EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

November 19, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. We are fortunate that Ben Richmond makes his home in our area and is able to share his artistic talents with us.

Ben Richmond is without question one of Ohio's premier artists. Concentrating on the rich heritage and natural surroundings of the Great Lakes, Ben Richmond seeks to combine feeling, personality, and clear relationships in each of his paintings. While his paintings and artistic creations are produced in wondrous fashion today, in his youth, art class was not at the top of Ben's priority list. However, with some guidance from his parents and one of his college professors, Ben embarked upon a remarkable career as an artist.

Mr. Speaker, after honing his skills as an artist, Ben graduated from college and went to work in the business world. But, business simply did not capture Ben's imagination and talents the way painting did. So, one weekend, while traveling through Marblehead with his wife, Wendy, they noticed the picturesque beauty of the Lake Erie region. In 1981, the Richards purchased a building in the village of Marblehead and turned it into an art gallery, Thus began the artistry of Ben Richmond.

Ben Richmond's curiosity and collection of works of art seem to have no end. From his signature painting of the Marblehead Lighthouse to the other limited edition paintings, posters, sculptures, and collectibles, the Richmond Galleries have become known as The Collectors Choice for custom artwork and framing. For his accomplishments, Ben Richmond's work has been featured at the Grand Central