

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS,  
FROM 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DIS-  
TRICT OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

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 to raise young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 37 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2007 Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

We have 37 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 Leigh Cignavitch from Mount Olive High School for her work entitled "Core and Rind." Second place was awarded to Lauren Novotny from Montville High School for her work entitled "Lauren in Fauvist Forest." Third place was awarded to Jeff Koroski from Roxbury High School for his work entitled "The Time, The Tremulant, The Torrent."

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.

Home schooled: Phyllis Schlafly's "Roses in the Mirror."

Boonton High School: Loryn Britton's "Untitled;" Sarah LaPlaca's "Portrait of Brendon" (honorable mention), Jennifer Hitching's "Self in still-life" (honorable mention), Caitlyn Harvey's "Self Portrait" (honorable mention).

Bridgewater-Raritan High School: Allison Boucher's "Lady of the Flies" (honorable mention).

Dover High School: Matthew Burbridge's "Hurd Park."

Livingston High School: Ellina Ryzhik's "My Bike;" Arielle Rothbard's "Untitled;" Linda Innemee's "The Dragon Flies."

Madison High School: Samantha Sweet's "My fundamentals;" Kayleigh Martin's "Warmth;" Marissa Rich's "AVERY" (honorable mention), Sharela Banfield's "Hands, Feet, & Polish" (honorable mention).

Millburn High School: Jessica Pester's "Easy Chair;" Jacqueline San Filippo's "Blue Chair;" Ann Trocchia's "Cala Lily."

Montville High School: Jennifer Eishingdrelo's "Monday Morning;" Stefani Colonnelli's "Untitled;" John Lake, Jr.'s "Self Deception."

Morris Knolls High School: Maxine Kramer's "MONEY;" Davendra Sukha's "Assorted Nuts;" Charles Dooman's "An Uncertain Future;" Stephanie Grawehr's "reading by candlelight."

Mount Olive High School: Rebecca Weiss's "A Memoir to Gettysburg."

Pequanock High School: Joel Lumpkin's "Headless Self Portrait;" Lauren Porochniak's "Spring Leaves."

Ridge High School: Lindsay Abken's "An Icon;" Rebecca Goldberg's "L'Orange Blue;"

Angela Singer's "Garden Still life;" Christina Roros' "Knobby Knees & Dollish Dimples."

Roxbury High School: Lauren Poggi's "SUB-URBIA;" Julia Biczak's "Self Portrait;" Chelsea Austin's "JUDE ARCHER."

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. Every time a vote is called, I walk through that corridor and am 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.

TAIWAN APPLIES TO THE WORLD  
HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, as the World Health Assembly prepares to meet in Geneva this May, Taiwan is applying to the World Health Organization as a member under the name "Taiwan."

For years, Taiwan has been excluded from the activities of the World Health Organization; thus the health rights of the 23 million Taiwan people have not been represented. Taiwan paid high prices for the enterovirus outbreak in 1998 and SARS in 2003; Taiwan should not be left out of the global disease prevention network.

The United States government has always encouraged Taiwan to seek meaningful participation in international organizations and if Taiwan were barred from World Health Organization activities, opportunities for Taiwan's government and people to make contributions to world health affairs would be severely impeded.

I therefore urge my colleagues to speak up for Taiwan's right to participate in the activities of the World Health Organization. Fighting disease is a worldwide issue; no country or people should be excluded from WHO's activities due to political considerations.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. As you know May is designated as APA Heritage Month, and this year's theme is "Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans." One of the central challenges is the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

I serve as the Immigration Task Force Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). The caucus includes members who are of Asian Pacific descent and those who represent Congressional

Districts with significant APA populations, like the First District of Hawaii.

The Immigration Task Force is CAPAC's main voice on this important and timely issue. Right now, APAs face an immigration backlog that has forced many families to live for years apart from their loved ones. For example, Filipinos must wait 23 years before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) even examines their applications for a brother or sister from the Philippines. Furthermore, 1.5 million Asians live in the U.S. as undocumented immigrants. They live in the shadows without access to basic services, and are vulnerable to exploitation.

