

His collections have been on display in numerous museums including the Monterey Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn in Washington D.C., Yosemite Museum and the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in Manhattan. Additionally, Gregory has been recognized by a number of awards and accolades including being elected to the National Academy of Design.

To celebrate Gregory's 90th birthday and his career as both an artist and teacher, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento is displaying over 70 pieces of his work in an exhibit, "A Touch of Blue: Landscapes by Gregory Kondos."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the many contributions made by Gregory Kondos to the people of Sacramento and our nation. As Gregory, his wife Moni, friends, and colleagues celebrate his achievement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions and in celebrating his birthday and exceptional artistry.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHIFER
MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to the members of the Phifer Middle School student council, concert band, chorus and cheer squad for their welcoming reception during a recent visit. I enjoyed the cheer performance by Zoe Dillard, Irez Ramirez, and Jeanny Valerio Disla, as well as the assembly of talented young students who sang and performed music, making my visit quite memorable. As these Middle School students continue their education, I hope they choose to cultivate and develop their talents, as they have done at Phifer.

Participants in the assembly included members of the Phifer Middle School student council, made up of Davina Nguyen, Natalya Portobanco, Medina Talebi, Carmen Rosario, Alejandro Rodriguez, Franshayla Matias, Krystian Duong, Monica Van, Nicole Alfino, Michael Zuckerman, Zach DiPietro, Jennifer Luu, Grace Pietzsch, Kaitlyn McGowen, Maresha Morton, Kiara Banchs, Yesarie Rivera, Brianni Lugo, Daisy Anyanwu, Maryann Dwomor, Laura Espailat, Christina Van, Areli Olarte, Jasmine Magalong, Asia Davis, Michael Nguyen, Yasmeir S, Marcellus Edwards, Alyssa Edelman, Xavier Molina, Kyla Green, Emilie Reustle, Michelle Olivares, Christian Alvarez, DaJone Saunders, Alina Ayala, Selena Carter, Alyza Alix, Alexis Taylor, Angel Davis and Jadae Turlington.

Members of the 7th and 8th grade concert band, accompanied by the 8th grade chorus performed America the Beautiful, the Star Spangled Banner and "Plaza de Toros" by Mark Williams. Members of the 8th grade concert band include: Johnny Almonte, Isaac Amato, Daniel Ball, Nicholas Camacho, Michael Camacho, Asia Davis, Toni Deliso, Jude Dizon, Sarah Eisenhower, Kyle Faraghan, Emily Gmyr, Dimitri Hicks, Jose Jimenez, Ryan Lam, Nicolette Markakis, Xavier Martinez, Elijah Medina, Kristina Mitchell, Isaac Munoz, Christian Nicdao, Alexandra Pasamihalis, Talisa Prince, Irez Ramirez, Ali-

son Rosado, Mario Sagliocca, Micheal Sculley, Jake Urena, Vivian Vu, Aaliya Ware and Steven Williams.

Members of the 7th grade concert band include: Carlos Acevedo, Ariana Alameda, Nicole Alfano, Briana Allende, Jonathan Almonte, Tyler Barrett, Karoline Cedano, Nicole Chin, Desiree Colon, Angel Cruz, Megan Flaherty, Joshua Hall, Destiny Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Paige Hickman, Eric Hoang, Kaitlyn McGowan, Jamil Morris, Gabriella Pavel, Jesse Pringle, Deanna Rodriguez, Serenity Sanders, Sydney Slaton, Gina Stone and Irene You.

Members of the 8th grade chorus include: Dezeray Adams, Amanda Alicea, Alina, Ayala, Irisell Baetz, Teyonna Balkman, Michelle Bello, Selena Carter, Flarissa Crawford, Angel Davis, Courtney Dixon, Josh Echeverria, Janiskaliz Espada, Lucas Figueroa, Jurnee Gabri-El, Toni Glatz, Bobbi-Sue Godwin, Michael Hartka, Vivian Hnyh, Elias Horiates, Krystiana Jalosjos, Talia Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Kayli Jones, Alexis Laboy, Kimani Lawson, Tyler Lee, Zephenia Lindsey, Saniyah Mack, James Marchese, Kinaya McEady, Emma Muller, Kiara Munoz, Jessica Ngeth, Areli Olarte, Hannah Pietzsch, Kaitlyn Pratt, Jose Ravelo and Tyiya Richards.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW OSTANIK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew Ostanik for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Matt Ostanik is the President of Submittal Exchange LLC, his own online construction communications software company he founded in 2003. Today, Matt has overseen Submittal Exchange grow to 40,000 users and 35 employees with an annual year-over-year revenue growth rate of 350 percent over five years. Architecture is one of Matt's passions, as he helps others grow professionally through his business and his roles on the board of directors for the American Institute of Architects' Iowa chapter and with the Iowa Architectural Foundation. In all facets of his life, Matt is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matt in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ostanik for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matt

on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, peace and stability in the Caucuses is in the national interest of the United States and our European allies. That means achieving a peaceful resolution to the rising tensions between the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan. A final status of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute must be achieved without resorting to war and must be in keeping with democratic principles, the rule of law and the protection of individual human rights.

Decades of Soviet rule and the continuing dispute over Nagorno Karabakh have decimated the economy of Armenia. In stark contrast, Azerbaijan now enjoys a growing economy from the extraction of natural resources. This economic imbalance is further aggravated by the fact that both Turkey and Azerbaijan have sealed their borders with Armenia, with Azerbaijan pursuing an aggressive military build-up.

The United States must continue to press for resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute through the good offices and mechanisms of international actors such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We must be ever vigilant in decrying actions that undermine such efforts. I concur with the Obama administration's demand for an explanation of Azerbaijan's pardoning of Ramil Safarov. Azerbaijan's decision to pardon Ramil Safarov after he was convicted by a Hungarian court for the murder of an Armenian soldier while participating in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is not only unconscionable, it is a direct affront to NATO and its efforts to bring peace and stability to conflict regions through the Partnership for Peace program.

FIRST THE SATURDAY PEOPLE
THEN THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Lebanon and Egypt where I met with State Department officials, civil society actors, including prominent religious leaders and humanitarian aid organizations, and Syrian refugees. The trip (February 18-21, 2013) came at a critical time, as events in the broader Middle East over the last two years have been both historic and tumultuous.

One of the main purposes of the trip was to spend time with the Syrian Christian community. As a brutal civil war, which has taken nearly 70,000 lives, rages in Syria the plight of the sizable Christian community is often overlooked. While from the outside it appears as though President Bashar al-Assad's brutal regime will ultimately fall, the eventual outcome,