



From the office of Congressman Bill Keating *Massachusetts' 10th Congressional District*

1250 Hancock Street, Suite 802N
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169
Phone: (617) 770-3700
Fax: (617) 770-2984

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION PROCESS

Each year, members of Congress nominate young men and women to become eligible for an appointment to a U.S. Service Academy. The academies are seeking future cadets and midshipmen who possess "whole person" qualifications - sound character, a commendable academic record, evidence of strong leadership potential, worthy goals and strong motivation to achieve academically and eventually to serve as an officer in the Armed Forces. As a Congressman, I am authorized to make nominations of eligible students for the vacancies at the following academies:

- The United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- The United States Military Academy, West Point, New York
- The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland
- The United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York

The Service Academy Nomination Review Board

In order to carry out this responsibility in an objective and nonpartisan manner, I have enlisted the assistance of eight distinguished residents of the Tenth Congressional District. The volunteers who serve on the Tenth Congressional Service Academy Nomination Review Board are appointed on the basis of their interest and experience.

The Selection Process

During the late spring through the early fall, prospective candidates are invited to submit letters of inquiry to me. In response, each applicant receives a packet outlining the selection process and an application form to be completed and returned, including a personal statement describing his or her reasons for seeking nomination to a Service Academy. In addition, candidates are required to furnish a transcript of high school grades, rank in class and Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. The objective aspects of these records are quantified and recorded on an interview form used by Review Board members when they meet with candidates in mid-November.

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for an academy nomination from the Tenth Congressional District:

You must be:

1. A legal resident of the Tenth Congressional District of Massachusetts;
2. Between the ages of 17 and not yet 23 on July 1st of the academy class entering year;
3. A graduate of high school before July 1st of the academy class entering year; and
4. Unmarried with no dependents

In order to nominate candidates who will meet the high admission standards of the Service Academies, the Review Board considers evidence of sound character, excellent scholarship, leadership potential and strong motivation. These are qualities required to succeed as a student at the Academies and, following graduation, in service to the nation as professional officers. Physical aptitude and medical fitness are determined by the academies prior to the offer of appointment.

The Interview Process

When the Review Board meets with applicants in mid-November, a standardized form is used to record the numerical value given to various aspects of the candidates' experience and achievements. As in the Academies' own evaluation processes, academic factors comprise 60% of a candidate's total score; activities in and out of school, awards and personal qualities make up the remaining 40%. Each candidate will meet privately with two Board members; attributes such as motivation, leadership potential and ability to communicate are evaluated on the basis of candidates' personal statements, recommendations received on their behalf and their responses to interview questions.

Nomination and Appointment

When interviews have been completed, review Board members meet to choose the most qualified candidates for each available nomination. The objective scores, supplemented by the subjective judgments of the interview teams, are evaluated and a slate of ten candidates for each appointment is chosen. (Applicants may be nominated to more than one academy if the Board finds them qualified.) The Committee then makes its recommendations to me and I forward the names to the academies unranked. The Academies conduct their own evaluations and select, from among our nominees, those deemed most qualified to fill the vacancies allotted to the Tenth Congressional District. Additional appointments may be offered directly by the Academies in order to bring the entering classes up to the desired number.

The Service Academies offer a superb education. In addition, they provide a unique opportunity for a young person to give back to his or her country through service at the highest level. If you have further questions about the Service Academy nomination process, please contact my office at 617-770-3700.

Best,

