The Miami-based artist is also an attorney and a community leader who is able to express his concerns for social and political issues while exploring topics such as community development, racism, violence, poverty, political freedom, AIDS, and Cuba.

President's accomplishments achieved by Xavier include having been commissioned to create public art for organizations such as Nike, HBO, MAD, and Indiana’s Governor’s office. He has been commissioned to create community murals by museums such as the Lowe Art Museum, the Wolfsonian and the Miami Youth Museum.

In Cuba, this talented painter and social voice has reaffirmed the existence of biculturalism through his celebration of oil color on canvas and expression of Cuban nostalgia and American reality.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES McSHANE
HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James McShane on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

McShane was born in County Donegal in Ireland on April 26, 1908. Named for his grandfather and one of ten children, he immigrated to the United States in 1929 and proudly became an American citizen. McShane patriotically defended his adopted homeland during World War II, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1941 and serving as a Master Sergeant until October 1, 1945. During the conflict, he found time to marry Marie Stirn, with whom he had three children: Dennis James, Margaret Mary, and Kathleen Bridget. Dennis James has gone on to become an outstanding doctor and a long-term partner for the people of California’s 14th Congressional District and a long-term partner for the Miami Youth Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James McShane on his 90th birthday and in honoring his service to our nation and the legacy he has provided us through his loving family.

TRIBUTE TO SIGI ZIERING
HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today representatives of the Congress, the Administration, and the Supreme Court gathered in the Great Rotunda of this historic building for the National Civic Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust. This annual national memorial service pays tribute to the six million Jews who died through senseless and systematic Nazi terror and brutality. At this somber time in Los Angeles, the House honored American and other Allied forces who liberated the Nazi concentration camps over half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, this past week Fortune Magazine (April 13, 1998) devoted several pages to an article entitled “Everything in History was Against Them,” which profiles five survivors of Nazi savagery who came to the United States penniless and built fortunes here in their adopted homeland. It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that four of these five are residents of my home state of California. Mr. Sigi Ziering of Los Angeles was one of the five that Fortune Magazine selected to highlight in this extraordinary article, and I want to pay tribute to him today.

Sigi Ziering, like the other four singled out by Fortune Magazine, has a unique story, but one of the most compelling tales of personal success. The story of the penniless immigrant who succeeds in America is a familiar theme in our nation’s lore, but these stories involve a degree of courage and determination unmatched in the most inspiring of Horatio Alger’s stories.

These men were, in the words of author Carol J. Loomis, “Holocaust survivors in the most rigorous sense,” they “actually experienced the most awful horrors of the Holocaust, enduring a Nazi death camp or a concentration camp or one of the ghettos that were essentially holding pens for those camps.”

Together, from the very beginning, they faced the most awful suffering of the Holocaust. They picked themselves up “from the very streets as an example. He sneaked in with the food, he would sometimes get a plum job in a ‘fish hall,’” from which he was able to smugly food back to the ghetto. As he sneaked in with the food, he would sometimes pick the dead Jews who had been caught doing the same and been hanged in the streets as an example.

HON. JIM BUNNING
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, all of us like to talk about “family values.” But all too often we, and particularly the media, focus our attention on “family failures”—neglected children, broken homes, spouse abuse. We should not neglect that we need also to headline the success stories of “family values.” There are lots of them and they should not be ignored.

One of these success stories is about to be celebrated in my congressional district—the 50th wedding anniversary of Cora and Walter Tharp of Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

The Tharps’ 50th anniversary may be an overlooked event in terms of international politics, and it certainly won’t make the national news. But it is a major achievement nonetheless in the lives of two people, their family and the people whom they have touched. And it illustrates very clearly that “family values” can work and that when they do, it is a real treasure.

On August 7, 1998, the family and friends of Cora and Walter Tharp will celebrate 50 years of a couple who understand and live “family values.” It is definitely an event worth celebrating.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR CORA AND WALTER THARP
HON. JIM BUNNING
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 50th wedding anniversary of Cora and Walter Tharp of Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

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McShane was born in County Donegal in Ireland on April 26, 1908. Named for his grandfather and one of ten children, he immigrated to the United States in 1929 and proudly became an American citizen. McShane patriotically defended his adopted homeland during World War II, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1941 and serving as a Master Sergeant until October 1, 1945. During the conflict, he found time to marry Marie Stirn, with whom he had three children: Dennis James, Margaret Mary, and Kathleen Bridget. Dennis James has gone on to become an outstanding doctor and a long-term partner for the people of California’s 14th Congressional District and a long-term partner for the Miami Youth Museum.

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Toward war's end, with the Russians closing in on Riga, the Germans began to move their Jewish captives around. Ziering believes that the SS in fact connived to keep small groups of Jews alive, so that the need to guard them would keep the Germans from being sent to the front.

The Zierings were moved to a German prison on the outskirts of Hamburg. Prison living conditions were a distinct step up. But every week the Germans would load eight to ten Jews into a truck and transport them to Bergen-Belsen for examination. "With German precision," says Ziering, the guards went at their job alphabetically, making a point of introducing himself for the benefit of each new inmate.

