

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. McEarnay, 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