

given the rarest of opportunities, a second company level command, which he maintained for all Army soldiers assigned to the Military District of Washington with duty at Fort Meade, MD.

In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Exum was assigned with the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army and served there until 1996. During his year of service, he was the Protocol Staff Officer. His actions had a direct, positive impact on the public persona of the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army by coordinating events for the "Big Four" senior Army leadership with foreign dignitaries, senior U.S. Government officials, and senior military leaders.

He then transitioned from active duty to become an active Guard Reserve National Guard officer. His contributions to the National Guard while serving as the Security Clearance Adjudications Officer and Reserve Incentive Program Manager from 1996 to 2001 were without measure and positively impacted the lives of individual soldiers and the readiness and training of the Guard Bureau as a whole.

After serving as the Chief of the Inquiries Branch in the National Guard Bureau Legislative Office, he was then hand-picked to represent the National Guard Bureau and the Army as the first National Guard officer to serve in the House Liaison Division of the Secretary of the Army's Legislative Liaison office for many years.

Lieutenant Colonel Exum is a natural at building and maintaining credible relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs, which was invaluable as the Army faced many challenges associated with its budget and real world combat operations in the Global War on Terror. Members knew they could count on Lieutenant Colonel Exum for his sage counsel, professional advice, and unwavering integrity.

Lieutenant Colonel Exum's faithful service, leadership, loyalty, and dedication to duty uphold the highest traditions of military service, and he has repeatedly stood for the defense of this Nation, her citizens, and their freedom. His devotion to the defense of liberty epitomizes the words soldier, patriot, and American. Lieutenant Colonel Exum is a role model for his two children, Tyler and Taylor, and is a devoted husband to his wife, Tina.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my gratitude and that of the entire Nation to Lieutenant Colonel Exum for his service to the United States and his hard work in defense of freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON FOWKES

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a good friend and public servant, Ron Fowkes, as he retires from his position as Council President for the Village of Milford, Michigan.

As a public servant Ron has demonstrated a deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, and hard work. Before serving on the Village Council, Ron served on the Milford Parks and Recreation Commission, which included terms as vice-chair and chairman. He also served on the

board of directors for the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce; the American Eagles Flying Club; River Bend Playscape steering committee; and founding board member of the Village Tree Board.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Fowkes has made a significant impact on his community over the past decade—from securing funds to plant more than 200 trees in the Milford community to leading the effort to renovate playgrounds and park facilities. His commitment to God, family and country has been a source of inspiration to the many lives he has touched.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Ron Fowkes. His wife Barbara and daughters Aimee and Victoria, and his many friends today can feel a rightful sense of pride and appreciation for Ron, and I offer my congratulations and appreciation for all he has done for his community and his country.

RECOGNIZING AGOSTINO LOPORTO

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. Agostino Loperto of Citrus County, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient from World War II.

Inducted into the military on March 1, 1941, Mr. Loperto went to boot camp at Fort Dix, NJ, and received additional training at Fort Benning and Camp Gordon. Shipped overseas in late 1943 to Liverpool, England, Mr. Loperto was in the Battle of the Bulge on D-Day.

Attached to the 4th Infantry Motorized Division in Belgium, Mr. Loperto was wounded in his shoulder by shrapnel in the Black Forest. He was taken to a hospital in Belgium and was transferred to a hospital in England when the Belgian hospital was hit by a B2 German bomber. Mr. Loperto received 4 months of medical treatment and was discharged from the military on November 4, 1945.

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

SALUTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE WESTERN REGION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise 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 Administration 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."

On the grounds of 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, fund-raisers, 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 so, I salute the young people 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 clean 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 the 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 when the ship was fired on by Japanese submarines. Luckily, the Sea Witch made it safely to Guadalcanal without further contact with the enemy.

Mr. Kurth then took part in campaigns on the Solomon 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 injured as well in the battle.

Part 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-over 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 for this exciting endeavor. 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 veritable treasure of classical 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 Bernal, Blás Galindo, Juventino Rosa, Enrique Mora, Manuel Enriques, Ricardo Castro, Candelario Huízar, 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 Cárdenas, Francisco Savín, Guadalupe Flores, Eduardo Díazmuñoz, Enrique Diemecke, José Hernandez, Stewart Robertson, and Jeff Nevin. On two occasions Sinfonia had the distinction to host the "Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México" in San Bernardino. On their first visit, Maestro Francisco Savín served as musical director. On their second, Maestro Enrique Diemecke 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 (Diemecke is currently the artistic director of the Long Beach Symphony). Instrumental guest soloists have included Carlos Prieto, cello; Jorge Juarez and María Teresa Rodríguez, piano; Miguel Alcazar, guitar; Roman Revueltas, violin; Elena Duran, flute; and Manuel Arpero, trumpet. Sinfonia commissioned Maestros Mateo Oliva and Mario Kuri-Aldana to arrange into symphonic form romantic ballads by beloved Mexican composer, 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—drawing audiences from Mexico City, Los Angeles, San Diego, and beyond. Special guests included Lara's 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 is now organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and yet maintains its volunteer-driven mission to foster the awareness of Mexico's symphonic musical masterpieces, and educate the public of the fine music and culture of Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, that is a résumé of the substantial achievements of this important cultural institution. My family and I enjoy this music. We encourage everyone in the community to partake of this great resource.

I ask that a more detailed history of Sinfonia be included in the Congressional Record, for public display and historical preservation. And again, I say: thank you to Sinfonia, for preserving these important musical traditions!

SINFONIA MEXICANA—A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Sinfonia Mexicana 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 for this exciting endeavor. 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.

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Sinfonia has presented a variety of special performances by outstanding ensembles from Mexico and Southern California. They featured the West Coast premiere of "Navidades" by the internationally acclaimed Ballet Folklórico de Amalia Hernandez from Mexico City. And, from Baja California, Sinfonia presented "Bastian y Bastiana" Mozart's comic opera performed by a student group, Grupo Juvenil de Tijuana. Moreover, Sinfonia presented the West Coast premiere of the first Chicano opera, "Esperanza" composed 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 Euterpe Opera Theatre of Pasadena, which featured soprano Ariella Vaccarino and tenor Eric Castro.