

U. S. S E N A T O R
David Vitter



January 4, 2007

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for contacting me regarding a nomination to the United States service academies for the class entering in July 2008. Your decision to apply to one of our service academies certainly indicates your commitment to obtaining the best education possible. The education provided by the academies is among the most prestigious available anywhere in the world. The academic, physical, and character requirements are stringent and the competition stiff. As competition for nomination and appointment is very keen, it is wise for all interested persons to apply through all sources for which they are eligible and for all Academies in which they have a real interest. An individual may be nominated by more than one nominating authority and/or to more than one Academy.

With respect to the Congressional category, each Representative and each Senator is allowed to have at each of those academies at any one time five persons charged to his or her quota. There are three methods of nominating, and I use the competitive method. For each vacancy, ten nominations may be made on a strictly competitive basis. The competitive method provides that the nominees compete among themselves for final appointment determined by the admissions authorities. They take into consideration a nominee's academic record, extracurricular and athletic activities, physical aptitude, ACT and/or SAT scores, leadership ability, and medical qualifications. Such facets of an applicant's record are also considered during the nomination selection process. No person will be offered admission if he or she does not meet the physical standards of the Academy unless awarded a medical waiver. To assist me in this process, I am asking several community leaders to serve on a Service Academy Review Board. This Board will play a key role in helping me as I review the outstanding applicants. As part of my nomination process, qualified applicants will have an interview with this Board. My nominations will be submitted to the academies no later than December 31, 2007.

There are several steps you need to take in order to complete your nomination process; they are clearly outlined below. Enclosed you will find a packet of information which will assist you in beginning this process. My Academy Liaison on staff, Valerie Young, will be working on your file. You should always feel free to contact Mrs. Young in the Baton Rouge office at (225) 383-0331 or at Valerie_Young@vitter.senate.gov. The steps you need to complete your application are as follows:

1. Read the enclosed "Frequently Asked Questions" carefully. Pay particular attention to Section IV on that sheet which sets forth the basis for selection as one of my nominees.
2. Returned the completed application to the Baton Rouge office **no later than October 15, 2007**. My Review Board will use this information in its review process. Please retain any items collected until you are ready to submit the completed application packet.
3. If you haven't already done so, contact the academies you are interested in attending as soon as possible and make sure you begin a file with the admissions offices at those academies.
4. Fill out all application forms required by each of the academies to which you are applying. (Those are separate from and in addition to the enclosed application from my office.)

I want to emphasize, once again, how critical it is that all the information outlined above is sent to me by October 15, 2007. Without this information, our file will not be complete, and you will not be considered for a nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Vitter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "V".

David Vitter
United States Senate

DBV/vy
Enclosures