As Task Force Chairman, I have made it a priority for CAPAC to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform. True immigration reform not only helps us secure our borders, but addresses the issues of family reunification and earned legalization for undocumented immigrants. With that concern, I cosponsored H.R. 1645, the "Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy (STRIVE) Act of 2007," and I am working now to get members of CAPAC to support this bill.

The "STRIVE Act" would help eliminate the family backlog by no longer counting spouses and minor children of naturalized citizens against the worldwide cap on family-based immigration. That means remaining visas can reduce the backlog for the other classes of family-based immigrants. Such a move not only serves as a humane gesture, but upholds our core family values.

The "STRIVE Act" also addresses the concerns of the undocumented immigrants, providing for earned legalization, which means that people would be allowed to emerge from the shadows. Illegal immigrants would have to pay fines and back taxes, pass criminal background checks, and meet English and civics learning requirements. Contrary to the rhetoric, these immigrants would not jump ahead of those who have pending legal visa applications, but would instead have to wait their turn. Furthermore, they would not count against either the family-based or employment-based immigration caps.

While not perfect, the "STRIVE Act" is an excellent start to solving the immigration reform problem. As we celebrate the contributions of APAs to the nation, we must rededicate ourselves to a new direction; to meet the challenges faced by APA families. That is how we open the door to the American dream to all Americans.

HONORING THE MEMORY AND  
SERVICE OF HARRY LEON WILSON

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and service of PFC Harry Leon Wilson, who is the only known African-American to be a member of the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division during the Korean War, where he was taken as a prisoner of war on November 27, 1950 and died in February 8, 1951 while in prison.

Harry Leon Wilson is also the only known African-American POW from Carter County,

Tennessee to die in a Korean prisoner of war camp.

Private Wilson was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, The United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, selfless service, and great sacrifice of PVT Harry Leon Wilson.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY  
MATTESON-PARRISH

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and outstanding advocate for higher education, Mrs. Mary Matteson-Parrish. Mrs. Matteson-Parrish served on the North Harris Montgomery Community College District (NHMCCD) Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2005. During her tenure she served as Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Audit Committee Chair.

While on the Board of Trustees, Mary co-chaired the citizen's committee which worked tirelessly to conduct a successful petition drive and election campaign that permitted the Conroe Independent School District to join NHMCCD in 1991 thus creating higher education opportunities for thousands of Montgomery County students and workers. In addition, Mrs. Matteson-Parrish's commitment to improving access and enhancing the educational opportunities for citizens led to the growth of the North Harris Montgomery College District from 6 to 11 independent school districts and the expansion of services and facilities from three campuses to five comprehensive colleges: North Harris College, Kingwood College, Tomball College, Montgomery College and Cy-Fair College.

This week Montgomery College will name its art gallery the Mary Matteson-Parrish Art Gallery in testimony of the community's appreciation and respect for Mary's dedication to and leadership in providing high quality educational opportunities for the citizens of Montgomery County and the entire Eighth District of Texas.

I join with these communities in honoring this outstanding leader and in applauding her work in expanding educational opportunities to all who seek to learn.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA  
DIACO

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Diaco, who is a distinguished and devoted nurse.

According to her colleagues, Donna Diaco is an outstanding member of the nursing staff at Desert Springs Hospital. Donna is a constant

role model in her work in the Intensive Care Unit and always expresses compassion and care for her patients as well as her co-workers. This has earned her the respect and esteem of her colleagues and patients alike. Over the course of her 25-year nursing career, Donna has become an impassioned advocate for her patients and colleagues. Her hard work is complemented by her optimistic ability to find the silver lining in every cloud.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donna Diaco for her service in the Intensive Care Unit at Desert Springs Hospital and the community. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Donna for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

CONGRATULATIONS MARJORIE  
(GIGI) KELAHER

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marjorie Kelaher on the occasion of her retirement from the position of Deputy Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, which became effective as of May 1, 2007.

