

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors submit 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 me 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 two 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 10 to the Naval Academy, 10 to the Military Academy, 8 to the Merchant Marine Academy and 7 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 2013, 11TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Kyle J Asman, Livingston, Livingston H.S.
Duncan J. Brown, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.
Justin C. Diesso, Sparta, Pope John VIII H.S.

Clay C. Dundas, Sparta, Blair Academy.
Aidan R. Groll, Boonton, Boonton H.S.
Patrick T. Keyes, Parsippany, Seton Hall Prep.

Gabriella S.L. Roselle, West Caldwell, James Caldwell H.S.
Ryan F. Wood, Budd Lake, Home Schooled.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Mathieu L. Gaydos, Randolph, Randolph H.S.

Louis R. Kete, Morristown, Delbarton School.

Yonjun D. Kim, Montville, Osan DOD Dependents H.S.

Jennifer E. Lam, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.

Christian S. Longhi, Succasunna, Seton Hall Prep.

Liam F. McEneaney, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.

Philip J. Zurek, Denville, Academy of Math, Science & English.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Dominique A. Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.

Michael J. Herbert, Jr., Whippany, Seton Hall Prep.

Gregory R. Horne, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.

Adam B. Kratch, Millington, Seton Hall Prep.

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

Kirsten V. Mayer, Morris Twp., Morris Catholic H.S.

Ryan T. Mellody, Millington, Seton Hall Prep.

Michelle E. Miller, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Joseph M. Presti, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.

Joshua W. Tomlinson-Aaron, Flanders, Pope John VIII H.S.

Richard-Vinh Nguyen-Le, Dover, Morris Knolls H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Charlotte K. Asdal, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Cameron M. Ellis, Stanhope, Lenape Valley H.S.

Aaron J. Hanko, Montville, Trinity Christian Academy.

Benjamin R. Keegan, Flanders, Mt. Olive H.S.

Thomas D. Kim, Livingston, Seton Hall Prep.

Connor O. Lam, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Thomas P. Mahala, Far Hills, USN Foundation.

Michael E. McGlone, Boonton, Seton Hall Prep.

Luis N. Rodriguez, Denville, Academy for Math, Science & English.

Rahul Singh, Hackettstown, Mt. Olive H.S.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 OFFICERS OF THE OCCOQUAN WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2013 Officers of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. The 2013 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was created to address the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2013 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The over 300 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but these brave men and women are driven by their dedication to public safety and the communities that they serve. We would all do well to follow their example.

I congratulate and commend the following 2013 incoming officers:

Department Chief: James F. McAllister.
Fire Assistant Chiefs: Karl F. Fippinger, Wayne A. Haight, David S. Halman, Michael Clark, and Steve Godin.

EMS Assistant Chief: Edward A. Craig.

Fire Captains: Justin W Witt, David P. Williams, Brian J. Smith, John M. Roberts, Ernie M. Firkin, Jr. and Kurt E. Bolland.

EMS Captain: Richard T. Ruggieri.

Fire Lieutenants: Mike Nazionale, Derick N. Ondra, Richard P. Moore, Alexander R. Moody, Billy Campbell, Harold F. Griffith, Nathan Potter, Joshua Culp, Jon R. Colpitts, Mark A. Chandler, Robert L. Brown, and Jonathan W. Baldwin.

EMS Lieutenants: Cynthia M. Young, Kelly Shaw, David Darrach, Julia Jordano, Tammy L. Hill, and Erika Estrella.

President: William Spicer.

Executive Vice President: Jim Dart.

Admin Vice Presidents: William L. Carter, Ernest Desantis, Henry J. Neyhouse, and George W. Smith.

Membership Secretary: Melissa L. Payne.

Treasurer: George J. Nazionale, Jr.

Election Officer: Valoree A. Brown.

Sergeant at Arms: John McMahan.

Board of Directors: Ron Miller, Chris McIntosh, and Barry King.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volunteers on their new leadership positions, and in thanking all the members of The Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for the vital service they provide to the Prince William County community.

