

LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Dennis Ziemienksi, the 2011 Sonoma Treasure Artist. An internationally known artist from Glenn Ellen, California, Mr. Ziemienksi is also a prominent supporter of art events in the Sonoma Valley.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Dennis graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts before moving to New York for a successful career in illustration and painting. He worked with Time-Life, Levi-Straus, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times and has created compelling images for many high profile clients such as Super Bowl XXIX, the Napa Mustard Festival, the Kentucky Derby, the California Railway Museum, and the San Francisco Zoo.

An internationally acclaimed painter, Dennis has had several solo exhibitions, won numerous awards, taught at prominent art schools, and illustrated well-known book covers. He has also volunteered his teaching skills at local schools and has donated auction paintings or created posters for local Sonoma Valley nonprofits.

Dennis' work is marked by fine draftsmanship and strong, richly colored images inspired by early 20th century painting and posters. He travels frequently to develop different ideas and sensibilities. "I love to paint my native California and the West," he says, "but the land of my ancestors, Italy and the Mediterranean, has also been a frequent subject . . . it is also important for me to use a romantic sense of history and place, when required, to create a vision that lures the viewer into the picture, creating the desire to 'be there.'"

Dennis is married to artist Anne Ziemienksi, and the couple's daughter, Sofia, attends the University of the Redlands.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to congratulate Dennis Ziemienksi for his designation as the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2011. Please join us and the Sonoma Valley Community in celebrating his accomplishments and contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND  
TENANTS ORGANIZATION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cleveland Tenants Organization.

The Cleveland Tenants Organization was established in 1975 after the passage of the Ohio Landlord-Tenant Law to assist landlords and tenants in understanding the new law and their rights and responsibilities outlined in the law. The mission of the organization is to preserve and expand the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable and accessible rental housing in Greater Cleveland by informing citizens of their rights and duties in rental housing; representing tenants and the interest of tenants in the preservation and promotion of rental housing rights; empowering tenants individually and collectively to represent themselves and their interests; advocating for the needs of low and moderate income tenants; resolving disputes between landlords and tenants; preventing homelessness; and combating discrimination in housing based on race, religion, color, gender, handicap, familial status, military status, social/economic class, and sexual orientation.

Over the past thirty-six years, the organization has continued to grow and expand to include programs and services for Greater Clevelanders concerned with rental information, foreclosure/eviction diversion, community education, equal housing opportunities, healthy homes and homeless prevention. In 2010, CTO reached out to and assisted over 35,000 households.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cleveland Tenants Organization and their remarkable contributions to our community.

REGARDING THE PACKAGE OF  
TRADE BILLS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, my policy regarding trade agreements has always been to consider each agreement on its merits. I have supported some FTAs and I have opposed others based on a careful consideration of the details of the legislation and the pros and cons associated with them. In each case, I apply the following test: Will the agreement help the American economy and American workers?

It is by that standard that I measured the trade package we are considering today containing the House passed renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences for poor countries; trade adjustment assistance to support those American workers who may be harmed in specific cases; and the long pending free trade agreements with Panama, Korea and Colombia. After considering each of these agreements, I have decided to support them.

For too long, the U.S. automobile industry has had only limited access to Korea's auto market. In 2010, over 500,000 Korean autos were sold in the U.S. while only 14,000 American cars were sold in Korea. The Obama Administration negotiated with the Korean government and corrected that imbalance while increasing American access to other areas of the Korean economy such as its lucrative financial services and IT sectors. The agreement is supported by the United Auto Workers and the American auto industry.

The Panama FTA increases the access of American goods and services to Panama's economy while also addressing long-standing concerns about the quality of Panama's workers protections and about its status as a tax-haven for those Americans trying to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. Through close negotiation with the Panamanian government, the Obama Administration and Members of Congress have addressed those concerns.

The Colombia FTA is also a win for the American economy. The benefits Colombia has enjoyed as a result of its membership among the GSP recipient countries has meant that it has had significant and one-sided access to the American market. This FTA balances that relationship so that now American companies enjoy the same access to Colombia's growing economy that Colombia has enjoyed in the U.S. for decades.

