

Congressman Patrick McHenry honored his military academy nominees at a special reception on Friday.

With less than a month to go before the students are off to academy, McHenry had a few words of advice. McHenry told students to sleep late now, because come July, those leisurely days will be over.

Getting into an academy is a big deal, bigger even than parents like Avery County's Bob and Gaila Hodgkin realized. Their advice to interested students is: start early.

Zachary had a choice between West Point and the Naval Academy. Now that he's made the decision to go Navy, he leaves at the end of June.

Also on Friday, McHenry honored nine 10th district veterans. Among those honored was Avery County's Mickey Brown, a Vietnam veteran. Brown was presented with the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars. Also honored were Jerry Pope, Clay Henderson, Claude Hoke, Jimmy Holman and Jack Kuster, Posthumously awarded medals were Charles McSwain, John Gantt and Jack Wilson.

McHenry honors future and past soldiers

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Monday, 04 June 2007 06:38

McHenry's Academy nominees for 2007 are:

Zachary Hodgin, Avery County High School, son of Gaila and Bob Hodgin, admitted to the United States Naval Academy

Patrick Northam, Freedom High School, son of Linda and George Northam, admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point

Brandon Beckler, Fred T. Foard High School, son of Sandra and Erick Beckler, admitted to the United States Naval Academy

Bethany Derby *, Naval Academy Prep, daughter of Beverly M. Derby, admitted to the United States Naval Academy

Benjamin Gibbs, Hickory High School, son of Lee and Benjamin Gibbs, admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point

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Tripp Johnson (J. Eulan III), Hickory High School, son of Nancy and Eulan Johnson, admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point

Steven Klecha, Saint Stephens High School, son of Patricia and Thomas Klecha, admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point

Micah Penley, Fred T. Foard High School, son of Kim and Richard Penley, admitted to the United States Naval Academy

Tristan Setzer *, Naval Academy Prep., son of Victoria and Ryan Setzer, admitted to the United States Naval Academy

Kenneth Evans*, Naval Academy Prep, son of Elizabeth and Nelson Evans, admitted to the United States Naval Academy

Andrew Schweickert, Lake Norman High School, son of Laura and Vincent Schweickert,

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admitted to United States Air Force Academy