

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, many of whom are veterans, who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area. 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.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. Nominations included 10 to the Naval Academy, 14 to the Military Academy, 4 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 31st, 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, 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 2005

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY:

Air Force Academy—David J. Dobrosky, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Oliver J. Kotelnicki, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.; Benjamin K. Joelson, Far Hills, Morristown-Beard School; Brian J. Monga, Rockaway, Morris Knolls H.S.; Scott N. Pierson, Parsippany, Parsippany Hills H.S.; Alexander C. Roosma, Bloomingdale, Butler H.S.; Sean C. Schiess, Flanders, Mount Olive H.S.

Merchant Marine—Kurt T. Bethman, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Derek W. Day, Madison, Newark Academy; Jonathon M. Dobbins, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Matthew F. Poloniak, Sparta, Sparta H.S.

Military Academy—Andrew D. Carbone, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Thomas L. Comer, Gillette, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Stephanie Forgione, Morristown, Morristown H.S.; Jason Johanson, Parsippany, Morris Hills H.S.; Patrick H. Loeuis, Chatham, Chatham, H.S.; Megan O. Maiello, Succasunna, Roxbury H.S.; Evan R. Malanga, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Dario Marcelli, III, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Megan Milhisler, Succasunna, Roxbury H.S.; Scott D. Nordland, Mendham, St. Georges School; Kent S. Patterson, Madison, Madison H.S.; Andrew C. Peterson, Short Hills, Morristown-Beard School; Omar S. Shaikh, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.; Quentin Sica, Stanhope, Lenape Valley H.S.

Naval Academy—Lindsey C. Asdal, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.; Michael J. Campbell, Mendham, Delbarton School; Ralph N. Grossman, Green Pond, Morris Knolls H.S.; Michael C. Howley, West Caldwell, Seton Hall Preparatory School; William D. McAloon, Madison Delbarton School; Brian J. McNally, Morristown, Morristown H.S.; Christopher K. Schneider, Mendham, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Heather R. Smith, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Timothy F. Whitney, Pine Brook, Montville H.S.; Mark J. Van Orden, Jr., Morris Plains, Delbarton School.

RACHEL DUNN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Rachel Dunn on her recent offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Rachel sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. Rachel was selected for a nomination and West Point has offered her an appointment to their celebrated institution. I am proud to have given her a Congressional nomination.

Rachel is currently a senior at Humble High School in Humble, Texas. She possesses many qualities that will make her an excellent cadet at West Point, and an excellent officer in the United States Army. She has shown an unwavering sense of dedication to long-term goals, as she has played on the Humble Lady Wildcats volleyball team for her full four year career at Humble High. Rachel's hard work paid off during her senior year when her teammates voted her captain of the team. She has earned various awards: Volleyball JV Squad MVP in 2003, Offensive Player of the Year in 2004 and 1st Team All-District in 2004.

Not only has Rachel excelled in the sports arena, she also has excelled in the classroom. She has a 4.9 GPA on a 5.0 scale and was ranked 27th in a class of 887. She acted courageously to save someone's life, showing tremendous fortitude under intense pressure.

In addition Rachel interviewed with poise and intelligence with my Service Academy Nomination Board. The Board recommended her to me without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Rachel is a fine Texan who will serve her country with distinction and I wish her good fortune in this new chapter of her life.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE SHUMATE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wayne Shumate, an all around outstanding Kentuckian. Wayne passed away on November 14, 2005, the day after his 71st birthday.

Known for his intelligence, strong work ethic, and the ability to bring out the absolute best in people, Wayne Shumate made it easy to remember him. He led a distinguished career in the textile industry, serving as director of Jockey International and then as chairman of both Blue Grass Industries and Kentucky Textiles.

Always one to enjoy a challenge, Wayne began raising blackberries at his Nicholas County farm in an effort to find a replacement crop for Kentucky's dwindling tobacco industry. Thanks to Wayne's hard work and business savvy, the blackberry venture took off and became incredibly successful. Today—twenty-years after Wayne planted his first Hull Thornless blackberries—WindStone Farm is nationally recognized and famous for its Blackberry Jam.

Never one to rest of his laurels, Wayne was affiliated with many different civic and non-profit boards, which also speaks volumes about his personal character and reputation. Three different Governors appointed him to the Kentucky Harness Racing Commission and he served as President of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI). Wayne also spent two terms on the Cincinnati/Cleveland 4th District Federal Reserve Board, chaired Governor Julian Carroll's Economic Development Commission, and was widely known and recognized in the cities of Carlisle and Paris, Kentucky for his thoughtful leadership.

Wayne was a loving father and loyal companion, and I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to his mother, Carrie Spivey Shumate, his wife, Kay George Shumate, his two children, Clifford Wayne Shumate Jr. and Sara Paige Shumate Short, his sister, Rose Carol Shumate, and the rest of his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Wayne Shumate. While he will be sorely missed, I am confident his legacy—not to mention his famous smile—will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of his loving family and many friends.