Colombia has struggled with a violent past, including the targeted execution of labor organizers. With the accession of the Santos Ad-

ministration and its commitment to addressing this serious problem, encouraging headway has been made. As an indication of its good faith, the Santos Administration has passed into law 75 percent of the requirements of the "Action Plan" it negotiated with the Obama Administration, including the adoption of standards required for approving trade agreements and establishing an ILO office in Bogota to monitor labor violations. Colombia has made significant progress toward penalizing those companies trying to circumvent collective bargaining agreements through the use of 'collectives' and it has created a separate Ministry of Labor to give Cabinet-level attention to critical labor issues. Passage of the Colombia FTA will encourage the Colombian government to continue these reforms.

Each of these bills increases opportunities for American companies and consumers while helping to spread those economic benefits widely for American workers here and abroad. The American economy cannot afford to sit on the sidelines as other countries form trade partnerships. As we aggressively pursue trade and export opportunities around the globe, steps we take to protect our workers at home, such as TAA, are critical.

Together, these trade measures represent the strong commitment of Congress and the Obama Administration to promoting job growth in the U.S. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting these important pieces of legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE  
JUDGE RAYMOND PIANKA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka, who is being recognized at the Cleveland Tenants Organization's Masquerade Benefit on October 21, 2011.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Judge Pianka has dedicated his career to the betterment of the City of Cleveland. He attended Cleveland State University (CSU) and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. In 1977, he earned a Juris Doctor Degree from the CSU's Cleveland Marshall Law School and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1978. While attending school, Judge Pianka was instrumental in establishing one of the first neighborhood-based development organizations in Cleveland, the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and became the executive director.

Judge Pianka ran and was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1985. During his ten years in office, he served as chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee and Legislative Committee. He was a major contributor for legislation regarding the Housing Trust fund, City Works Program, Landlord Drug House Responsibility Ordinance, Anti-Graffiti Ordinance, Regulation of Nuisance Pay Phones, Small Business Micro Loans, Preservation of Brick Streets, Tenant Emergency Water Turn On Act and the Land Bank Utilization Ordinance among others.

Judge Pianka was elected as the presiding and administrative judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court's Housing Division in 1996 and

continues to serve in this role. During his ongoing tenure, Judge Pianka has implemented the Selective Intervention Program and Warrant Capias Program. He has also developed the Landlord Seminar Workshop, Housing Code Enforcement Advocates Forum and educational materials for the public on topics concerning home maintenance, the law and the navigation of Housing Court.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka as he is recognized at the Cleveland Tenants Organization's Masquerade Benefit for his service and work to sustain Cleveland's neighborhoods.

HONORING JOSEPH GEREMIA AS HE IS HONORED BY THE CONNECTICUT GREENHOUSE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association as they pay tribute to one of their outstanding members and my good friend, Joe Geremia. Joe's extraordinary contributions to Connecticut's agriculture industry have gone a long way in ensuring that the needs of greenhouse growers are not only heard but acted upon. In fact, just last year, Joe was recognized for his incredible work by the State of Connecticut when he was named the 2010 Outstanding Young Farmer.

With an estimated three hundred commercial greenhouse businesses, housing eight million square feet of production space, greenhouse production is a critical piece of Connecticut's agriculture industry. Today, the production of flowers and plants is the biggest segment of Connecticut agriculture, accounting for nearly three-fourths of all crop agriculture. This makes Connecticut second in the Nation in terms of the proportion of ornamental horticulture to crop agriculture.

Agriculture is not only Joe's occupation, it is in his blood. Coming to America just after the turn of the century, Joe's grandfather raised vegetables on the family's sixteen-acre farm. His passion for growing was passed on to his children and eventually on to Joe who got started in the business working with his father. In the beginning, Joe's father had just half an acre in greenhouse production. Just after leaving high school, Joe jumped into the wholesale greenhouse business with both feet—and he has never looked back.