For over 25 years, Gigi Kelaher has worked for the House of Representatives in a number of different roles. Like many before her, Gigi got her start on Capitol Hill as an intern. Although many young people choose to leave the Hill once their internship has concluded, Gigi found a home in these halls. Though she was in the earliest stages of her career, her work in the fall of 1978 for Congressman Silvio O. Conte (R-MA) would be the beginning of a lifetime of public service.

Following her graduation from Villanova University in 1979, Gigi returned to Capitol Hill and became a full-time employee for Congressman Conte, the Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Committee. She remained in his office in several different capacities until the Congressman's death in 1991. In September of that year, Gigi became the Federal Agency Coordinator for the White House Conference on Aging under President George H. W. Bush, before joining the office of former Congressman Peter I. Blute (R-MA) in 1993.

If her early career enabled her to serve a single Member at a time, Gigi soon discovered a way to serve every Member of Congress—by joining the Office of the Clerk of the House. In 1995, she began her position as Chief of Legislative Operations with the Clerk. In that position, Gigi managed a staff of twenty who supported day-to-day House Floor operations. She continued to build upon her experience in the Clerk's office, and was appointed Assistant Clerk of the House in December 2003. Her duties included the operations and planning of a 250-person organization responsible for the administration of the legislative processes of the House. In April 2006, Gigi was promoted to Deputy Clerk, where she continued to monitor Floor operations and administration for the Clerk's organization. This month, Gigi will retire from her position to devote more time to her family in Holyoke, Massachusetts. While

she will be missed terribly, I admire the commitment to her family that led to Gigi's decision to retire. After so many years serving the public, it is no surprise that she is once again putting the needs of others first.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Gigi Kelaher for her years of public service and devotion to the House of Representatives. Without the hard work of dedicated staff like Gigi, the ability of Members of Congress to represent the American public would suffer tremendously. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her assistance over the years, and in wishing her the best now, and in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF AS-  
TRONAUT WALTER M. "WALLY"  
SCHIRRA

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of one of our great space pioneers, Walter M. "Wally" Schirra.

Schirra was one of the original seven Mercury Astronauts and the only Astronaut to fly in all three of the earliest manned space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. During one of his missions, Schirra conducted the first rendezvous of manned spacecraft in orbit, considered one of the most challenging tasks in space flight at the time.

Schirra was a great astronaut and a great American. What many of my colleagues may not realize is that Schirra became an active businessman and citizen in Colorado after retiring from the space program. I and my fellow Coloradans will miss him. For the benefit of my colleagues, I have attached an article from the Rocky Mountain News about Schirra's impact in Colorado.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 4, 2007]

ASTRONAUT LEFT MARK ON STATE

(By John C. Ensslin, Rocky Mountain News)

Walter M. "Wally" Schirra had a long career in Colorado as a businessman, civic activist and environmental consultant in the decade after he retired as an astronaut.

And like two of his fellow astronauts, John Glenn and Scott Carpenter, he also lived part of the year near Vail, where his daughter Suzanne had been an artist.

In one of his last public appearances in Colorado, Schirra, an avid horseman, took part in a ceremony celebrating an exhibition of cowboy hats at the Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum. The show included Schirra's hat, which sported drawings of trout and elk and pins from range rides he had gone on.

"He was very personable, very accessible, very down to earth," said Steve Friesen, the museum director. "He was a regular guy, but at the same time I had the feeling of standing next to someone who was a major part of history in my life. It was pretty cool."

Schirra moved to Denver shortly after leaving NASA in March 1969. He became president of Regency Investors, a subsidiary of Denver financier John M. King.

He later split from King to form his own company, Environmental Control Corp., which later became part of another company called Semco Inc. The firm worked on environmental impact studies for projects such as a coal gasification plant in Wyoming.