Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Little League Western Region, and its contributions to the youth of the Inland Empire, through its Western Regional Tournament. Little League is the foundation of good values and sportsmanship. Some of us may be bigger than others, or faster, but in team sports, as in life, it is the effort that counts! Through perseverance and teamwork, one can succeed!

Here in the Inland Empire, we like to be known for historic firsts. Did you know that San Bernardino was the first site of Little League, west of the Rocky Mountains? Did you know San Bernardino had the first team from the West to advance to the World Series in 1951? So, when you play here, you are a part of history! This is a special place!

We should stop to honor those who have made this facility possible. The Western Regional Headquarters was constructed in 1969. The property on which the headquarters was placed was made available to Little League Baseball by the City of San Bernardino. Al Houghton Stadium and the Thomas C. Boyle Softball Building were built first, and the balance of what is here today has been gradually added. Warner Hodgdon, a local businessman, contributed heavily to the swimming pool, which is now such an important part of the Headquarters. Local firms pitched in with donated building materials, equipment and labor to gradually complete the complex. Many District Administrators and other local people labored hard and long. Western Regional Headquarters as it stands today has been a "labor of love."

The property on which the headquarters complex is a Junior Olympic size swimming pool. For other recreation and practice there are table games, batting cages, practice fields and a recreation hall. There is also a Senior Division field.

The Western Regional Tournament is the culmination of hard work by parents, fundraisers, volunteers, and the business community, as well as these talented players. Twelve teams, and 10 days of play! An audience of 50,000 to 60,000! A Tournament Committee of over 125 volunteers from 11 Western States! Recognition of all teams at the Inland Empire Sixty Sixers home game! The involvement of Team 14, a group of local businessmen and women who volunteer to host a team and take the players to other Southern California events! An annual Golf Tournament! In addition, Little League Leadership Training Clinics are offered for League Officials, District Administrators, Managers/Coaches, scorekeepers and volunteer umpires. Included in the training sessions are two one-week Umpire Schools along with weekend rules clinics. And straight to the heart of those who participate, and those who support the game. Play ball!

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. JIM KOLBE
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of southeastern Arizona, my deepest sympathies go out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. While we are saddened by this tragedy, our compassion in this time of adversity will prevail. I am confident the spirit of community and generosity will be seen from across the country as we begin to pick up and rebuild from this horrible disaster. Whenever Americans get knocked down, they always get back up. Southern Arizona is ready to do its...
part, by opening its arms and its heart to shelter the homeless from Louisiana and Mississippi.

This is just the first bill that Congress will need to enact to recover from this terrible disaster. It will provide an immediate infusion of money to allow FEMA and the Department of Defense to address our most immediate needs, ensuring there is no disruption in funding for relief efforts. Because much of the region is still underwater, the full extent of the damage is unknown. It will take some time to assess the scope and cost of this disaster, but Congress will ensure that FEMA and other federal agencies have the resources they need to assist the citizens of this region to get back on their feet.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD KURTH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Harold Kurth of Citrus County, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient from World War II.

Volunteering for service in 1943, Mr. Kurth's ambition was to join the Air Corp, but was inducted into the Army at Camp Roberts to receive his basic training instead.

Following his initial training, Mr. Kurth was aboard the Sea Witch on his way to Guadalcanal where he was wounded by a hand grenade in the battle.

Mr. Kurth then took part in campaigns on the Soloman Islands and the Philippines, where he was wounded by a hand grenade while guarding a church in Manila. He was part of a group of six soldiers who came under enemy fire in the church yard following a river crossing. Several of his compatriots were killed in the battle.

