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Jonathan Richards, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.

Ryan Richards, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.

Joshua Thomlinson, Flanders, Pope John XIII H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Gianluca Borrelli, Dover, Dover H.S.
James Burke III, Chatham, Chatham H.S.

Roger Castle, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.

Matthew Dilonno, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.

Troy Dundas, Sparta, Norwich University/Blair Academy

Shane Gregoire, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.

Aaron Hanko, Montville, Trinity Christian School

Chad Heal, Hackettstown, Delbarton School

Caitlyn Hughes, Randolph, Randolph HS/Stevens Institute

Gregory Keiser, East Hanover, Delbarton School

Joshua King, Short Hills, Pingry School

Kevin Lenahan, Flanders, Pope John XIII H.S.

Anthony Malatesta, Chatham, Chatham H.S.

Thomas Mahala, Far Hills, Seton Hall Prep/Seton Hall University

Keegan McCoy, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.

James McManus, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Thomas Morreale, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.

Steven Reidel, Boonton, Mountain Lakes H.S.

Conrad Womelsdorf, Caldwell, James Caldwell H.S.

Jinghong Yuan, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF KAYA
TUNCER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a committed community advocate, Kaya Tuncer. Kaya, an experienced Turkish-American entrepreneur and philanthropist from California, passed away on January 7, 2012, at the age of seventy-four.

Kaya was born and raised in Turkey, moving to the United States at age 19 with only 80 dollars in his pocket. He put himself through college, first at Santa Ana College, then gaining a degree in civil engineering from University of California Berkeley and an MBA from University of Southern California. Kaya's strong determination to succeed in the United States paid off. Kaya continued to live in the Los Angeles area for 49 years.

Kaya began his successful business career as founder and chairman of the ESBAS Company, which was responsible for developing and operating the largest industrial park in Turkey, called the Aegean Free Zone. Kaya was a strong supporter of Turkish-American relations and devoted his life to creating a cultural understanding between peoples from both nations.

His success as a businessman propelled him to give back to his home country of Turkey by inaugurating Space Camp Turkey in June of 2000. Kaya also created a foundation called Global Friendship through Space Education. Kaya's generosity allowed 150 students and teachers to attend National Space Camp Week each year. Since Kaya began the foundation, over 5,300 students from 27 countries have been awarded scholarships. Kaya's foundation shows his dedication to improving the lives young adults by expanding their experience and understanding of science.

Today, the Global Friendship through Education foundation has developed a yearlong

educational program to connect students and teachers in America with their counterparts in Turkey. This program has helped to create friendships as well as foster cultural understanding. Due to his tireless philanthropic efforts, Kaya was awarded the "Advancement of Education in Turkey Award" in 2002 by the Turkish-American Scientists in Washington DC as well as the "Turkish-American of the Year" in 2003.

Kaya is survived by his wife, Mary Mills Tuncer, his two daughters; Deniz and Ayshe; as well as two granddaughters. He leaves with cherished memories of a loving family. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Kaya's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a beloved community member and tireless advocate, Kaya Tuncer.

IN HONOR OF HARRY J. BURY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Harry J. Bury, a long time proponent for peace who will be honored by the Government of Vietnam for his anti-war activities during the Vietnam War.

Harry Bury was born on January 26th, 1930 and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Bury currently resides in Berea, Ohio. He is an Adjunct Professor of Systems Management at the Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea. In 1990, Mr. Bury won the Strosacker Award at Baldwin-Wallace for his excellence in teaching. He is also the Chair of the Doctorate Program in Business Administration at Burapha University in Bangkok, Thailand, and has taught Organizational Behavior at Assumption University in Bangkok. Mr. Bury received his Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Case Western Reserve University. He completed the Gestalt Institution of Cleveland's Post-graduate program in 1975.

During the Vietnam War, Mr. Bury chained himself to the gates of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon to protest the military actions in Vietnam. He is now being honored by the Government of Vietnam, as well as receiving an honorary citizenship.

In addition to his activism in Vietnam, Mr. Bury traveled to the Gaza Strip on a peace mission in 2005. He was abducted by a Palestinian gunman, but was later released unharmed.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the many accomplishments of Mr. Harry J. Bury, as well as his lifelong commitment to promoting peace.

AMERICA'S FRIEND, DR. SHIKAL AFRIDI IS IN JAIL IN PAKISTAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the day Osama bin Laden met his maker was a great day for America.

But like most good things, this did not come easy.

