

nominees for Illinois' 18th Congressional District.

Twenty-three remarkable individuals have been selected for admittance into the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, or U.S. Air Force Academy. These young men and women have gone through a rigorous and competitive application process, making them the most impressive and outstanding group of individuals. This group gives me confidence in America's future.

I would like to thank the members of our selection panel including veterans and community leaders who volunteered their time, talents, and attention to this process. I would also like to thank the parents for raising these exceptional young adults. Finally, I would like to thank the nominees themselves for their dedication to serving this great nation.

The Illinois 18th congressional district service academy nominees are:

Andrew Kim—Washington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy & U.S. Military Academy.

Aminah Jones—Springfield, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy & U.S. Naval Academy.

Justin McCabe—Morton, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy & U.S. Military Academy.

Francesca Verville—Edwards, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Matthew Borrowman—Washington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Jordan Sanchez—Elkhart, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Bryant Williams—Springfield, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Christopher Voegle—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Justin Sharp—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Kyle Campbell—Riverton, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Paul Oelkers—Edelstein, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Shane Hickman—Normal, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Tessa Leman—Eureka, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Kaden Schmittner—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Micah Weiss—Sherman, IL, U.S. Military Academy.

Steven O'Rear—Lincoln, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Molly Day—Normal, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Christopher Leanos—Metamora, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Dominic Signa—Germantown Hills, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Matthew Tungett—Rochester, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

William Hudson—Washington, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Duncan Bradshaw—New Salem, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

Stephen Brown—Bloomington, IL, U.S. Naval Academy.

IN HONOR OF COURTNEY WILBURN  
BEING NAMED ALABAMA'S 2018-19  
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF  
THE YEAR

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Courtney Wilburn for being named Alabama's 2018-19 Middle School Principal of the Year.

Courtney is the principal at White Plains Middle School in Calhoun County. She has served in that role since 2011. She has also served as a teacher and assistant principal and was Calhoun County's Principal of the Year in 2012.

Courtney was raised in the area and attended Anniston City Schools and graduated from Jacksonville State University. She has been working in education for 17 years.

On January 8th, she was surprised at an event at the school with the news of the honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Courtney on this distinct honor and thanking her for her service to education.

DHS INTERAGENCY COUNTERTERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2018*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4555, DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act.

This legislation provides the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the authorization to assign their workforce to participate in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces. Participation in these task forces will aid in counterterrorism information sharing and combat the threat of terrorism and associated risks to the United States, as determined by DHS.

To continue to fight terrorism domestically and worldwide, I believe it is critical for agencies overseas to have open communications with one another. The more counterterrorism information that the DHS and other task forces overseas share, the more effectively these agencies can strategize. We must provide our security agencies with this critical asset to defend our country and citizens. Encouraging DHS personnel to participate in international task forces could create new solutions and help save the lives of our armed forces and personnel overseas. This task force could also assist the DHS in being more properly prepared to take on any counterterrorism efforts in the U.S.

As a former member of the Armed Services Committee, I have long advocated for protecting our personnel overseas. I strongly believe in providing our U.S. security agencies with the proper training and communication tools to successfully fight terrorism. This legislation will provide the DHS with the appropriate authorization to share information with allies overseas and will bring us one step closer to rooting out terror worldwide. H.R. 4555 will allow DHS personnel to not only build relationships with allied counterterrorism task forces overseas but also help better prepare them to take on terrorism at home.