***Aptos High School student Holly Hernandez's photograph, "Right to Bare Arms" receives top honor***

**Washington, DC –** Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today announced that Aptos High School student, Holly Hernandez, is the winner of the 2012 Congressional Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery. The winning piece, "Right to Bare Arms", will be displayed in the halls of the Capitol along with winning art from across the country.

"The Central Coast is known for its vibrant artistic culture and these students echo that tradition in their work," said Congressman Sam Farr. "I would like to congratulate Holly Hernandez and all the participants for their inspiring pieces of art."

Holly Hernandez will travel to Washington, D.C., courtesy of Southwest Airlines, to be honored at a Congressional Reception. Holly will also receive a $1500 renewable scholarship from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Carmel High School student, Liyanna Bea Sadausky was named the 2nd place winner with her art piece "Peaceful Burden". Liyanna's artwork will be prominently displayed in Congressman Farr's Washington, D.C. Office. Everett Alvarez High School student, Corina Cortes, was named the third place winner, with her artwork "Another Day In Life". Corina's art will be displayed in Mr. Farr's
Salinas
office.

The Congressional Art Competition was open to all local high school students in the 17th Congressional District, by submitting up to three pieces of original student artwork. This year, a total of 24 entries were submitted from 10 schools in the area.

The Artistic Discovery competition encourages and recognizes the rich artistic talents of young Americans. Students are allowed to submit various styles and types of art, ranging from paintings and drawings to photography and mixed media pieces. The winners are determined using criteria based on originality, skill of execution, excellence in use of materials and conceptual strength of the project.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nation-wide competition.

Last year, Carmel High School student, Mira Malcolm, was awarded first place for her entry, titled “Nature’s Peace”. To view last year winning painting visit, http://www.farr.house.gov/images/stories/MMalcolm.jpg .

***The 2012 Congressional Art Competition winners:***

1st Place
Holly Hernandez

Aptos High School
*Right to Bare Arms*

2nd Place
Liyanna Bea Sadausky
Carmel High School
*Peaceful Burden*

3rd Place
Corina Cortes
Everett Alvarez High School
*Another Day In Life*

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