

While Ireland is certainly suffering from the current economic crisis, it is no longer the poor country that it once was. And as peace has taken hold in Northern Ireland, it is important that we find new ways to strengthen this relationship for future generations. While my colleagues and I will continue to keep a close eye on Northern Ireland as it moves forward, I agree with the Alliance's view that the future of the relationship will be focused less on politics and more on education, business and culture. This shift is the sign of success of the many changes that have occurred in Ireland in the past 15 years and I am proud of the role the U.S. has played in bringing those changes about.

While we strongly support and fund the Mitchell Scholarship program, I welcome the Alliance's desire to build an endowment for the program and I welcome Taoiseach Brian Cowen's commitment to match everything the Alliance raises toward this important goal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT
MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on May 20th, Taiwan will celebrate its president's first anniversary in office. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) last May. His inauguration marked the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another, a result of Taiwan's progress toward full democratization during the last two decades. Today Taiwan validates itself as a mature, successful democracy. We are proud of its political transformation and wish Taiwan well in its future.

In addition, Taiwan is our 9th largest trading partner and imports from the United States in 2007 totaled over \$27 billion. In recent years, Taiwan has been fully collaborating with us to combat global terrorism, as evidenced in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Under President Ma's leadership, we look forward to a strong and deepening of relations between Taiwan and the United States.

In closing, we congratulate Taiwan for its participation in the World Health Assembly meetings this May and also Taiwan's rapid rapprochement with the Chinese mainland. Both sides have reached a number of significant agreements, thus vastly reducing tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their president's first anniversary in office.

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

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

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 participated in the 2009 Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," held at the Morris Museum, in Morris Township, New Jersey. Their works of art are exceptional!

We had fifty-four students participating. That was 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 Caitlin Reid of Ridge High School for her work, "I Don't Have Much of Anything, Except These Things I Hardly Deserve." Second Place was awarded to Genevieve Asselin from West Morris Mendham High School for her work, "Mindset." Third Place was awarded to Allison O'Keeffe from Madison High School for her untitled work.

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 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Boonton High School: Saif Haobash's "My Hand"; Claire Liu's "Claire Liu"; Steven McKeown's "Self Portrait"; Andrew Torpey's "Stairway to the Sky".

Chatham High School: Molly Higgins' "In My Shoes"; Michelle Mruk's "The Baron Meets His People"; Kim Stachenfeld's "The World is Burning"; Lindsey VanderVleit's "Anticipation". Livingston High School: Tamar Ariel's "Concentration #7"; Kelly Keltos' "Trevi Fountain"; Esther Kim's "Street Grunge"; Sal Spaltro's "Girl in the City".

Madison High School: Hyebin Chung's "My Collections"; Anne Groves' "Sitting on the Upper Rideau"; Allison O'Keeffe's untitled work (Third Place); Emily Rutland's "Wild Flower".

Millburn High School: Henry Ehrenfried's "Multi-faceted Self Portrait"; Jawon Kim's "Self-Portrait Still Life in Pen" (Honorable Mention); Chanthia Chanjuan Ma's "Laughing Under the Sun".

Montville High School: Keith Agnello's "Aaron on West Delaran"; Joon An's "Basic Household"; Jennifer Dinsfriend's "Indonesian Still Life" (Honorable Mention); Michael Johnston's "Debris".

Morris Catholic High School: Rebecca Fitzpatrick's untitled work; Kristin King's "Standing Out in the Crowd"; Sery Kwon's untitled work; Christine Pierson's untitled work.

Morris Knolls High School: Lindsay Hescocock's "Suzanne"; Madeleine Provost's "Papaya"; Victoria Reed's "Geraldo"; Anita Sukha's "Color the Mind".

Morristown High School: Katrina Cervante's "The Dining Room"; Michelle Kim's "Sunflower"; Jack Taylor's "Guantanamo"; Chelsea Tomblin's "M.O.S.".

Mount Olive High School: Heather Dalton's "City Streets"; Brian Hays' "Reflection of Ages Past"; Chantal McStay's "Shadow Crane"; Jonathan Weiss' "Childhood Energy".

Ridge High School: Samantha Bard's "As If"; Gabriella DeMarco's "Going Green"; Caitlin Reid's "I Don't Have Much of Anything Except These Things I Hardly Deserve" (First Place); Kristen Spratford's "The Unveiling".

Roxbury High School: Natalie Florio's "Look to the Light" (Honorable Mention); Vicki

Kienzlen's "Man of the Sea"; Lauren Poggi's "Breaking News"; Ephrath Tesfaye's untitled work.

Watchung Hills High School: Kristen Givens' "Red Flower" (Honorable Mention); Lisa Monetti's "Photo 2 Surrealism"; Robert Verdino's "Re-birth".

West Morris Mendham High School: Genevieve Asselin's "Mindset" (Second Place); Blair Christen Hartman's "Flight"; Nathan Krump's "Ceramic Serenade"; Jillian Marinaro's "Twisted".

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.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT CASE, BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifty-fifth anniversary and the lasting legacy of the historic Supreme Court Case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Handed down on May 17, 1954, the Warren Court's unanimous decision stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." As a result, de jure racial segregation was ruled a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The case overturned earlier rulings going back to Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 by declaring that state laws that established separate public schools for black and white students denied black children equal educational opportunities. This victory paved the way for integration and the civil rights movement.

Despite this historic victory, over half a century later, we still find huge disparities in the education and opportunities our children are provided at different schools. There have been some advances. Notably, the U.S. Supreme Court ushered in a new chapter in education with its 1974 unanimous decision in Lau v. Nichols, which enumerated the educational rights of English language learners and established that education is a civil right. The court ruled that simply providing all students with equal facilities, books, teachers, and curriculum was not sufficient to guarantee that all students had equal access to a quality education. Sadly, today we are still not fully providing equity in our schools.

Education is at the very center of our democratic meritocracy, and it is imperative that every American child be afforded a true opportunity to achieve their highest potential. To reach this ideal, we must establish an education system focused on each child's needs,