

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2008 Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional.

We have 46 students participating. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Jessica Pester of Millburn High School for her work "Waiting." Second Place was awarded to Rebecca Bailey from West Morris Mendham High School for her work "Mark." Third Place was awarded to Kristen Capote from Parsippany Christian School for her work "Digital Camera."

I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official record.

Boonton High School: Cathy Yang's "Self Portrait" (Honorable Mention); Elyssa Hunziker's "When I was Seventeen"; Jennifer Vasta's "The Gift"; Steve McKeown's "Self Portrait."

Chatham High School: Anna Zamecka's "Charcoal Still Life"; Grace Oakley's "Global Fabric"; Michelle Mruk's "Miniature Eggplants and Egg."

Livingston High School: Jordana Geller's "Timelessness"; Kelly Keltos "Carnival"; Victor Xia's "Steel"; Wei Li Cheng's "Vanilla."

Madison High School: Alexandra Coultas "The Luke Miller House"; Frank Wulff, III's "Valor";

Frederick Greis "Elaine"; Kimberly Smith's "He loves me, He loves me not."

Millburn High School: Kelly Blumenthal's "Venetian Landscape"; Jessica Pester's "Waiting" (First Place); Jacqueline San Filippo's "Riding Shadows."

Montville High School: Christine Riccio's "Summer"; Grace Lee's "Spring Flowers"; Jennifer Eishingrelo's "Montville Farmer"; Michael Johnston's "Book Smart."

Morris Knolls High School: Elizabeth Westerman's "Toy Trains"; Liana Kelly's "A Brighter Life"; Jennifer Engleson's "Sunburnt Lawn"; Amanda Wilson's "Inside My Head."

Mount Olive High School: Kristen Cignavitch's "Puzzle Portrait"; Laura Smith's "The Approach"; Olga Kazakova's "Belarus in America"; Rachel Tenenbaum's "Photography."

Parsippany Christian School: Austin Dimare's "Austin Splendor"; Kristen Capote's "Digital Camera" (Third Place); Samantha Dahl's "Go Fish."

Ridge High School: Christina Stillwaggon's "P.M.S."; Frankie Cocuzza's "Untitled #3"; Lara Charavantes' "Purificacao" (Honorable Mention); Sojin Ouh's "Leftovers."

Roxbury High School: Christian Peslak's "Conscious Man"; Sam Knopka's "Self Portrait"; Bret Koblyka's "Self Portrait" (Honorable Mention); Jacob Mandel's "The Artist's Mindset."

Watchung Hills High School: Kim Delli Paoli's "My Vacation."

West Morris Mendham High School: Caitlin Aromando's "Intensity"; Elisa Cecere's "Elephant Eye";

Olivia Sebesky's "Jon"; Rebecca Bailey's "Mark" (Second Place).

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of fellow Americans walk through that corridor and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

HONORING BRETT PENNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett Penne of Parkville, Missouri. Brett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett Penne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SCIENCE EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 366, expressing the sense of Congress that increasing American capabilities in science, mathematics, and technology education should be a national priority.

Two years ago, a National Academies panel led by Norm Augustine produced the "Rising

Above the Gathering Storm" report, highlighting the critical state of our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce.

Although this Congress passed America COMPETES Act last year, much more remains to be done to ensure our Nation is prepared to compete in the global economy in the 21st century. And we simply will not be able to compete if we cannot produce a workforce that excels in STEM fields.

We have barely begun to turn the page in meeting our workforce and innovation demands. I am pleased that the resolution provides us the opportunity to raise awareness of this dire situation. Consider that:

We still graduate half the number of physicists that we did in 1956—before Sputnik spurred our last "great awakening" in science and engineering.

One-third to half of those we graduate with science and engineering degrees are foreign students; and most of them will return to their home countries rather than applying their skills in the U.S.

U.S. patents are down and our companies are spending more on tort legislation than on research and development.

Tests still show that one-third of U.S. students lack the competency to perform the most basic mathematical computations.

Half of the money we made available for grants for college students in STEM fields is going unused.

Our edge in aerospace research is in danger. Our historic prominence in automobiles and electronics manufacturing has long since eroded; we cannot afford to lose our aerospace leadership.

Above all else, I worry about our staggering \$9 trillion debt and \$54 trillion unfunded liability. This debt is being fueled by uncontrollable entitlement program growth—which has grown from one-third of the federal budget in 1960 to over two-thirds today.

This is critically important to our competitiveness because, without reforming entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and tax policy, we simply won't have the resources to prepare our workforce to compete or to make the necessary investments in research.

For the past year, Congressman JIM COOPER, a Democrat from Tennessee, and I have been working closely together on the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission Act. It has since garnered nearly 100 bipartisan cosponsors. Modeled after the base-closing process, the bill would create a bipartisan 16-member commission to review entitlement spending, tax policy, debt, and all other Federal spending.

The commission will look beyond the Beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 town meetings—one in each of the Nation's Federal Reserve districts—over the span of 12 months in order to hear directly from the American people. And just like the base-closing process, the SAFE Commission Act would require and up-or-down vote on the commission's proposal—ensuring that Congress finally considered a comprehensive solution to this great challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. It is yet another reminder that the next president and Congress must make both entitlement reform and American competitiveness top priorities.