SARASOTA, FLORIDA –Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) has announced the winners of the 2011 High School Congressional Arts Competition. The first-place winner of the annual competition was Angela Gonzales of Osprey.

Buchanan announced the winners last week at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.

“I am very impressed by the exceptional talent of every student who submitted artwork as part of the competition,” said Buchanan. “I look forward to seeing the winner’s art placed on display in the nation’s Capitol.”

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in each Congressional District.

Ringling Museum Associate Curator of European Art Dr. Virginia Brilliant, Associate Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art Dr. Matthew McLendon and Exhibition Information Coordinator Donn Roll judged 26 entries from Sarasota, Manatee, and Charlotte Counties.

The winning entry, entitled “Man of the Streets” will be showcased for one year in the highly traveled corridor between the U.S. Capitol and the Cannon House Office Building.

The Venice High School 12th grader will receive roundtrip airfare to Washington to attend the Congressional Reception in June.

Other top finishers included:

- First Runner Up: Victoria Stadlin of Saint Stephen’s Episcopal School

- Second Runner Up: Dallas Younkman of Sarasota High School

- Third Runner Up: Sierra Snow of Bradenton Christian School

Their artwork will remain on display in the Children's Room Visitor's Pavilion at the Ringling Museum of Art until next spring.