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Congresswoman Susan Wild Announces 2021 Military Academy Appointments

By Maddie McComb

LEHIGH VALLEY - Congresswoman Susan Wild PA-07 announced the names of students from Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe counties who have been appointed to U.S Military Academies for the Class of 2025. Congresswoman Wild hosted the eleven students at a dinner held in their honor on June 2, 2021 to celebrate their acceptances to the academies.

"I'm proud that PA-07 has such a strong group of students heading to U.S. Military Academies for the Class of 2025. It's a reflection of the depth of talent in our district that such a strong cohort is possible, and I commend these young people for their commitment to public service."

The 7th Congressional District regularly outperforms other Congressional Districts when it comes to the number of applicants who go on to receive and accept appointments to Military Academies.

The appointed students were recommended for nominations from the Congresswoman by her Military Academy Nominations Advisory Board, which includes highly distinguished active-duty and retired service members from across the district, many of whom also served in the same capacity under Rep. Wild's predecessor, Congressman Charlie Dent. Rep. Wild considered the advice of her Board when making her decisions regarding Nominations.

The following students received appointments from the academies to which they applied:

David H. Kreidler, Jr. - Allentown Central Catholic High School - United States Naval Academy

Luke B. Kuklis - Allentown Central Catholic High School - United States Air Force Academy

Veronika M. Xiao - Bangor Area High School - United States Military Academy

Brendan J. Griffiths - Easton Area High School - United States Merchant Marine Academy

Dominic F. Falcone - Easton Area High School - United States Military Academy

Isaak E. Torres - Easton Area High School - United States Military Academy

George E. Ferrey - Freedom High School - United States Merchant Marine Academy

Adam J. Fatebene - Moravian Academy - United States Military Academy

Georgia L. Wiswesser - Northampton Area High School - United States Military Academy

Gwendolyn K. Houser - Parkland High School - United States Military Academy

Harrison G. Jetter - Whitehall High School - United States Air Force Academy

Rep. Wild Calls for Stronger Consumer Affordability Protections in National Flood Insurance Program

By Maddie McComb

LEHIGH VALLEY - Representative Susan Wild (PA-07) wrote to leadership in the House Financial Services Committee to demand stronger consumer affordability protections in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is set to be reauthorized later this year.

"Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States and the NFIP provides flood insurance protection for over 5 million Americans across the country," wrote Rep. Wild. "On top of premiums rising due to the increase of flooding in recent years, Risk Rating 2.0 has the potential to increase premiums for many if not most homeowners. Under current law, NFIP premiums can increase as much as 18% per year for homeowners' primary residences and 25% for small businesses. Large premium increases have the potential to force many policy holders to abandon their policies, lapse into late payment status, or even lose their homes. I strongly urge you to cap rate increases on annual flood insurance premiums at no more than 9% in the NFIP reauthorization bill."

Flood insurance is particularly important for Pennsylvania residents given the propensity for areas of the commonwealth to experience flash flooding, and standard homeowners' and renters' insurance rarely covers flooding or related damage.

The NFIP, which is run through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will be changing the way in which flood insurance premiums are calculated under a new initiative called Risk Rating 2.0. The new premiums will reflect an individual property's flood risk and will take effect for new policies in October 2021 and for existing policyholders in April 2022.

In the letter, Rep. Wild also insisted upon robust homeowner outreach and education about Risk Rating 2.0 and the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The NFIP was last reauthorized in 2012 for a five-year period and has been funded through short-term measures since 2017. It is set to expire in September of this year.

