

When Dennis was first elected to the Watsonville City Council in 1987, his principal concern was drug abuse prevention. By addressing the issue in a variety of ways; funding youth programs, law enforcement, and job creation, the problem has been alleviated to some extent, but Dennis' efforts continued. Reelected to serve on the city council, Dennis was then appointed mayor. Dennis also worked on developing a long-range plan for the Pajaro River through cooperation with regional governmental entities. In addition to his duties as mayor, Dennis served as vice president of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. He has also served as the chairman of the City Recycling Committee and as a member of the City Planning Commission.

I know Dennis Osmer to be a generous man with his time and his attention to the needs of the community. I am sure he will continue to make his contribution. I look forward to working with him in the future.

RECOGNITION OF ARTIST JOSÉ CISNEROS INDUCTED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS EL PASO ARTISTS' HALL OF FAME

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize my fellow El Pasoan, Mr. José Cisneros, as a recent inductee to the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame. Mr. Cisneros was honored this past November in El Paso, Texas.

José has lived in El Paso since the 1930's and has led an amazing life. He was born in Villa Ocampo, Durango, Mexico, on April 18, 1910. He grew up during the Mexican revolution, and his family moved often in search of work. With his great will and determination, José taught himself how to read and write. In addition, he also taught himself to paint, draw, and do calligraphy. In 1925, he moved to Ciudad Juarez where he enrolled in the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso and began learning English. In 1927, José emigrated to the United States, although he maintained a dual residence while caring for his declining parents. Unfortunately, his family did not encourage his budding artistic talent, calling them monitos, or worthless doodles. However, José persevered and began entering his art into Mexican journals during the 1930's. In 1939, he met Vicenta Madero, who later became his wife. Together, they raised a family or five daughters and one niece. José became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1948. Amazingly enough, José Cisneros is color-blind and for many years depended on his wife, who passed away in 1994, to mix colors for him. Today, José's daughters mix his colors.

José prides himself in the preservation of the history of the Southwest through his work. The University of Texas System Board of Regents selected him as the 1969 laureate for the Dobie Paisano Fellowship, the first artist to ever receive the award. The Western Writers

of America presented him with the Owen Winter Award, named in tribute of the author of the "Virginian", in 1997. In April 1998, he was declared a living legend by Westerners International, the highest honor given by this worldwide organization of people enamored of the American West. During the Spring of 1998, the State of Texas held a reception and dinner in José's honor. He is also a December 1998 recipient of the University of Alcalá's medal for his lifetime contribution to the history of Spain in the New World. Among his honors, José cherishes his election to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center and the El Paso Historical Society's Hall of Honor. Other accolades include being knighted by King Juan Carlos I of Spain and induction as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher. José has also received the Wrangler Award for Best Book Art and the Westerners International Best Book Award for artistic research and detail.

His paintings are in collections all around the world including the Palace of the Governors Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Texas. His talents can be seen year round in his "hundred horsemen" which line the walls of the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP) Library. Former U.S. President George Bush and Texas Governor George W. Bush also have collections of Cisneros's paintings.

José's artwork has been in several juried art competitions including Hidalgo County Historical Museum in Edinburg, Texas, and the University of the Pacific. His artwork has also appeared in competitions of the Centennial Museum at UTEP and the El Paso Museum of Art.

José's artwork has also appeared in several exhibitions beginning with the El Paso Public Library and the Centro Escolar Benito Juarez in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1938. His artwork received widespread recognition from his exhibit at a Western Heritage Association annual meeting in 1968. José also designed the Seal for Texas Western College and modified it when the college changed its name to UTEP. He also designed the logo for the Western Heritage Association.

José has been featured in books and periodicals such as his own "Risers Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands" (Texas Western Press, 1984) and "José Cisneros: An Artist's Journey" by John O. West (Texas Western Press, 1993). His artwork was recently collected in "Borderlands—The Heritage of the Lower Rio Grande through the Art of José Cisneros" by Felix D. Almaraz Jr., Hubert J. Miller, Tom Fort, and Rachel Freyman (Hidalgo County [Texas] Historical Society, 1998).

José is a true El Pasoan and has dedicated his life and talents to preserving the Southwest. In return for the generosity of the El Pasoans who consider his work priceless, he donates many of his works to El Paso schools, churches, and charities.

José Cisneros, believes that history is alive and beautiful, he says that he will continue to do the same thing he has done all his life—paint horses until the day he dies.

For his incredible talents and contributions to El Paso, I recognize and congratulate José Cisneros as a recent inductee of the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame.

KRUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers and parents of Kruse Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to 19 needy families in Colorado. That the Kruse Parent Teacher Organization produced so much from their food drive for the benefit of local families through the Salvation Army is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let this example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS COALITION LOBBYING FOR POOR AIR QUALITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the following excerpts from an article written by Bill McAllister that appeared in the Washington Post on March 4, 1999. The article, "How Clean Air Bit The Dust," exposes yet another environmental injustice. With more and more sound scientific evidence showing correlations between poor air quality and increased incidence of diseases and environmental degradation it is sad to see that some misguided interests asserts that "it's standard stuff" to fight for the right to pollute our Nation's air. Is it "standard stuff" to increase the incidence of childhood asthma and lung cancer? The article states that some "fretted that their opposition might rile EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner." Now they can worry about riling Congress. Read on.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 4, 1999]

HOW CLEAN AIR BIT THE DUST

(By Bill McAllister)

What happens when a big business coalition closes the door and plots strategy? Some enviros recently got a copy of notes of a Jan. 21 meeting of the Air Quality Standards Coalition and were appalled by what they saw through a rare window into the world of business lobbyists.

The lobbyists' bravado and scheming had Philip E. Clapp, president of the National Environmental Trust, and John Passacantando, executive director of Ozone Action, so angry they demanded that Thomas R. Kuhn, president of the Edison Electric Institute, which hosted the meeting, repudiate the group.

In the meeting, the lobbyists chortled over their successful strategy of rounding up governors, local officials and congressional