

June 10, 2008 - Murtha Announces Eight Local Students Appointed to U.S. Military Academies

-

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that eight of his nominees to our nation's military academies have accepted appointments.

-

"These young men and women are among our nation's best and brightest," commented Murtha. "They are the future leaders of our military and I am proud that they have chosen to serve our great country. I applaud their work and service both inside and outside the classroom, and it is an honor to nominate them to one of our nation's military academies. Both Joyce and I wish them continued success throughout their academic and military service."

Those who have accepted appointments are:

U.S. Air Force Academy (www.usafa.af.mil)

Laura A. Henderson, daughter of George and Joyce Henderson of Bolivar, Westmoreland County, will be admitted to the USAFA on June 26, 2008. She graduated this year from Laurel Valley High School and was a member of the Air Force Junior ROTC, Drill Team/Color Guard, Sign Language Team, National Honor Society, Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Junior Lions (LEO) Club, Theater Club, Quiz Bowl Team, Peer Tutor and the Big Brother/Big Sister program. Henderson participated in volleyball, basketball and track and field. She is a member of the Covenant Church in Ligonier, PA and has served as a church liturgist and camp counselor.

"My desire to serve my country and make my contribution to the fulfillment of the Air Force mission drives me to attend and graduate from the United States Air Force Academy," said Henderson.

U.S. Naval Academy (www.usna.edu)

Ryan N. Bassi, son of Neil and Donna Bassi of Washington, Washington County, will be admitted to the USNA on July 2, 2008. He is a 2007 graduate of Trinity High School where he was a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, Key Club, Speech and Debate, Mock Trial, Literary Journal and the Prom Committee. Bassi participated in Cross Country, Track and Field, Baseball and Basketball. He is a member of First Lutheran Church where he is a Sunday School Instructor and Choir participant.

"To me, the Naval Academy is about being part of something that is greater than oneself," Bassi said. "It is about giving without any thought of receiving; it is about being a leader and a warrior."

Michael A. Brant, son of D. Allen and Lynn Brant of Johnstown, Cambria County, will be admitted to the USNA on July 2, 2008. He graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School this year where he was a member of National Honor Society. Brant participated in Wrestling and Track. He is a member of Westmont United Methodist Church.

"I want to attend a college where I will be challenged academically," Brant said. "After attending the USNA Summer Seminar and speaking with many midshipmen, I know that I will find my curriculum to be interesting and demanding."

Andrew D. Wolfe, son of Thomas and Kristie Wolfe of Portage, Cambria County, will be admitted to the USNA on July 2, 2008. He is a 2007 graduate of Bishop Carroll High School where he was a member of Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Anti-Tobacco Coalition, Leadership Coalition, Relay for Life, Pro-Life Club, Forensics and the Student Activities Council. Wolfe participated in Football and Baseball. He is a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish where he is an Altar Server.

"Attending the USNA will help me achieve my long range goals by giving me the discipline, the education, and the opportunities to find and enjoy a career in the U.S. Navy," said Wolfe. "I look forward to the opportunity to challenge myself and to serve my country."

Kara L. Yingling, daughter of Kenneth and Susan Yingling of Johnstown, Cambria County, will be admitted to the USNA on July 2, 2008. She is a 2008 graduate of Bishop McCort High School where she was a member of Student Council, Model U.N., National Honor Society, Reading Competition, Kairos, Rosary Club, MU Alpha Theta, McCort Mirror Newspaper and the Scholastic Quiz Team. Yingling participated in Cross Country and Track.

She is a member of the Johnstown Our Mother of Sorrows Church. Her sister Shannon currently attends the Naval Academy and will be starting her junior year.

“One of the reasons I chose to apply to the USNA is because of the pride and tradition the school carries coupled with the strong options available to me as a graduate after leaving the Yard,” commented Yingling.

U.S. Military Academy (www.usma.edu)

Ian J. Mathies, son of Dean and Mary Mathies of Finleyville, Washington County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 30, 2008. He graduated from Ringgold High School this year where he was a member of the French Club and Ski Club. Mathies participated in Wrestling. He is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

“All my life I have been asked why would I want to go to the Army,” said Mathies. “I always tell them to protect our freedoms. When I found out that West Point gave me both an education and the opportunity to be a commissioned officer, I knew this was the place for me.”

Nathan A. Wilson, son of Kirk and Jayne Wilson of Leechburg, Armstrong County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 30, 2008. He is a 2008 graduate of Greensburg Central Catholic High School where he was a member of National Honor Society, Band, Student Council and Spanish Club. Wilson He is a member of Christ the King Parish. participated in Football and Baseball.

“Not only am I interested in the education West Point offers, but I believe it can shape me into an all around stronger person who will be able to deal with the many challenges facing our country today and in the future,” said Wilson.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (www.usmma.edu)

Patrick B. McQuaide, son of Rick and Jacqueline McQuaide of Johnstown, Cambria County, will be admitted to the USMMA on July 10, 2008. He graduated this year

from Richland High School and was a member of Ski club. McQuaide participated in Soccer and Track. He is a member of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church.

“I want to attend a school that will provide the highest education possible to prepare me for a career later in life,” commented McQuaide. “I am a hardworking person and I want to become stronger physically and mentally.”

#