



Service Academy Nomination  
Application Packet  
2016 – 2017



**Submission Deadline: November 1, 2016**

Congressman Filemon Vela  
333 Ebony Avenue  
Brownsville, Texas 78520  
Phone: 956-544-8352  
Fax: 956-280-5114

## **Congressman Filemon Vela Service Academy Nomination Checklist**

The following must be submitted to Congressman Vela's Brownsville District Office by November 1, 2016. **Incomplete applications may not be considered for nomination.**

- Application:** Completed and signed by applicant. Application can either be generated online at [vela.house.gov](http://vela.house.gov) or you may use the application attached to this packet. The application must be typed or legibly written.
- Official High School Transcript:** You must include an official high school transcript. Your class rank and GPA must be included on this transcript. Should your school not rank its students or provide GPAs, you must have the counselor or principal denote this on your transcript.
- Official SAT/ACT Scores:** You must include official copies of your SAT and/or ACT scores. In order to be considered for nomination you must have taken the SAT and/or ACT prior to November 2016 in order for the official scores to arrive by our November 1, 2016 deadline. ACT Code: 7715 SAT code: 7429
- Essay:** An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (500 words or less)
- Current Photo:** A current photo no larger than 3" x 2.5" of yourself with your name written on the back of it.
- Personal Recommendation Forms:** You must include 3 completed recommendation forms by counselors, principals, teachers, religious leaders, coaches, employers, or community leaders. Please do not have family members complete these forms. The forms needed are included within this nomination packet.
- Resume:** Your resume should include extracurricular activities, athletic participation, honors, awards and employment, if applicable.



SAT: Critical Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Composite \_\_\_\_\_

ACT: English \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Composite \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which academy you would like to attend; if you are interested in more than one academy, please rank them in order of your preference, first to last, with 1 being your highest preference.

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Air Force Academy                      \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Military Academy (West Point)

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Merchant Marine Academy                      \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Naval Academy

Name of hometown newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it okay to use your name in a press release after receiving a nomination or appointment?

Yes     No

**APPLICATION AGREEMENT:**

Please read the following paragraph before signing the application, as your signature indicates your agreement with the following statements. If you do not include your signature, your application will not be considered for nomination.

It is my sincere desire to attend a U.S. Service Academy, and I intend to pursue a vigorous academic course of study if appointed. I understand that attending a service academy also requires a minimum of five years of military service following graduation, and I fully commit to this responsibility. I am a U.S. Citizen, or will be by July 1 of the year I will attend the Academy. I will be at least 17 years, but not yet 23 years of age, on July 1 of the year I attend the Academy. I am not married. I am not pregnant, nor do I have any child support obligations. I am a legal resident of the 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas.

I certify that the information I have provided in the application packet is accurate. Any changes to this information will be reported immediately.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Congressman Filemon Vela**  
**Personal Recommendation Form**  
**Application for Nomination to a U.S. Service Academy**  
**2016-2017**

*To be completed by a teacher, school counselor/principal, religious leader, community leader, or employer. Family members may not complete Personal Recommendation Forms.*

**Note to Applicant: You must turn in THREE completed Personal Recommendation Forms with your packet. Your packet may be considered incomplete if these are not included.**

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Name of Applicant            (Last)                      (First)                      (Middle)

The person named above is applying for a nomination to a United States Service Academy through Congressman Filemon Vela's office. The service academies provide a college education and training for students to become commissioned officers in the Armed Forces following graduation. The questions below are designed to provide the information necessary to select the best qualified candidates. Each student must submit three Personal Recommendation Forms, along with a complete application packet, by November 1, 2016. Please keep this deadline in mind as you return this form to the applicant. Additional pages or letters of recommendation will be accepted, but are not required and will not be accepted as a substitute for this completed form.

1.        How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
  
2.        Describe the applicant's talents, strengths, and leadership qualities.
  
3.        How does the applicant handle stressful and challenging situations? Has the applicant encountered failure and how did he/she manage the situation?
  
4.        Are you aware of any personal circumstances that could affect the applicant's performance at the service academy?
  
5.        Describe the applicant's relationship with his/her peer group? Does he/she have the ability to get along well with others?
  
6.        How could this applicant improve in order to rise to the challenges presented by the service academy?

Name (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# Congressman Filemon Vela

## Additional Information

### SAT and ACT Test Dates

Standardized test scores are important elements of your application. In order for your application to be considered complete, you must either send an official copy of your scores or have the testing centers send your scores to Congressman Vela's office.

\*Note: All test scores must be postmarked by November 1, 2016. Make note of the strict registration deadlines for taking these tests.

### Service Academy Contact Information

If you have not already done so, you should open a pre-candidate file with the service academies you desire to attend. To obtain catalogs and other specific information on the academies, contact them directly.

#### **U.S. Air Force Academy**

Admissions Office  
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5651  
(800) 443-9266  
[www.usafa.edu](http://www.usafa.edu)

#### **U.S. Military Academy**

Admissions Office  
606 Thayer Road  
West Point, NY 10996-1797  
(800) 822-2769  
[www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu)

#### **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**

Admissions Office  
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699  
(866) 546-4778  
[www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

#### **U.S. Naval Academy**

USNA Admissions Office  
117 Decatur Road  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018  
(888) 249-7707  
[www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu)

NOTE: Congressional nominations are no longer required (nor are they submitted) for the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA). If you are interested in attending the Coast Guard Academy, contact the academy directly at:

#### **U.S. Coast Guard Academy**

Admissions Office  
New London, CT 06320-4195  
(203) 444-8501  
[www.uscga.edu](http://www.uscga.edu)