

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced his nominees to the U.S. service academies for the Class of 2013. After a thorough application process in which his office reviewed numerous applications, Hinchey selected 16 local high school students whom he believes would excel at the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military, and Naval Academies.

"It is an honor for me to nominate these 16 bright, talented leaders from our area to our nation's service academies," Hinchey said. "These young men and women have an extraordinary future ahead of them and I am very confident that they will serve our country with distinction. Our military academies have a long record of producing some of our country's finest leaders and I believe that this group of students will expand that record. I wish all of them the very best with the rest of the application process.

The selection process for the nominees was based on each student's scholastic record, physical fitness, extracurricular activities, professional recommendations and a personal interview. The process is highly competitive and the admissions departments of the military academies solely determine decisions on final acceptance.

The names of Hinchey's nominees, by academy, are as follows:

U.S. Military Academy

Zachary Ciurczak, Kingston

Andrew Galazzo, Walker Valley

David Geer, Binghamton

Opeyemi Ifafore, Middletown

Joseph R. Kulp III, Vestal

Matthew Mulvihill, Middletown

Joy Palmer, New Paltz

Nicholas Peterson, Saugerties

Thomas J. Riley III, Newburgh

Jordan A. Smith, Kerhonkson

U.S. Naval Academy

Phoebe Kotlikoff, Ithaca

Richard Nagel, Middletown

Kyle M. Wise, Kingston

U.S. Air Force Academy

Sebastian Constable, Cragsmoor

Joseph Hollway, Highland

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Ursula Holm, Owego

Members of the House and Senate may nominate eligible candidates for appointments to the nation's service academies. Senators nominate applicants statewide, while representatives,

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Wednesday, 17 December 2008 19:00

such as Hinchey, nominate applicants only from their congressional district.

Students who are interested in being nominated by Hinchey in the future should first contact the service academy of their choice in their junior year in high school and then request a nomination from the congressman's office shortly thereafter. For more information on the application process, students and parents are encouraged to visit Hinchey's website page on academy nominations at www.house.gov/hinchey/services/nominations.shtml.