

Blood is essential for breeding of the vector mosquitoes for the Zika Virus and the Aedes Aegypti is seeking an opportunity that keeps it near people.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to be alarmed, but we should be preparing to do what we can to prevent and mitigate the Zika Virus in communities around the nation.

We know that 33 states have one or both of the vector mosquitoes.

It is anticipated that the Americas including the United States can expect 4 million Zika Virus cases in the next four months and to date there are over a million cases in Brazil.

The most serious outcome of the Zika Virus exposure is birth defects that can occur during pregnancy if the mother is exposed to the Zika Virus.

The virus is believed to invade the central nervous system of the developing baby and inhibit brain development, which can result in: still births; microcephaly; the rate for the Zika Virus exposure far exceeds that number.

Microcephaly is brain underdevelopment either at birth or the brain failing to develop properly after birth, which can cause: difficulty walking; difficulty hearing; and difficulty with speech.

There are no tests to detect the virus and there is no vaccine or cure.

If we do not act—the public reaction to Ebola will seem tame compared to how the public might react to the arrival of mosquitoes transmitting the Zika Virus.

I call on my colleagues to pass the President's request for the \$1.9 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations.

If you are not sure whether the Zika Virus is a potential problem in your districts, I challenge you to hold a meeting like the one I held in Houston on March 10, to become informed.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF
THE D.C. CONGRESSIONAL ART
COMPETITION COMMITTEE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing not only our outstanding high school artists in the District of Columbia who participated in this year's Congressional Art Competition, but also the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee which made this year's competition a success.

Since its inception in 1982, the Congressional Art Competition has encouraged the artistic talents of high school students from across the country. This year my office received 135 pieces of artwork from students in grades 8 through 12 from 24 public, charter, and private schools in the District, the largest number of D.C. schools, that have ever participated in this annual art competition.

But the untold story of the Congressional Art Competition is of the volunteers whose time and expertise are responsible for executing the entire competition. Here in the District of Columbia, this year's competition would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee:

THOMAS ATKINS, OWNER, TERA GALLERY

Mr. Atkins, a former staff member whose many duties included the annual art competition, generously continues to serve as an advisor who assists wherever he is needed.

WILLIAM BROWER, OWNER, JBV PRODUCTION

Mr. Brower provided the valuable services of setting up the venue for the reception, as well as clean up at the end of the evening.

YAIDA FORD, ATTORNEY AT LAW, FORD LAW FIRM

Ms. Ford did a tremendous amount of outreach to secure art supply donations and prizes for all of our student participants, including an iPad for the second place winner.

She also dedicated her own time to volunteer for day-of operations at the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Reception.

TIFFANI GOMEZ, SALES ASSOCIATE, BLICK ART SUPPLIES

Ms. Gomez is one of the most passionate members of the committee. She helped secure art portfolios for student artwork, and helped with day-of operations at the reception.

ERIC KOKUMA, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES, MILITARY OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY; JENNIFER LITTELL, PROGRAM LEAD, CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Mr. Kokuma and Ms. Littrell were in charge of entertainment for the reception, and recruited Ward 1 ANC Commissioner Frank Agbro to perform with his family jazz band.

DONNELL LEWIS, PRESIDENT, ONE CREATIVE SOURCE

Mr. Lewis is the generous and enormously capable longtime chairman of the committee.

CAMILO MANJARRES, CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW,
CONGRESSWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Mr. Manjarres has worked diligently to facilitate committee meetings and logistics for our annual art competition, and expanded the competition's community outreach to increase participation.

PATRICIA MITCHEL, SYSTEMS ANALYST, AMTRAK

Ms. Mitchel has been a very active member of the committee. She has worked tirelessly to secure food and drink donations for our reception, including cupcakes from Georgetown Cupcakes and food from &pizza.

ZOMA WALLACE, CURATOR AND ART BANK COORDINATOR, D.C. COMMISSION ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Ms. Wallace took on the responsibility for the day-of logistics, and essentially curated the competition to make sure that all of the student art was strategically placed and easy for participants to review. She also served as a juror, and helped select this year's winners.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing each member of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee for their indispensable work in this year's competition, and I take this opportunity to again thank the student artists for submitting such wonderful work.