NEWTOWN SHOOTING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently read an article by Maureen Downey of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution sharing the thoughts of Mr. Frederick Assaf, headmaster at Pace Academy, an independent K–12 school in Atlanta, Georgia.

As Congress and the Obama administration continue to address mass violence, I found merit in Assaf's concerns about the desensitizing impacts of violent media, such as video games and Hollywood films. I believe these graphic images are far too easily accessed by our children and lack any notion of real-life consequences to violent death. I submit for the RECORD Mr. Assaf's thoughtful comments.

[From the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jan. 2, 2013]

NEWTOWN SHOOTING DEMANDS WE CONSIDER OUR "CALL OF DUTY" AS PARENTS

(By Maureen Downey, AJC Get Schooled Blog)

I admire Fred Assaf, head of Pace Academy in Atlanta, because he doesn't shy away from the tough issues. Here is another example of his willingness to speak out on behalf of children.

In the wake of the Newtown school shooting, Assaf questions the popularity of violent video games, which many kids received as Christmas gifts last week.

Please note that all comments to the blog will be moderated and appear only after they are read and approved.

(By Fred Assaf)

Because I come to know 6-year-olds every year by having lunch with them in our Lower School, I know the boundless joy and optimism they have in the heart. They raise

their hands when they don't know the answer. When they run out of knock-knock jokes they know, they make up more on the spot.

They still need help opening their milk cartons. They look forward to holidays, visiting cousins, and seeing grandparents. They love their teachers, crave the structure of a school setting, and are learning to read fast and compute math at an incredible pace.

They will laugh at all of your jokes, even when they aren't funny. They understand the needs of those around them, they play with all their classmates, and they respect their parents, their teachers, and their god.

I'm headmaster at an independent school in Atlanta. Our school begins in Pre-First (Kindergarten) and ends with 12th grade. My wife and I also have five children of our own. The events in Newtown, Conn., are unimaginable to us and our entire prayer is for sympathy and healing; there is no justice in a situation like this.

It is my tradition to have lunch with the Pre-First students (they are 5 and 6). In so doing I remind myself about my vocation and come to know the boundless energy and potential of children. It is why I teach. I know more Knock-Knock jokes than any adult my age and I like it!

And I'm plagued now by this thought—how shoots 6-year-olds? Because I lead a school I'm always searching for answers, finding a new path forward, and engineering compromise. But this idea of shooting 6-year-olds doesn't compute; I'm not in search of a motive, as it cannot possibly explain why.

When we had our first child, our family doctor gave us a good piece of advice: "Es-kimo children get used to the cold." As parents we understood that our attitudes and behaviors would shape our children. Though all five of our sons are different, they are shaped by our values and behaviors.

And so I wonder what behaviors we as parents can change. Certainly, we can improve school security. We can provide better training. We can make it harder to get a gun than to it is to get Sudafed. I don't know all the political answers, but I'd favor anything that makes gratuitous murder more difficult.

Which brings me to my point. As parents, we need to do our best to stop our children from the desensitizing impact of video games. A quick survey of the most popular video games includes the following top 10 games: "Halo," "Assassin's Creed," "Call of Duty," "World of Warcraft," "Grand Theft Auto."

Each of these games, simply put, eats away at a child's sensitivity toward killing. We have "gamified" the murder of people, and our children shoot, steal, and bomb in their virtual worlds. Like the basketball player who practices foul shots, we get better at things when we practice. Their habits become automatic, reactive, and second-nature.

Raising children is a labor of love. Working in a school is a joy. When I reflect on President Obama's query to ask myself what we can do better as parents, educators, and communities—it seems to me that we can stop letting our children kill people over and over and over again—and call it a GAME.

If you know teenagers like I know teenagers, they will find other things to do once you take away their shooting games—perhaps they will even work on their free throws.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY J. BLOCH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Beverly Jean Bloch. Beverly passed away on Wednesday, January 16, 2013. A resident of Corona for over a decade, she was a pillar of the community and will be deeply missed.

