

and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. 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 who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—and all are veterans. 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. The Board's recommendations were 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 2015 11TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Gina-Marie Arrabito, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; John P. Dennehy, Rockaway, Morris Hills H.S.; Fredrik A. Eriksson, Woodland Park, Passaic Valley Regional H.S.; Joshua J. Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.; Christian O. Hedengren, Brookside, St. Peters Preparatory; Leland E. Hemgren, Boonton, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Liam R. Sax, Sparta, Pope John XXIII Regional H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Travis Z. Feather, Pine Brook, Bergen Catholic H.S.; Paul T. Femia, Kinnelon, Valley Forge Military Academy; Maria F. Garcia, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Colleen M. Griffin, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Christian A. Marini, Kinnelon, Seton Hall Preparatory; Luke H. Mayer, Morristown, Delbarton School; Christopher J.L. Morgan, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; Kelly A. Smith, Roseland, West Essex H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Seth M. Abbott, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Mark G. Brown, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.; James E. Crimmins, Madison, Chaminade H.S., NY; Joshua C. Corbett, Mendham, Gill St. Bernards School; Jacob S. Ferraro, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Aaron J. Hanko, Montville, Naval Academy Preparatory School; Warren J. Lee, East Hanover, Oratory Preparatory School; Jay Oh, Madison, Madison H.S.; Austin J. Tighe, Little Falls, Seton Hall Preparatory; Jacob T. Valente, Wayne, Wayne Valley H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Matthew E. Babich, Wayne, Regis H.S. NY, NY; Alexandra R.K. Bruno, Little Falls, Passaic Valley H.S.; Jonathan P. Davis, Chatham, Chatham H.S.; Alexander C. Lagasca, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; John M. Lowe, Parsippany, Gill St. Bernards School; Angela E. Martone, Lincoln Park, Trinity Christian School; Richard R. O'Connor, New Vernon, Miami University; Ivan V. Peters, Boonton, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg; James E. Schoch, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Austin J.C. Williams, Verona, Verona H.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI  
DONALD A. WEBER

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rabbi Donald Weber on his 30th Anniversary as Rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah in Marlboro, New Jersey. Rabbi Weber is an outstanding leader of Temple Rodeph Torah and an active member of the community whose contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Under Rabbi Weber's leadership, the Temple Rodeph Torah congregation has grown from 66 families in 1984 to more than 350 today. He also began the TRT Cares program

to provide help to those in the community facing financial hardships, which earned the Fair Award for Social Justice in 2011.

In addition to his efforts within Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber is also an active member of the community. He has served as the Marlboro Township Police Chaplain since 2005, is a founding member and Board Chair of the Marlboro Township Ethics Board and is a life member of the Morganville First Aid Squad. He remains an advocate for hunger issues and personal rights, serving as a member and co-chair of the Jewish Leaders' Council of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and a trustee of Planned Parenthood of Monmouth County, among others.

Prior to becoming the first full-time rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber served as Volunteer Chaplain and Supervisor of the Pediatrics Floor at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York and as Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth David in Commack, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Rabbi Donald Weber and recognizing him for his dedication to community outreach and social action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 92, I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

TEXANS KNOW BARBECUE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Killen's Barbecue, a Pearland, TX legendary institution, for being named in the top 10 in GQ Magazine's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

All due respect to other states, Texans know barbecue better than anyone! Don't let the never-ending line to get in stop you from tasting a little bit of heaven. It's well worth the wait. Chef Ronnie Killen is a true master and his culinary skills are keeping true Texas barbecue alive.

I commend Chef Killen for sharing his true Texas Barbecue with the great folks of TX—22. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Killen's Barbecue for being named one of GQ's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

IN RECOGNITION OF LILLI REY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lilli Rey who was chosen as the 2015 Citizen of the Year by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Group. This extraordinary honor is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions to the Hillsborough community, in particular to the education and well-being of our children. I can't think of a more deserving person than Lilli to receive this honor. She is the personification of generosity, grace and getting things done.

I have watched and admired her dedication and commitment since Lilli moved to Hillsborough two decades ago. I feel very fortunate to count Lilli as one of my closest friends and neighbors. The word "no" barely exists in her vocabulary; if there is a project that needs help, Lilli will take it on and bring it to a successful conclusion. She has given her time and energy to countless causes. She served as the President and Executive Board Member for the North School Parent Group, the 2010 Town of Hillsborough Centennial Co-Chair, Girl Scout Leader, 4th Grade North Yosemite Trip Chair, and Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance Tickets Chair. Lilli is part of the heartbeat of the town.