Pakistani Dr. Shikal Afridi worked with our CIA under the guise of running a hepatitis B vaccination program.

His hope was to get DNA evidence to confirm that bin Laden was hiding in Abbottabad before our Navy Seals went in for the kill.

He never got those samples, but according to Secretary Panetta, he was "very helpful" in the operation to find Osama bin Laden.

But Dr. Afridi is now sitting in a jail cell in Pakistan, being held for treason for helping the U.S.

That's right. Pakistan is now holding in custody a doctor that helped us get the number 1 terrorist in the world.

The man should be treated like a hero. Instead he's locked up and called a traitor. This ought not to be.

Pakistan is no friend of ours. The sooner we realize that the better off we'll be.

Until Pakistan becomes an ally—Americans should give no money to Pakistan.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GRANT AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP TO DR. SHAKEEL AFRIDI

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to grant American citizenship to Dr. Shakeel Afridi, the Pakistan medical doctor who risked his life to identify Osama Bin Laden and help U.S. military forces bring him to justice. Pakistan's Inquiry Commission on the Abbottabad Operation, the U.S. mission which killed Bin Laden, has recommended that Dr. Afridi be tried for treason for helping the United States. If convicted, Dr. Afridi could be executed. My bill would grant him U.S. citizenship and send a direct and powerful message to those in the Pakistani government and military who protected the mastermind of 9/11 for all those years and who are now seeking retribution on those who helped to execute Bin Laden.

Before the May 2, 2011 raid which resulted in Bin Laden's death, Dr. Afridi used the cover of conducting a polio vaccination program in Abbottabad in an attempt to gain access to Bin Laden's compound and identify who was living there. Pakistan subsequently arrested Dr. Afridi at his home on May 22, 2011. He has been jailed for the past eight months and media reports state that his wife, an American citizen of Pakistani origin is currently missing and her whereabouts are unknown.

Recently, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said that Dr. Afridi "was an individual who in fact helped provide intelligence that was very helpful" to the operation which killed Bin Laden. Secretary Panetta is "very concerned" about his fate. This bill shows the world that America does not abandon its friends.

I have introduced this bill with the endorsement of Representatives BRAD SHERMAN, LOUIE GOHMERT, JIM MORAN, DAN LUNGREN, COLLIN PETERSON, DUNCAN HUNTER, JOE PITTS, JEFF DUNCAN, JOE WILSON, BILL POSEY, TED POE, ROSCOE BARTLETT, DOUG LAMBORN,

PATRICK MCHENRY, SAM JOHNSON, MIKE COFFMAN, ADAM KINZINGER, TOM COLE, JEFF DENHAM, DAVID RIVERA, and JEAN SCHMIDT.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HENRY (HANK) SHAFT FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hank Shaft on his retirement from the Saginaw County Commission on Aging Board.

Hank began his work career in 1951 at the General Motors Parts Plant in Saginaw, Michigan. During his 33 year career he was active in his union, UAW Local 522, serving as committee man, union president, and bargaining committee chairman. Hank also had the distinction of being the last worker to close and lock the doors at the Saginaw General Motors Parts Plant when the plant was shut down.

After retirement from General Motors, he continued his advocacy role by participating in, and holding officer positions in: the Local 522 Retiree Chapter, UAW Area 5 Saginaw Retirees Council, Michigan Council of Senior Citizens, and UAW Region 1-D Retirees.

He has served on the Area Agency on Aging's Advisory Council since 1995, as well as a Board Member of the Saginaw County Commission on Aging Board. Mr. Shaft served as Board Chair for the past four years and was a delegate to the Michigan Senior Advocacy Council. He was also president of the Tri-County Area Senior Citizens Council.

In 1997 Hank earned the Saginaw County Senior of the Year award, and later that year, the Governor recognized him as Michigan's Senior Citizen of the Year. He was also honored in 2005 for his volunteering services and dedication to Michigan's older adults when he received the State's Claude Pepper Award. Hank dedicated his life to supporting labor, retirees, and our senior citizens and the community is a better place because of his work.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Hank Shaft on his retirement. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant in the Saginaw County Commission on Aging Board and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL UPON RECEIVING MAGNET REDESIGNATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin for attaining their third Magnet recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, ANCC.

Since 1912, St. Mary's Hospital has provided exceptional health care for the people of our great community. With a wide array of health and wellness services, St. Mary's Hospital plays an essential role in providing quality