

Lincoln, NE – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry has selected 13 students from eastern Nebraska to receive nominations to America's top military academies.

"A military academy appointment is a tremendous honor and a great responsibility," Fortenberry said. "Nominees must demonstrate capacity for leadership, personal integrity, and rigorous scholarship. I am pleased to nominate several young Nebraskans who meet these qualifications."

Following are the 2012 nominees:

Eugene Alvey of The Hill School, a private school in Pottstown, PA. Eugene is the son of Bevan Alvey and Sharon Kresse of Lincoln and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Elizabeth Avery of Lincoln High School. Elizabeth is the daughter of Gary and Susan Avery and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Benjamin Burmester of Pender Public Schools. Benjamin is the son of Steve and Deborah Burmester and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Gabriel Collins of Nebraska City High School. Gabriel is the son of Shawn and Samantha Collins and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Cameron Connelly of Freeman High School at Adams. Cameron is the son of Christopher and Rosanna Connelly and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Shannon Costello of Platteview Senior High School at Springfield. Shannon is the daughter of Timothy Costello and Carla Anania and has been nominated to the United States

Air Force Academy.

Asher Cutler of Plattsmouth Capstone Christian Homeschool. Asher is the son of Timothy and Mary Cutler and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Benjamin Heiliger of Lincoln Southwest High School. Benjamin is the son of Brad and Susan Heiliger and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Jacob Pond of Lyons-Decatur High School. Jacob is the son of Katy McLaughlin and Roger Pond and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Benjamin Protzman of Norfolk Senior High School. Benjamin is the son of Roger and Tricia Protzman and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Kyle Rhodes of Gretna High School. Kyle is the son of Rodney and Elizabeth Rhodes and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Vaughn Richardson of Freeman Public Schools at Adams. Vaughn is the son of James and Vera Richardson and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

John Thompson of Pius X High School. John is the son of John and Linda Thompson and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

The military academies will now consider each nominee for an appointment.

"I expect these individuals will represent Nebraska well in their future endeavors," Fortenberry said. "Please join me in congratulating them for their exceptional achievements."

Fortenberry Announces 2012 Military Academy Nominees

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