To say that Lilli loves children is an understatement. As the very proud mother of four—Zach, Zoe, Sadie and Cassie—she is devoted to them completely and always puts them first. But her love is not reserved exclusively for her own children, she shares the same care and tenderness for other children, always striving to contribute to their well-being.

Lilli has also been a steadfast and generous supporter of our local schools, Shelter Network, the San Mateo Community Hospital Foundation, NARAL and Protect Our Defenders Foundation. These groups protect the rights and dignity of our children, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, women, victims of sexual assault in the military, and health care for low income women—issues that are very near and dear to my heart and issues that have created a very deep bond between Lilli and me.

To watch Lilli at an event is to watch a symphony conductor. Even though she is working harder than anyone, she makes it look easy and harmonic. She is in the right place at the right time and she makes everything flow perfectly.

Any organization is lucky to have Lilli on board. She will identify what needs to get done and get it done while improving the organization and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize an exceptional woman and philanthropist who tirelessly gives back and never asks for anything in return. Lilli Rey is a treasured gift to the community and truly deserves to be honored as the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Citizen of the Year.

DON NELSON: A LOCAL LEGEND IN BROADCASTING

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish a Houston icon, constituent and TV anchor Don Nelson a happy retirement.

Don has been a voice to Texans for 39 years and I have known him most of that time.

In those 39 years, Don has just about done it all.

He did broadcasting at a radio station in Pennsylvania after serving in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years.

And then worked in radio in West Virginia and New Mexico before he made it to the promise land, Texas when ABC 13 News hired him.

From hosting "Dialing For Dollars," "Good Morning Houston," covering traffic, and interviewing celebrities, sports stars and rodeo entertainers, Don is quite the commentator.

Don's genuine, happy personality and work ethic really have made Houston's morning news number one.

Our morning commutes won't be the same without him.

Hats off to you, Don.

You can now sleep in and enjoy your morning coffee.

The people of Houston extend our deepest appreciation.

Congrats on your retirement, you have earned it.

Best wishes in the next chapter of your life.

You are quite the legend in local broadcasting.

And that's just the way it is.

**CHURCH OF ST. PAUL'S "HOLY SMOKE" BBQ COOK-OFF****HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Church of St. Paul's "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off which takes place each March 6th and 7th, 2015 in the city of Mission, Texas.

The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an International Barbeque Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds going to fund scholarships for area youth.

Talented barbeque chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken, along with beans, fajitas, pan de campo, and desserts. The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas due to the scholarship assistance it provides to students in furthering their education.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star State-style food and music.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN L. CURTICE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy, Christian L. Curtice. Deputy Curtice served an honorable thirty-three years with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, and his service is to be commended.

Christian Curtice was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1959, and subsequently moved with his family to California. He graduated from the Pacific Grove High School in 1978. A few years after high school, Christian had moved to the Central Valley and was sworn in as a deputy sheriff with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982. The first few years Deputy Curtice served with the Fresno County Sheriff's office, he also pursued a college education. In 1986 he graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology. Three years later he became a detective with the Sheriff's Crimes Against Persons Unit and became a member of the California Homicide Investigators Association. In 1992 he was promoted to Deputy IV, and was assigned as Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division in 2001.

During his years of service, Deputy Curtice has received many awards and commendations, including being the first deputy at the Fresno County Sheriff's Office to receive the California Highway Patrol's "10851 Award" for vehicle theft recovery in 1989. In 1992, he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" award for the Central Valley area, and in 1993 he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" for the State of California.

Apart from his awards, Deputy Curtice has been recognized in many instances in which he was integral to solving cases and saving lives through his use of ingenuity and bravery, often putting his own life at risk. Deputy Curtice was one of the principal investigators on the Ewell triple murder in the Sunnyside area of Fresno County. The case received major national news coverage and eventually led to the arrest and conviction of Dana Ewell and Joel Radovich. Following their conviction, Deputy Curtice and his partner, Detective Souza, wrote the book "Catch Me If You Can," which chronicled the investigation.

Outside of his position as Deputy and Detective, Deputy Curtice has been a firm believer in giving back to his community. In 2008, he worked with the Central California Blood Center to launch the Holiday Heroes Blood Drive, which is now held every year during the week before Christmas, and continues to become increasingly more successful. He also made it a personal priority to revamp the Fresno County Sheriff's ailing website by hiring a dedicated IT specialist. Working with the IT specialist, Deputy Curtice helped launch a redesigned, user friendly website. Additionally, by creating new Facebook and Twitter pages for the agency, Deputy Curtice played an integral role in ensuring the Sheriff's Office is able stay in contact with the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing