

He is truly outstanding among contemporary artists. His versatility, the thoroughness of his training, and the depth of his artistic sensibility are all part of his amazing talent. Born in Rapid City, South Dakota, to sculptor Ivan Houser, who was First Assistant to Gutzon Borglum in carving Mount Rushmore, we know that part of his talents were inherited. However, John has continually developed his God-given talents to become an accomplished painter and sculptor.

After moving to Oregon, John began sculpting and painting at the age of twelve. John Houser's entire life has been associated with art and sculpture. At age fifteen, he became the youngest active member in the history of the Oregon Society of Artists. He graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, with a double major in natural science and art. He continued his formal art education with a graduate Alumni Fellowship to UCLA, where he received the Elizabeth T. Greenshields Award for independent European studies. He studied in Spain and Italy where he learned from the Florentine painter Pietro Annigoni and American sculptor Avard Fairbanks. Upon his return to the U.S., John studied with Classicist painter, R.H. Ives Gammel in Boston and at Harvard University in anatomy.

His career has taken him across Europe and the United States from the eastern seaboard to the west coast. In order to realistically portray the human condition through his subjects, he has lived and worked alongside diverse groups such as Gullah Blacks of South Carolina, Italian street fakirs, hippies, migrant workers, Gypsies, and Native Americans. John has also traveled extensively in Mexico and the Southwestern U.S., sculpting the Pueblo, Seri, Lacandon, Tarahumara, and Huichol Indians. He has been the subject of several television documentaries and his work has been featured in Southwest Art, American Artist, Texas Monthly, ABC (Spain), Art Talk, Connoisseur, Palette Talk, The Artists' Magazine, Blanco y Negro (Spain), Texas Highways, Siempre!, Presencia de México, and Analysis (Mexico), and any more. His work is in private and public collections all around the world including The U.S. Library of Congress and The University of Texas at El Paso.

John's work has been featured in several national and international exhibitions. These include the National Academy of Western Art Exhibition and Sale in Oklahoma City, the National Sculpture Society, the Royal Danish Haveselskab in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Kermezaar Exhibition in El Paso, and the Western Heritage Show and Sale in Houston, Texas. He has also been featured in an exhibit by the Brand Library and Art Galleries of Glendale, California.

Throughout his career, John has received numerous awards and honors for his artistic endeavors. He is the honorary artist-in-residence for the Radford School in El Paso. In 1984 John won the Martin Luman winter Award from the Salmagundi Club in New York City for the bronze Barranca Overlook. Also in 1984, this bronze also garnered him the Council of American Artist Societies Award from the Grand National Exhibition of the American Artist Professional League in New York City. During 1986 at their 5th Annual Sculpture & Open Photography Exhibition in New York City, the Salmagundi Club further honored John with the Elliot Liskin Award for the sculpture Desert

Encounter. In 1987 at their 10th Annual Art Exhibition in New York City, the Salmagundi Club honored John with the Oil Pastel Association Award for Soft Pastel. In 1988, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Lewis and Clark College. In 1992, He won Grand National Prize in a photo essay contest with "The Sandimune Years." John won the Purchase Award for "Realism Up Close" in Santa Teresa, New Mexico in 1993.

John Houser is Sculptor and Director for the XII Travelers Memorial of the Southwest, a revitalization project for El Paso, Texas. His ideas for this project will not only enhance the revitalization of downtown El Paso but will give our city a unique identity. The Travelers Memorial of the Southwest celebrates the history and diversity of the region with a series of twelve twice-life-sized bronzes.

I admire John Houser for his talent, dedication, and achievements in the art world. I also am proud to recognize him here today for his remarkable talent and his continued contributions to El Paso.

#### FULLANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Fullana Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much from their food drive for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the childrens' example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

#### IN HONOR OF LISA NAFTZGER

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Naftzger, an accomplished poet, National Young Leaders Conference participant, and a student at Shiloh Senior High School in Parma, OH.

Lisa has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, this week. She is among 350 outstanding National Scholars from across the country who are participating in a unique leadership development program. Since the theme of the conference is The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today, Lisa is taking advantage of the opportunity to interact with key leaders and news makers from the three branches of government, the media, and the diplomatic corps.

This week she is also participating in a number of leadership skill-building activities such as a Model Congress and role-playing the President, members of the cabinet and Members of Congress. The conference activities get young people on the right track to achieving their full leadership potential. I am certain that Lisa will not only gain knowledge and experience here, but that she will also leave with a sense of accomplishment and an increased ability to face the challenges of the future.

In addition to honoring Lisa for her achievements, I would also like to commend to your attention the following poem that she has written titled "The Unknown Soldier."

#### THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By Lisa Naftzger, Shiloh Jr. High, April 1, 1997

So much strength and courage it certainly takes,  
To fight for your country with so much at stake.  
And this Unknown Soldier, that's just what he's done,  
For my admiration he's certainly won.  
So, to represent Shiloh and lay down the wreath,  
To honor the soldier who is now at peace,  
Would be the greatest honor I've ever known.  
I know how much gratitude needs to be shown.  
For the Unknown Soldier should certainly be,  
Honored from now to eternity.

#### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS OSMER

##### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express both my appreciation and the appreciation of the people of Santa Cruz County for the leadership of Dennis Osmer on the Watsonville City Council. Dennis' term ended at the close of 1998.

Dennis was steeped in the value of community service from the time he first drew breath in 1957. His grandmother Lois served on the Pajaro School Board in Watsonville, CA. His father Frank was Watsonville's police chief for 15 years, and was elected to the city council upon retirement. Dennis fondly remembers how his mother Noreen imbued him with the importance of charity and service to the community.

Dennis attended local schools, graduating from Watsonville High School and attending University of California, Santa Cruz. He married Laurie Lynch in 1977 and they have two children, Brendan and Doreen. Dennis works as program director of Energy Services, a non-profit agency that assists low-income families with weatherization and energy bills.

When Dennis was first elected to the Watsonville City Council in 1987, his principal concern was drug abuse prevention. By addressing the issue in a variety of ways; funding youth programs, law enforcement, and job creation, the problem has been alleviated to some extent, but Dennis' efforts continued. Reelected to serve on the city council, Dennis was then appointed mayor. Dennis also worked on developing a long-range plan for the Pajaro River through cooperation with regional governmental entities. In addition to his

duties as mayor, Dennis served as vice president of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. He has also served as the chairman of the City Recycling Committee and as a member of the City Planning Commission.

I know Dennis Osmer to be a generous man with his time and his attention to the needs of the community. I am sure he will continue to make his contribution. I look forward to working with him in the future.

**RECOGNITION OF ARTIST JOSÉ CISNEROS INDUCTED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS EL PASO ARTISTS' HALL OF FAME**

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize my fellow El Pasoan, Mr. José Cisneros, as a recent inductee to the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame. Mr. Cisneros was honored this past November in El Paso, Texas.

José has lived in El Paso since the 1930's and has led an amazing life. He was born in Villa Ocampo, Durango, Mexico, on April 18, 1910. He grew up during the Mexican revolution, and his family moved often in search of work. With his great will and determination, José taught himself how to read and write. In addition, he also taught himself to paint, draw, and do calligraphy. In 1925, he moved to Ciudad Juarez where he enrolled in the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso and began learning English. In 1927, José emigrated to the United States, although he maintained a dual residence while caring for his declining parents. Unfortunately, his family did not encourage his budding artistic talent, calling them monitos, or worthless doodles. However, José persevered and began entering his art into Mexican journals during the 1930's. In 1939, he met Vicenta Madero, who later became his wife. Together, they raised a family of five daughters and one niece. José became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1948. Amazingly enough, José Cisneros is color-blind and for many years depended on his wife, who passed away in 1994, to mix colors for him. Today, José's daughters mix his colors.

José prides himself in the preservation of the history of the Southwest through his work. The University of Texas System Board of Regents selected him as the 1969 laureate for the Dobie Paisano Fellowship, the first artist to ever receive the award. The Western Writers of America presented him with the Owen Wister Award, named in tribute of the author of the "Virginian", in 1997. In April 1998, he was declared a living legend by Westerners International, the highest honor given by this worldwide organization of people enamored of the American West. During the Spring of 1998, the State of Texas held a reception and dinner in José's honor. He is also a December 1998 recipient of the University of Alcalá's medal for his lifetime contribution to the history of Spain in the New World. Among his honors, José cherishes his election to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center and the El Paso Historical Society's Hall of

Honor. Other accolades include being knighted by King Juan Carlos I of Spain and induction as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher. José has also received the Wrangler Award for Best Book Art and the Westerners International Best Book Award for artistic research and detail.

