

Rothman Announces Winners Of Congressional Art Competition

May 2, 2003

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First Place Artwork Will Be Displayed In U.S. Capitol Building; Second & Third Place

Pieces To Be Showcased In Congressman's Washington, DC and Hackensack Offices

Hackensack, NJ – Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced the high school students from his Congressional District who are the winners of this year's Congressional Art Competition. Rothman announced that an independent panel of local judges reviewed the more than 70 entries and determined that the first place winner of the Ninth Congressional District competition is NooRhee Kim of Bergen County Academies in Hackensack, who will have her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year. Shalimar Luis of North Bergen High School is the second place winner and will have her artwork displayed in Rothman's Washington, DC office, and the third place winner is Sylvia Apostol of Bergen County Academies in Hackensack who will have her work exhibited in Rothman's Hackensack office.

“There are a lot of very artistically gifted students in my Congressional District and this competition was an opportunity for all of them to showcase their talents,” Rothman said. “I commend all of these young artists for taking the time to create these pieces, which are expressions of themselves, and displaying them in this competition. While I truly believe that every piece of art exhibited at the competition is worthy of an award, I want to extend a special congratulations to the top three artists as determined by the judges – NooRhee Kim, Shalimar Luis, and Sylvia Apostol.”

Each Member of Congress can hold a Congressional Art Competition in his or her Congressional District, with the first place winner having his or her artwork exhibited in the Capitol Building along a wall with all of the other winners from across the country. The contest showcases paintings, drawing, collages, and prints, including those designed with computers.

“Everyday I am in Washington and I walk over to the Capitol Building, I see high school students' artwork from across the country displayed on the wall,” Rothman said. “It is remarkable to see artwork from New Jersey to Hawaii and virtually every other state in between showcased in the same place. It serves as a reminder that art is a binding passion and expression of the human spirit that connects us all – no matter where we are from.”

Rothman also announced eight other students whom the judges designated as honorable mentions: Mike Brown of Community High School in Teaneck; Carley Winand of Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford; Fumiko Otsuka of Bergen County Academies in Hackensack; Leon Sam of Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood; William Andre Flores of Lodi High School; Jessica Panameno of North Bergen High School; Sylwia Cisek of Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford; and Marta Kander who also attend Becton Regional High School.

The award ceremony took place in the Bergen County Building, which is also where all of the artwork was displayed for public viewing since Monday. In order to submit an entry, the students needed to attend a high school in Rothman's Congressional District, which includes the southern portion of Bergen County, parts of northern Hudson County, and the Borough of Hawthorne in Passaic County.

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