Beverly was born November 9, 1952 in Meeker, Colorado, the daughter of Calvin and Arlene (Gulliford) Fritzlan. Beverly grew up on a cattle and guest ranch, where her work ethic and values were formed. She attended school in Meeker and graduated with highest honors from Meeker High School in 1971. Beverly received an Associate's Degree at Seward Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting at Oklahoma State University. In 1995, Beverly earned a Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern University Law School in Los Angeles, California and began practicing family law in Anaheim Hills. She opened her second law office in Corona in 2000.

Beverly served on the Corona Regional Hospital Board of Directors, the Corona Library Foundation Board and was the Board President for the Corona YMCA. She was a member of the Norco Area Chamber of Commerce as well as the Corona Chamber of Commerce, where she served as Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2007. Beverly was a member of and served as Bequest and Living Trusts Chairman of the Southeast District California-Hawaii Elks Association, Corona 2045. She was a member of the Orange, Riverside and Los Angeles Counties Bar Associations as well as the California State Bar Association.

It is hard to imagine that Beverly would have any free time on her hands, yet she always found time for her community. She was a member of the Corona Rotary Club, the Corona Women's Improvement Club, the Norco Horsemen Association and the Riverside/Corona Council of the Navy League, serving as the Vice Adjutant. She loved to travel and visited many countries all over the world, but she always said that the most beautiful place on earth was her family's home at Fritzlan's Guest Ranch in Northwest Colorado's White River Valley.

Beverly is survived by her son Joseph Bloch; mother Arlene Fritzlan; sisters Mona (Al) Avey, Betsie (Leonard) Thompson, Jackie (Roger) Bissell and Sandie Fritzlan; granddaughters Anna and Madeline Bloch; friend Dean Herigstad; many nieces and nephews; and all of Meeker, Colorado. She was preceded in death by her father Calvin Fritzlan and nephew Gene Scritchfield.

On Saturday, January 26, 2013, a memorial honoring Beverly's extraordinary life will be held. Beverly will always be remembered for her incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. Her dedication to her family, work, and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Beverly's family and friends. Although Beverly may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

HONORING CITY OF ENUMCLAW

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, as the member with the honor of representing this city, I rise to honor the centennial anniversary of the City of Enumclaw, celebrated Sunday, January 27, 2013.

Enumclaw was platted on October 31, 1885, when the railroad decided to come through the area, and was incorporated in 1913. With a population of 11,490, they are the "Gateway" to Mt. Rainier, lying just on the north edge of the national park.

Over the last century, Enumclaw evolved from a railroad town, reliant on the logging industry, to a vibrant community contributing much to the economic growth of the region. Today, it is home to a wide range of companies large and small such as the Helac Corporation, Mutual of Enumclaw, and Enumclaw Regional Hospital. Enumclaw is a small city with a big heart and fully embraces its role helping people from around the world experience the beauty of Mount Rainier National Park.

With all this growth and change, Enumclaw continues to maintain a deep sense of friendship and community. For example, Mr. Speaker, the Pacific Northwest Highland Games, a city celebration that grew from a group of Scots eager to keep their ethnic origin alive.

I have enjoyed participating in many activities and events, going back to my days as a King County Sheriff Deputy working the King County Fair in beautiful Enumclaw and am honored to represent the great people of this city.

Enumclaw held on to its agricultural roots, evident by the large number of farms and equestrian activities. The city is recognized as a great place to live, work and raise a family. As Mayor Reynolds, along with all of Enumclaw's dedicated City Council members, continue to build on Enumclaw's rich history, we look forward to partnering with and aiding the city's success in years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer congratulations to the City of Enumclaw for a wonderful, rich first century and wish them the best as they move into their second century of prosperity.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LIVINGSTON

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its bicentennial in 2013.

Livingston's history can date back all the way to the year 1699, where settlers from Newark decided they wanted to move west. By 1702, the land that has come to be known as Livingston, as well as over eight currently neighboring municipalities, was officially purchased from the Lenape Native Americans. By 1740, many disputes over land ownership had