Of the "Heavyweights of the South Pacific," Mr. Kurth's division was credited with killing 12,500 enemy soldiers during World War II. Serving three years without a furlough, Mr. Kurth returned to the United States on Christmas Eve, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Harold Kurth should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Kurth with his long-overdue Purple Heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINFONIA MEXICANA

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Sinfonia Mexicana, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

This important institution, located in San Bernardino, has been thrilling audiences since 1985, when Mario Porras and Charles Eisenhard inspired members of the Inland Empire Symphony Association, local civic leaders, and then Consul of Mexico Emerenciano Rodriguez, to form a committee to present a unique concert of Mexico’s symphonic masterpieces. Consul Rodriguez was selected to chair the committee.

The concert was a tremendous success! Enthused, the committee continued to present annual state-of-the-art musical and culturally enriching programs for the enjoyment of the entire community.

The purpose of this organization is to present the finest music compositions of Mexico to the Inland Empire. In addition to its outstanding music programming, the group has committed numerous volunteer hours and financial contributions throughout these many years, with participation of organizations and individuals that shared in the identical goal of program development and other auxiliary components.

The current success of the Sinfonia Mexicana has been recognized as an outstanding achievement in the Inland Empire and beyond. It is a well-established fact that Mexican folkloric music is enormously popular and world-renowned; however, what was relatively unknown to many people locally, was Mexico’s symphonic and symphonic music created by notable composers and arrangers—many of whom Sinfonia showcased over the past 19 years. They included: Carlos Chávez, Pablo Moncayo, Manuel M. Ponce, Silvestre Revueltas, Miguel Bermejo, Blas Galindo, Juventino Rosa, Enrique Mora, Manuel Enríquez, Ricardo Castro, Candelario Huizar, Felipe Villanueva, and others. To be sure, Chávez’s “Sinfonia India” is a fine example of the unification of Yaqui and Seri indigenous melodies into a symphonic masterpiece.

A typical Sinfonia program of Mexican classical music often features a guest conductor and/or artists from Mexico performing with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra at the historic California Theatre of Performing Arts in San Bernardino. Guest conductors have included Abraham Chávez, Sergio Cardenas, Francisco Javier Serrano, and Jeff Nevin. On two occasions Sinfonia directed the “Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México” in San Bernardino. On their first visit, Maestro Francisco Savín served as musical director. On their second, Maestro Francisco Savín directed the Orquesta as part of a national tour of seven U.S. cities in honor of the 100th birthday celebration of Mexico’s premier composers Carlos Chávez and Silvestre Revueltas (Díeckme is currently the artistic director of the Long Beach Symphony).

Special guest included soprano Ariella Vaccarino and tenor Roberto Cantoral, who performed the West Coast premiere of "Navidades" by the internationally acclaimed Gloria Estefan of Miami. Other special performances by outstanding ensembles from Mexico and Southern California. Sinfonia presented the world premiere of the Inland Empire—drawings audiences from Mexico City, Los Angeles, San Diego, and beyond. Special guests included Lara, widow and famous contemporary songwriter, Roberto Cantoral, and numerous luminaries.

Sinfonia has presented a variety of special performances by outstanding ensembles from Mexico and Southern California. Sinfonia commissioned Maestros Mateo Oliva and Mario Kuri-Aldana to arrange into symphonic form various melodies by famous Mexican composers, Agustín Lara. The world premiere of the concert in San Bernardino was an international sensation. That cutting edge program was the most popular classical concert ever presented in the Inland Empire—drawings audiences from Mexico City, Los Angeles, San Diego, and beyond. Special guests included Lara, widow and famous contemporary songwriter, Roberto Cantoral, and numerous luminaries.

Sinfonia has presented a variety of special performances by outstanding ensembles from Mexico and Southern California. Sinfonia presented "Bastian y Blanca" by Mozart, performed by a student group, Group Juvenil de Tijuana. Moreover, Sinfonia presented the West Coast premiere of the first Chino opera, "Esperanza", performed by David Bishop and the libretto by Carlos Morton based on the classic cult film, “Salt of the Earth.” The opera was performed by the Ensenada Opera Theatre which featured soprano Ariella Vaccarino and tenor Eric Castro.