British troops then closed off Bergen-Belsen, and the Germans marched their remaining Jews to a Kiel concentration camp, whose first words upon seeing them were: "I can't believe that Jews still exist." The camps grimy conditions killed 40 to 50 inmates daily. Another 35 males were murdered when they could not run a kilometer while carrying a heavy piece of wood. Sigi and his brother passed that test.

Then, as the Zierings heard the story, Count Willard Ziering of Sweden offered to pay Heinrich Himmler $5 million for 1,000 Jews. (Whether the Count indeed made this offer or paid the money is not clear.) A German officer told the Zierings boys, who believed it not at all, that they were to be included but were unrepresentative in the striped clothing they wore. Sigi and his brother were taken to a camp where they were directed to strip the clothes from the corpses that lay there and make them their own.

And on May 1, 1945, Red Cross workers arrived to take the 1,070 Ziering inmates to Sweden. The group lay through Copenhagen, and at its railroad station, the Jews heard excited shouts: "Hitler is dead."

As he suddenly awakened from a nightmare of unimaginable horror, Sigi then entered into a world of near-normalcy for a 17-year-old. His family managed to reunite in London, where the father—"a fantastic businessman," says Sigi—was doing well as a diamond merchant. Sigi, a bare five years of elementary education behind him, entered a tutorial school and then the University of London. He wished to be a doctor but found that almost all medical school spots were reserved for war veterans—the kind worn military insignia, not tattooed numbers.

Hunting opportunity, the Ziering family made a 1953 trip to Riga, settling in Brussels. Working part-time, Sigi earned a physics degree at Brooklyn College and then two advanced degrees at Syracuse University. In those college years, he met the woman he soon married, Marilyn Brisman. When they first met, she says, he was "quiet, shy, introspective," and, with his blond hair, blue eyes, and dapper look, the archetypal image of a young German that she briefly thought him one.

Exiting academy in 1957, Ziering did nuclear-reactor work with Raytheon in Boston and then space projects at Allied Research. The entrepreneurial urge hit, and with a friend he started a company called Space Sciences to carry out cost-plus government contracts.

It was the heyday of avaricious conglomerates, and in 1968 Whittaker Corporation, a top Space Sciences for about $1.8 million. That made Ziering, not yet 25 years removed from the terrifying alphabetical lock step of Fühlsötter prison, well-to-do. But the deal also made him a California-based research executive restless in Whittaker's conglomerate culture.

He then and tried one entrepreneurial venture, the making of fishmeal, that failed. Then, in 1973, he heard by chance of a chemist working out of his Los Angeles kitchen, Robert Ban, who'd developed radioimmunoassay (RIA) diagnostic kits that permitted the measurement of infinitesimally low concentrations of substances—drugs and hormones—in bodily fluids. Ban, a man with big ideas and a corporate name to match them, Diagnostic Products Corp., had been advertising in a professional journal that he had upwards of 30 different RIA kits available. Some of these, says Ziering, "do not exist to this day," but that was not known to the journal's readers, and sacks of orders—though only morsels of money—landed in Ban's kitchen.

Ziering, warped by the gamble by his long-standing interest in medicine, put $50,000 into the business and moved the chemist into a small factory that mainly produced one kit of particular commercial value. The business took off. But the partners were not getting along. So Ziering bought the chemist out for $25,000 and settled back to working with a more compatible partner, his wife, who has throughout the years been a DPC marketing executive.

Today their company, competing with such giants as Abbott Laboratories, has more than 1,400 employees and is a leading manufacturer of both RIA and the analytical instruments needed to read their findings. The company had 1997 sales of $186 million and profits of $18 million. DPC went public in 1982, though Ziering wishes it hadn't—the company has never really needed the money it raised, and he doesn't like the volatility of the market or the second-guessing of analysts—and he, his wife, their two sons (both in the business), and two daughters own and control its stock, currently worth about $95 million.

Through most of its years, DPC has done well internationally, a fact that has required Ziering and his wife to travel often to Germany. Yes, it bothers him to go back, but he thinks that his encounters with young Germans disturb them more than him. When they get a hint of how he spent the war, he says, "you can feel the static electricity in the air."

In his business, says Marilyn Ziering, her husband is patient and visionary, but also a risk taker when he needs to be. He himself says he's a workaholic and muses as to why. He wonders whether the "training" of the Holocaust—"unless you work, you are destined for the gas chamber"—may not have permanently bent him and many other survivors to work.

The license plate on Ziering's Jaguar reads "K9HORA." That's a rough phonetic rendition of kayn aynhoreh, a Yiddish expression meaning "ward off the evil eye." It is an Americanism, and its rich history is one of the most important endeavors we can undertake for our country and our fellow citizens, both living and deceased. It is especially crucial for our young people to develop these principles at an early age. This is why we fought so hard to preserve the integrity of our flag through the prohibition of its desecration. Such treatment of the flag is a slap in the faces of all of the brave men and women who have dedicated