What is so wonderful about Joe is that he is always looking to learn, to expand his knowledge and apply all of that to his business. He traveled to the Netherlands to learn about the latest greenhouse, agriculture, and distribution technology as well as Ontario to observe their vegetable production research and learning systems. He brought the best of these lessons back to his own business and shared them with his fellow greenhouse growers. His dedication to finding solutions to agriculture's challenges is probably best evidenced in the research greenhouse that he built at Connecticut's Agriculture Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm where, in partner-

ship with the Station and the University of Connecticut, Joe and scientists are investigating methods of eliminating wastewater and reducing fertilizer in run-off—a win-win by providing the industry with more efficient and cost-effective irrigation methods while also protecting the environment which they depend on for success.

One of the issues that Joe has devoted much of his time to is energy efficiency and it is through these efforts that I have gotten to know Joe so well. Over the last few years, he has retrofitted his greenhouse to be heated with biomass boilers instead of traditional oil. Utilizing this technology, Joe has not only created new business choices for himself, but has created new business for local arborists and landscapers whose wood waste products would otherwise be left to decay. I have been so impressed with his work that I have taken every opportunity to get our federal officials, like USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, out to see his operation. He is leading the way for Connecticut's agricultural future.

I am proud to stand today to join the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association as well as his wife, Dawn; their children, Madeline, Luke, and Liam; and the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to recognize the outstanding efforts of our friend, Joe Geremia. Congratulations Joe—with your enthusiasm, commitment and energy, there is nothing that you will not accomplish.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD CORDRAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Cordray, the former Attorney General of Ohio who is being recognized and is delivering the Keynote Speech at the Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People's (ESOP) Annual Gala.

Mr. Cordray was born on May 3, 1959 in Grove City, Ohio. He attended Grove City High School and graduated as the co-valetorian of his class in 1977. He went on to attend Michigan State University's James Madison College and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in legal and political theory in 1981. During his undergraduate studies, Mr. Cordray interned for former U.S. Senator John Glenn. After completing his BA, he went on to earn his Master of Arts in economics from the University of Oxford and his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Cordray began his career as a law clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court and just two years after earning his J.D. was hired by the international law firm of Jones Day in Cleveland, Ohio. He ran and was elected as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives for the 33rd District from January 7, 1991 to December 31, 1992. Following his term in the Ohio State House, Mr. Cordray was appointed as the first Ohio State Solicitor and served in this role from September 1993 to 1994. He was elected to Ohio Democratic Party Central Committee in 1996. Following several years of private practice, Mr. Cordray served as Franklin County Treasurer from December 2002 to

2007. He successfully ran for Ohio State Treasurer in 2006 and held office until 2009 when he became the Ohio State Attorney General. Mr. Cordray's term as Ohio Attorney General ended in January 2011. He has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Director of the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. Cordray currently lives in Grove City, Ohio with his wife of ten years, Peggy. The couple has a set of twins, Danny and Holly.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Richard Cordray as he is honored by ESOP's Annual Gala on October 20, 2011.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL" ORTH

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Orth's years of tireless public service to Pennsauken Township, New Jersey. A beloved former Mayor and member of the Township Committee from 1981 to 2011, Mr. Orth has gone above and beyond in his dedication and commitment to his community.

Mr. Orth was determined to use his position to invigorate the township, spearheading a successful downtown revitalization campaign. He was instrumental in dedicating a monument and park to Pennsauken's veterans, and erecting a memorial sculpture in honor of the victims and heroes of 9/11. He has represented the township of Pennsauken and the state of New Jersey with enthusiasm and care, and Pennsauken and this Congress are proud to recognize him for the work he has done.

Mr. Orth also made it a priority to bring performers from far and wide to Pennsauken, and his devotion to widening the musical experiences of his community will be remembered for generations to come. His talent and loyalty to Pennsauken's musical theater community made Pennsauken's productions large-scale events.

In addition, Bill began the charitable organization, Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which gives small grants to community members in need to better their lives in times of financial difficulty. The charity's goal is simple: help Pennsauken residents help each other. This selflessness and desire to help others are perfectly representative of Bill Orth's attitude towards life.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Orth's endless dedication to Pennsauken Township should not go unrecognized. I join the township and all of South Jersey in paying tribute to this exceptional man.

IN HONOR OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALL & POST

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland's Call & Post newspaper