

November 10, 2009

Major General (Ret) Crowley and the Members of the West Point Society of New Jersey,

I wanted to thank you personally for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award I received from your organization. This award ended up changing my life and college plans. When I was notified of this award, I had already been gearing my interest towards a service academy. At this point, I was focused on the Naval Academy and Coast Guard; having grown up on the Barnegat Bay and Shore area. That one day in May, the day I made my first visit to West Point, ended up changing my outlook on my college choices. Until then, a career in the Army had not been a consideration. However, after receiving my award I was given a tour of the academy, and spent a lot of time talking to a cadet that gave me an insight as to the opportunities that would be available to me. I came home and researched the Army and the academy. Immediately I opened a candidate file and began the process.

Shortly after this, I made a trip out to a large track meet at Princeton University. At that time, I sought out Coach Engle and while I had planned on spending time with several different coaches that day, I found myself for the majority of day with Coach Engle and his staff. They introduced me to many cadets that day and they told me about life at the academy. From here on in, it was now not a "college choice" however a "top college choice". I truly did start thinking that an Army career and an education at West Point is exactly what I had been looking for. I continued communications with Coach Engle throughout the summer, and continued with the long intensive application process; including my applications to the two Senators and Congressman. I had told my parents that I wanted to do this process on my own, stating "If this is meant for me, I will finish it in a timely manner".

September brought the start of my senior year, and while my classmates were running around trying to decide where they wanted to apply to college, my applications were almost complete. Mid- September, I was invited by Coach Engle to come out to West Point for an Official athletic visit. I arrived late Thursday afternoon and left Saturday afternoon after attending the Army/Ball State football game (my parents were also invited to the game also). During this time, I went to classes with a cadet, attended team practices and spoke with so many different people. At the end of the weekend, on the way home, I knew my decision had been made, and West Point was now my Number One College Choice. At this point my application was almost complete, so I put the final touches on my essays and submitted everything to West Point Admissions. My fate was now in their hands.

Mr. Crowley came to my High School a week later to present a plaque at awards night to me on behalf of your organization. The speech that he gave that evening on my behalf could not have been more touching and had to be one of my most proud moments to date (along with my parents). It again reinforced to me that West Point is the place for me. A few weeks after this, I made another spontaneous trip to West Point to cheer on the Cross Country team to a victory against Navy!! The excitement and pride I felt can not be put into words.

This story has happy ending. Last week, I received a letter from the admissions board of West Point stating that I now had a Letter of Assurance that I would be a part of the class of 2014, with the stipulation that I pass my CFA exam and also receive a nomination. I had my interviews with Senator

Menendez and Senator as well as Congressman Adler this week. The interviews seemed to go well, however, once again, as you all know, it is now time for the "waiting game" and a lot of patience.

I would like to thank you all for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award. I can honestly say that this did make a tremendous difference in my life, and I am truly grateful. I hope that in the future that I, as well as my parents, will have the opportunity to thank all you personally. I hope that someday I can inspire a young high school student the way I was. Again, thank you very much.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meagan Brosnan". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Meagan Brosnan

2010 Monsignor Donovan Graduate

2014 Prospective Cadet of USMA

PS:

GO ARMY BEAT NAVY