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Senate

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COMMENDATION TO THE CURATOR OF THE CAPITOL, BARBARA WOLANIN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the tremendous work accomplished by Barbara Wolanin, the Curator of the Capitol, in preparing the excellent book on the art in the Capitol created by Constantino Brumidi. The Curator did a magnificent job writing and editing the many articles and photographs which depict the works of the Italian artist, Constantino Brumidi, who was the principal artist of the Capitol. The book was compiled under the direction of the Architect of the Capitol, and Dr. Wolanin had the assistance of many of her colleagues and fellow employees in the Curator's office. So I would like to commend them all on the excellent quality of this book which will enable many to read about the numerous and exquisite works of painting, sculpture and architecture which Constantino Brumidi created to cover the walls and ceilings of the Capitol.

I would also like to recommend this excellent artistic book to all of my colleagues and to the many others who will visit the Capitol. The book is available at the Senate and U.S. Capitol Historical Society gift shops.

The new congressional publication, Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol, was authorized by the 103rd Congress (S. Con. Res. 40) as part of the celebration of the bicentennial of the construction of the Capitol. The book, prepared under the direction of Architect George M. White and completed under Architect Alan M. Hantman, has taken a number of years to research, write, illustrate, edit, and design. The book is richly illustrated, primarily with photographs taken by the Architect of the Capitol Photography Branch. It is intended to be valuable to those visiting and working in the Cap-

itol as well as to specialists, and it should enhance the appreciation and understanding of the building's mural decoration for years to come.

Brumidi painted murals in the Capitol between 1855 and 1880, contributing greatly to the beauty and unique symbolic character of the Rotunda and of many rooms and corridors. Brumidi had great skill in making the figures he painted on a flat surface look three dimensional; he created rooms where the decoration goes from floor to ceiling. He was also a master in using rich and vibrant color. His murals pay tribute to American history, technological achievements, and values.

Brumidi's Capitol murals, including the canopy and the frieze, the House and Senate Appropriations Committee Rooms, the President's Room, the Senate Reception Room, and the Brumidi Corridors, are the major focus. The book also gives an overview of his career, including his training and work in Rome. It was primarily envisioned and written by Dr. Barbara Wolanin, Curator for the Architect of the Capitol, who has overseen the conservation of Brumidi's murals. The book would not have been possible without the assistance of many on her staff, especially photographer Wayne Firth. The book includes chapters by a number of other experts, including the Architectural Historian for the Architect, William Allen, historian Pellegrino Nazzaro, art historian Francis V. O'Connor, and conservators Bernard Rabin, Constance Silver, Christiana Cunningham-Adams and George W. Adams, to provide additional perspectives. The book includes information about other painters working with Brumidi, a chronology of Brumidi's life and work, and a list of known works by him. The Government Printing Office is to be commended for the special care it took in the design and printing.