His paintings are in collections all around the world including the Palace of the Governors Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Texas. His talents can be seen year round in his "hundred horsemen" which line the walls of the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP) Library. Former U.S. President George Bush and Texas Governor George W. Bush also have collections of Cisneros's paintings.

José's artwork has been in several juried art competitions including Hidalgo County Historical Museum in Edinburgh, Texas, and the University of the Pacific. His artwork has also appeared in competitions of the Centennial Museum at UTEP and the El Paso Museum of Art.

José's artwork has also appeared in several exhibitions beginning with the El Paso Public Library and the Centro Escolar Benito Juarez in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1938. His artwork received widespread recognition from his exhibit at a Western Heritage Association annual meeting in 1968. José also designed the Seal for Texas Western College and modified it when the college changed its name to UTEP. He also designed the logo for the Western Heritage Association.

José has been featured in books and periodicals such as his own "Risers Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands" (Texas Western Press, 1984) and "José Cisneros: An Artist's Journey" by John O. West (Texas Western Press, 1993). His artwork was recently collected in "Borderlands—The Heritage of the Lower Rio Grande through the Art of José Cisneros" by Felix D. Almaraz Jr., Hubert J. Miller, Tom Fort, and Rachel Freyman (Hidalgo County [Texas] Historical Society, 1998).

José is a true El Pasoan and has dedicated his life and talents to preserving the Southwest. In return for the generosity of the El Pasoans who consider his work priceless, he donates many of his works to El Paso schools, churches, and charities.

José Cisneros, believes that history is alive and beautiful, he says that he will continue to do the same thing he has done all his life—paint horses until the day he dies.

For his incredible talents and contributions to El Paso, I recognize and congratulate José Cisneros as a recent inductee of the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame.

**KRUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HON. BOB SCHAFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Kruse Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication

has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to 19 needy families in Colorado. That the Kruse Parent Teacher Organization produced so much from their food drive for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let this example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

**AIR QUALITY STANDARDS COALITION LOBBYING FOR POOR AIR QUALITY**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the following excerpts from an article written by Bill McAllister that appeared in the Washington Post on March 4, 1999. The article, "How Clean Air Bit The Dust," exposes yet another environmental injustice. With more and more sound scientific evidence showing correlations between poor air quality and increased incidence of diseases and environmental degradation it is sad to see that some misguided interests asserts that "it's standard stuff" to fight for the right to pollute our Nation's air. Is it "standard stuff" to increase the incidence of childhood asthma and lung cancer? The article states that some "fretted that their opposition might rile EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner." Now they can worry about riling Congress. Read on.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 4, 1999]

HOW CLEAN AIR BIT THE DUST

(By Bill McAllister)

What happens when a big business coalition closes the door and plots strategy? Some enviros recently got a copy of notes of a Jan. 21 meeting of the Air Quality Standards Coalition and were appalled by what they saw through a rare window into the world of business lobbyists.

The lobbyists' bravado and scheming had Philip E. Clapp, president of the National Environmental Trust, and John Passacantando, executive director of Ozone Action, so angry they demanded that Thomas R. Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute, which hosted the meeting, repudiate the group.

In the meeting, the lobbyists chortled over their successful strategy of rounding up governors, local officials and congressional Democrats to oppose a "haze rule" that the Environmental Protection Agency was promoting to cut pollution in national parks.

"We're delighted we're in place with this coalition," said a representative of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, who was also unnamed. "Maybe we need to rename it. How about just drop the word 'standards' and call it 'the Air Quality Coalition.'"

Others fretted that their opposition might rile EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "We don't want Browner to own this thing," said one. "The key is keeping it out of Carol Browner's bailiwick," said another.

The meeting's big decision: to plan a retreat to discuss strategy. "We're going to help our friends on the Hill, Bring in key Hill staff to work with us," one remarked.

The lobbyists plotted tapping into corporate foundation that could fund pollution