

Jane Boehlert "Dorm Room"

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel Higgins "Into the Sea"
Lianne Pflug, "Music to My Ears"
Leigh Deitz, "Fugitive"

MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Sabrina Huresky, "Random Items Nameplate"

Zoe Yin, "View of China"
Leo Lin, "Satellite View of Capital"

MORRIS KNOLLS HIGH SCHOOL

Raelle D'Atilio, "Buying Time"
Olivia Kuchta, "Mirror, Mirror"
Chiyere Emili, "African Culture"

MOUNTAIN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Joy Xie, "Under the Sunlight"
Yian Wang, "Fish Snack"

NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Deana DiLauri, "Outside the Box"
Cassandra Rebutoc, "Pop the Pink!"
Leticia Donato, "Summer Sun"
Patricia Bobila, "Among the Autumn Leaves"

PASSAIC VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Victoria Phillips, "Rule of Rose"
Lindsey Heale, "In the Studio"

PARSIPPANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Daniel McMillen, "Coil"
Tamia McNab, "Artist Den"
Nicholas McMillen, "Soulness"
Carolina Sachno, "Go Fish"

RANDOLPH HIGH SCHOOL

Olivia Lawler, "My Childhood"

SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

Domari Thomas, "Survival"
Mitch Coyle, "3 Seasons"
Kacey Campbell, "Self Portrait"
Madeline Abatemarco, "Fantasy Scape"

WAYNE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Camila Rosario, "Joy and Innocence of Childhood"
Lilit Balagyozyan, "Cautionary Tale"
Lauren Valledor, "An Afternoon in Washington Square Park"
Olivia Lozy, "Still Life of Pickle Bottles"

WEST ESSEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Ariana Daly, "The Moment Winter Falls"

WEST MORRIS MENDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Emma Jang, "Empty"
Ryan Corbett "I Will Work to End Racism"

WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Arlen Roberts, "Elephant Hand Piece"

WHIPPANY PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Eric Kahn, "Hiding Behind Feathers"
Shayna Miller, "Papilionoidea"

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 our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition 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.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

HONORING WORLD WAR II FIGHTER ACE DONALD MCPHERSON

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donald McPherson of

Adams, Nebraska, on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal for his valiant service to our nation as an American Fighter Ace in World War II.

Mr. McPherson is one of two surviving fighter aces in Nebraska. These brave pilots earned the title of fighter aces after shooting down five enemies in battle. Mr. McPherson earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals while assigned to fighter squadron VF-83 aboard the U.S.S. Essex in the Pacific. In his F6F Hellcat, Mr. McPherson directly faced our enemies in the skies to defend our country and preserve our liberty.

As Memorial Day approaches, we remember our fallen and honor those still with us who served beside them. The legacies of our selfless military heroes, including Mr. McPherson, must be celebrated and protected for future generations to understand the true cost of freedom.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Mr. McPherson for his service to our country and congratulate him on his Congressional Gold Medal recognition this week.

A PATHWAY TO FREEDOM: RESCUE AND REFUGE FOR VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently chaired a hearing focusing on the fight against human trafficking—an insidious human rights abuse that thrives in an environment of secrecy, of silence, and of a mindset that says that it is somebody else's problem.

The truth of the matter is that combating modern-day slavery is everybody's business. We are all in this together. Cooperation and coordination are key to mitigating—and someday ending—this pervasive cruelty.

Significant progress has been made since I authored landmark legislation—the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act of 2000, or TVPA—to combat sex and labor trafficking in the United States and globally. When I first introduced the TVPA in 1998 however, I was repeatedly told by detractors that it was a "solution in search of a problem."

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and its 2003 and 2005 reauthorizations, which I also authored, launched a bold new strategy that included sheltering, political asylum, and other protections for the victims; long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers; and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA.

And for the first time ever, the law recognized the exploited as victims—not perpetrators of a crime. Since 2004, the TVPA has resulted in Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces in 42 cities across the U.S. These task forces identify potential victims of human trafficking, coordinate local and federal law enforcement to rescue victims, assist with referrals for victim care, and train law enforcement.

Last week's hearing concentrated on rescue and refuge.

In January of 2000, I received actionable information that eight Ukrainian women were

being exploited by sex traffickers in two bars in Montenegro. The women had been lured there with promises of legitimate work, then forced into prostitution. One desperate victim, however, called her mother for help using the phone of one of the men exploiting her.

When informed, I immediately called the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, who personally ordered an immediate raid on the bar. As a result, seven of the eight women were rescued and returned to their families in Ukraine. Tragically, the eighth woman was trafficked to Albania prior to the raid.

We know that organized crime, street gangs, and pimps around the world have expanded into sex trafficking at an alarming rate. It is an extremely lucrative undertaking: a trafficker can make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year off just one victim. Unlike drugs or weapons, a human being can be held captive and sold into sexual slavery over and over again. Pornography and the devaluation of women are helping to drive demand.

And while our Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security works with law enforcement abroad in sting operations to catch American pedophile sex tourists and rescue victims where there is a nexus with the United States, they cannot conduct rescue operations or run investigations that fall outside their jurisdiction.

Nevertheless, there still are victims—someone's young son or daughter being cruelly exploited. Into this gap steps non-governmental rescue operations. Some of the best are staffed by former Navy SEALs, ex-CIA agents, and even the occasional sitting member of State government. That is who we heard from last week—from witnesses that include a former CIA agent now involved in rescuing the most vulnerable, and a sitting state Attorney General.

We also heard from a former member of the Mexican Congress who has fought trafficking her entire career. And we heard from a victim of trafficking, who told us about the importance of refuge and rehabilitation following rescue.

Operation Underground Railroad has made it their business, literally and figuratively, to identify children being sex trafficked in other countries, and then to partner with the relevant foreign government entities for the rescue and rehabilitation of these children.

Operation Underground Railroad members frequently pose as American sex tourists who enlist traffickers to host sex parties for them—it is such a common occurrence in many Latin American nations that it provides the perfect cover for Operation Underground Railroad to lure the traffickers with the children for sale to a preset location, and then have the local authorities ready to bust the traffickers as well as rescue the children. Operation Underground Railroad also trains the local governments in how to conduct stings on traffickers, and on the rehabilitative needs of the trafficking victims.

Yet the magnitude of the problem remains huge.

Worldwide, in the past two years, 80,000 trafficking victims have been identified—a small percentage of the estimated 20.9 million victims in the world, but evidence that with a combination of encouragement, plus some persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions imposed by the United States, countries are moving in the right direction.