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NEWSLETTER

100-1182

17 November 1988

Washington

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LOOKING AHEAD TO MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS. One of the greatest honors afforded a Member of Congress is the privilege of nominating outstanding young men and women for admission to any of our four military service academies: the Naval Academy at Annapolis; the Army Military Academy at West Point, New York; the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

High School Seniors who seek my nomination to one of the Academies must contact our Washington Congressional office and I will send you some application papers which you must fill out and return to me no later than <u>December 31</u>, 1988 in order to be assured of consideration.

Each applicant must meet several eligibility criteria. You must be at least 17 years of age but must not have passed your 22nd birthday (for the Merchant Marine Academy, the age ceiling is 25). You must be a U.S. citizen, unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation for support of a child or other dependents.

There are some requirements on scholarship achievement, personal character, physical aptitude and medical fitness, leadership qualities and personal goals and motivation factors to determine each nominee's whole person evaluation.

There are several methods Members of Congress may use in selecting their nominees. For the Naval, Military and Air Force Academies, I can use the "Principal with Numbered Alternates" method. Under this method, the principal nominee is designated and the nine alternate nominees are ranked in order of merit. If qualified, the principal nominee receives the appointment. If the principal nominee does not qualify according to the Academy's requirements, then the first Alternate is considered for the appointment, and so on.

It is the specific Academy which will make the selections from among the nominees we provide. Regretfully we only recommend promising young students to the Academies. The final decision, based on the candidate's qualifications, is made by the Academy.

We have a fifth academy (the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut) and its admission procedures are quite different from the other academies.

KIKA DE LA GARZA, 15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS—

Just write me for application information for the Coast Guard Academy and I can send you the particulars.

What is most important is that each person write or call me as soon as possible so that your completed papers can be returned to me no later than December 31, 1988. We will need your photograph, high school grade transcript, a copy of your SAT or ACT scores, and letters of recommendation from your school, pastor, or other responsible persons acquainted with your ability and character.

It is not necessary that your letters of recommendation come from office-holders or prominent citizenry. It is important that whoever writes a letter on your behalf is a person who knows you on a personal basis and can attest to your character and abilities.

In connection with our words about the Military Academies, your Congressman would like to mention that on November 10th the U.S. Marine Corps celebrated a birthday. The Corps is 213 years of age. Only the Army slightly outranks the Corps in terms of age. We are proud of our Marines and congratulate them on another milestone anniversary of service to America.

Our Washington Congressional office is located in Room 1401, Longworth House Office Building, Washington D C, 20515 for those who seek application information on the Academy nomination process.

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TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION. The services of a Registered Nurse are critical to the long-term health of those who are hospitalized or who must have at-home nursing care. This Congressman believes very strongly in the professional work of the Registered Nurse who is often the patient's link with instant medical attention when the attending physician may not be immediately at hand.

Last week, your Congressman briefly attended a big state-wide meeting sponsored by the <u>Texas Nurses Association</u>. It was a pleasure to visit with members of the Association and to extend them my appreciation for the work they do and their commitment to quality health care.

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TEXAS A&M AND THE CZECH UNIVERSITIES. Some will remember that last year your Congressman travelled to Czechoslovakia to help inaugurate an historic agreement between the Charles University of Prague and the Agriculture College at Nitra in the region of Slovakia. These two Czech institutions concluded a major agricultural research agreement with our own Texas A&M University, and we were proud to be there for the ceremony.

Our good friend, H.E. Miroslav Houstecky, the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia to the United States, had asked me to return and visit Charles University and the Agriculture College at Nitra to see how the cooperative research effort with Texas A&M is proceeding. Nothing gave me greater pleasure than to see first hand the good works that can come about through international cooperation in science.

Our trip began November 13 and is scheduled to end November 22nd (we have two other stops, one in Spain and one in Ireland where we will meet with ranking agriculture officials and talk about the all-important questions of increased U.S. access to the European marketplace). The time in Czechosolvakia afforded us the opportunity to visit with the Czech Minister of Agriculture, J. Algayer. And this is important for our continued efforts to trade openly with nations who wish to purchase U.S. farm and ranch goods.

International discussions help reduce misunderstandings and they can lay the groundwork for free-flowing trade that benefits us all.

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VISITORS FROM HOME. Mr Randall Nye of Rio Grande City.

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