Congressman Neal visits Gateway to congratulate graduate

Huntington- After Gateway Regional High School said its farewell to the graduating class of 2017, the teachers and staff knew that there were a handful of students who would go on to do amazing things. One of these graduates was Montgomery native, Franky Tangredi. He graduated from Gateway with big dreams, and attending a military academy was on his mind from early in his high school career. Over the past 3 months, Tangredi has been accepted into the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, and West Point, a truly impressive accomplishment. On March 12, Congressman Richard Neal made his way to Gateway for a press conference where he would publicly announce Tangredi’s acceptance to the academies and decision to attend the Naval Academy. Family, friends, and former teachers were all in attendance.

Congressman Neal described the process to be considered for these prestigious United States’ military academies. It begins around the student’s sophomore year of high school, as it did for Tangredi. The student must be nominated by a Congressman (as Neal did for Franky). A nomination is based upon superb SAT scores, outstanding academic excellence throughout school, athletic ability, community service and being an overall well-rounded person. As Neal mentioned several times, Tangredi exemplifies all of these qualities. It is not much of a surprise that he was accepted into not one, but three of the academies.

Tangredi knew early on that he wanted to have a military career. He had attended what is known as Academy Day a while back, where he was able to hear from students currently enrolled in various military academies. It was there that Tangredi’s parents were able to see what he truly wanted to do with his life. When Franky’s Dad asked him, “What if you don’t make it?” Franky responded with, “I’ll make it.” Eventually, he did in fact make it, but not before a little trial and error.

Tangredi received a rejection letter from the Naval Academy during his senior year of high school, which for most would have been a major setback, but did not deter him in the slightest. Tangredi dreamed of going to the Naval Academy, which he would continue to work towards even after the initial rejection. Franky’s parents mentioned that he was incredibly persistent and that his mind stayed focused on the Naval Academy. Tangredi spent the year following high school completing a gap year at Greystone Prep School in Kerrville, Texas, a school that is part of Schreiner University. Greystone is known for its success in sending students off to the military academies, the main reason why Tangredi selected the school. At Greystone, Tangredi was able to better prepare himself for applying to the Naval Academy the second time around. When he did receive that long awaited acceptance letter, it was an amazing moment. “It’s even more worth it knowing that another year was put into the effort. That extra year made me appreciate it so much more, that when I finally got my acceptance letter, it was a surreal feeling.” Tangredi says that he was not the only one involved in the whole process, and he credits his teachers at Gateway with helping him to prepare academically for his future.

Gateway Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Hopson would agree with Tangredi, and is incredibly proud to know that Franky left Gateway with such incredible ability. “It reflects well on the preparations of all...
students of the Gateway Regional School District that Franky was able to be accepted into not just one, but three academies.”

As far as the future goes, Tangredi is looking forward to his next four years in the Naval Academy. While on campus, he plans on getting involved in organizations such as the Honor Concept Board, as well as other forms of leadership. He mentioned how important it will be to take any opportunity that is presented to him. Tangredi is also thinking about playing on the Club Soccer team to continue his love of the game that he played while at Gateway. After the Naval Academy, Franky’s goal is to be an officer in the Navy, and to one day become a Naval Aviator with the hopes of a long military career.

The Gateway community and those close to Franky Tangredi are incredibly proud of him and are highly anticipating all he will accomplish in his exceptionally bright future!

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Photos (top): Franky Tangredi (GRHS ’17) with his acceptance letters from the Naval Academy, Air Force Academy and West Point. (below): Franky with Congressman Richard Neal and faculty that he invited to press conference (left to right) Soccer Coach Tim Gamble; HS PE teacher Mike Mason; Congressman Richard Neal; Franky Tangredi; School Counselor Meghan Wasiak; Physics/Chemistry teacher Dan Shea; English teacher (retired) Rob Kleber.