

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2006, I was absent for the following vote for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 1.

IN MEMORY OF THE "COLUMBIA"
AND "CHALLENGER" HEROES

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember 14 heroes of our Nation's space program.

Three years ago today, on a clear blue morning, the space shuttle *Columbia* exploded in the skies above Texas, killing all seven members of her crew.

The tragedy reminded us of a similar cloudless morning almost 17 years to the day earlier, when the space shuttle *Challenger* was lost moments after liftoff.

The 14 men and women who died on these missions were extraordinary individuals, but they were typical of the men and women NASA employs.

Courageous.

Dauntless.

Driven by a spirit of exploration and a desire to understand the unknown.

The *Columbia* and *Challenger* crew members knew the risks of spaceflight, but they chose to serve anyway—not in spite of the risks, but in part because of them.

They gave their lives in the hard and noble work of discovery, in service to their country and for all mankind.

Though these 14 heroes have slipped the "surlly bonds of earth," their legacy remains, grounded in the hearts and memories of those who strive every day to finish their life's work.

COMMENTS ON SECTION 1403 OF
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was signed by the President in August. This Act is the most comprehensive energy legislation in 30 years, and I believe it will lower energy prices for consumers, spur our economy, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and take unprecedented steps to promote greater energy conservation and efficiency. I want to highlight one provision that I included in the House passed version of this legislation and which was retained in the final conference report. This provision promotes energy efficiency of electric transformers and improved public safety, but also promotes strong environmental stewardship. This provision, [section 1403,] governs the use of non petro-

leum oil in electric transformers as electrical insulation.

The intent of section 1403 was to provide clarity for the new Oil Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations. As some of my colleagues know, electric transformers, whether the small buckets on telephone poles or those pad mounted on the ground, include some quantities of oil used as an electrical insulation and thermal dissipation medium.

Under SPCC, small and rural utilities and institutions that have their own electric transformers—including hospitals, schools, and military bases—will be required to build secondary containment diking around their electric transformers in case there is a spill of the oil used in transformers as thermal insulation. It should be noted that by the government's own estimates, facilities with less than 10,000 gallons of storage capacity account for less than 2 percent of the total volume of oil spilled in the United States. Furthermore, the amount of volume contained in electric transformers is well below this figure.

All those facts aside, section 1403 was included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 as a means to provide an alternative to the increased costs of Federal regulations on rural communities and institutions that have electric transformers, providing regulatory relief for bio-based oils that have proven environmental benefits. Specifically, local communities and institutions that have electric transformers can avoid the costs of constructing secondary diking containment around their transformers if they use bio-based, non petroleum oils as insulation. In addition, many older electric transformers still contain Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in their electrical insulation. By promoting these alternatives to petroleum-based oil used as thermal insulation in electric transformers, we provide a smart and environmentally friendly option to encourage the replacement of PCBs. It should be noted that this provision was retained in the final legislation without opposition or controversy.

Additionally, in 1995, Congress passed the Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act. This statute set forth specific guidelines for implementing regulations on oil spills. The Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act states ". . . in issuing or enforcing any regulation or establishing any interpretation or guideline relating to the transportation, storage, discharge, release, emission, or disposal of a fat, oil, or grease under any Federal law, the head of that Federal agency shall differentiate between and establish separate classes . . . and consider differences in the physical, chemical, biological, and other properties, and in the environment." Nearly a decade later, EPA continues to maintain the position that "oil is oil." EPA has either been unwilling or unable to differentiate between the different classes of oils. I raise this issue because I want to make clear how the author of section 1403 intends it to be interpreted.

Section 1403, Regulation of Certain Oil Used in Transformers, reads as follows: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, or rule promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency, vegetable oil made from soybeans and used in electric transformers as thermal insulation shall not be regulated as an oil identified under section 2(a)(1)(B) of the Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act (33 U.S.C. 2720(a)(1)(B))."

EPA's broad generalization that "oil is oil" disregards renewable oils that, I believe, have an improved effect on the environment in case of a spill. EPA's broad policy impedes the replacement of fluids known to be harmful to the environment with fluids that have proven, tested benefits for the environment.

CHARLES WARREN CILISKE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Charles Warren Ciliske on his recent offer of appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Charles sought a nomination to West Point through my office, competing with a group of highly qualified applicants. He was selected for a nomination and West Point has offered him an appointment to their celebrated institution. I am proud to give him a Congressional nomination.

Charles is currently a senior at Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas and he possesses many qualities that will make him an excellent cadet at West Point, and an excellent officer in the United States Army. He has shown the ability to dedicate himself to a goal over the long-term, and to succeed with this dedication. Charles is a 4-year varsity swimmer on the Kingwood High School Swim Team and was Captain of the team this season. He is a 5-time High School All-American, 2003 Rookie of the Year and 2005 District Swimmer of the Year. Also in 2005, he was on the Team 5A Texas State Champs and was a National Runner-Up.

Charles has proven himself academically as well, earning the AP Scholar Award. He is a member of the USA Swimming Academic All-American Team and a member of the National Honor Society.

The clincher for Charles was the interview by my Service Academy Nomination Board. Nothing can replace a personal encounter to establish credibility and repute. His interviewers said that he was an exceptional candidate, with excellent character and strong moral values. They were impressed by Charles's professed dream to attend the U.S. Military Academy, and knew he understood the gravity of the commitment to the Academy and of becoming an officer in the U.S. Army. They recommended him to me without reservation.

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

COMMENDING THE SAN ANTONIO
STOCK SHOW AND RODEO

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize and offer my congratulations to the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo for receiving honors as the "Large Indoor Rodeo of the Year for 2005" and "Top Rough Stock Rodeo of the Year Award." Everyone who