early in the morning before classes or spending his vacations in camouflage at Fort Drum, Lieutenant Buscaglia looked much different. In addition to all his academic and extra-curricular accomplishments, he spent his free time training to become an officer in the United States Army.

After graduation in 2004, Lieutenant Buscaglia was commissioned and, for the last 5 months, has served with distinction as an intelligence officer and platoon leader in Iraq. Because of his dedication to duty, Lieutenant Buscaglia has recovered information that prevented numerous insurgent attacks and saved American lives. Appropriately, he has received outstanding ratings from senior officers and the respect of his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, the debt we owe to our servicemen and women can never be fully repaid—they protect our shores, our families, and our democratic government. Lieutenant Buscaglia put his bright future on hold and volunteered to fight on our behalf. I thank him today for his dedication to the safety of all Americans and his willingness to serve our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE 2005 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches, staff, and owners of the Los Angeles Galaxy for winning the 2005 Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup Championship and to pay tribute to this historic feat.

On November 13, 2005 in Frisco, Texas, the Galaxy became the 10th MLS Champion by defeating the New England Revolution by a score of 1–0 in extra time. This is the Galaxy's second MLS championship and represents only the third time in league history that a team has won the ''domestic double''—the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup and the MLS Cup Championship in the same year.

The team was challenged throughout the entire season both from sustaining several injuries and also player absences due to call-ups by the United States Men's National Team The Galaxy's ability to overcome these adversities is a testament to the skill of the coaching staff and the talent of players who never once compromised team cohesiveness for individual glory.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the individual players for their role in developing this championship team. This year's superb squad was led by team captain Peter Vagenas and a terrific line up that included Chris Albright, Benjamin Benditson, Pablo Chinchilla, Mubarike Chisoni, Steve Cronin, Ednaldo da Conceicao, Landon Donovan, Todd Dunivant, Michael Enfield, Josh Gardner, Herculez Gomez, Guillermo Gonzalez, Alan Gordon, Ned Grabavoy, Kevin Hartman, Ugo Ihemelu, David Johnson, Cobi Jones, Quavas Kirk, Tyrone Marshall, Paulo Nagamura, Joseph Ngwenya, Michael Nsien, Troy Roberts, Marcelo Saragosa, Josh Saunders, Michael Umana, and the 2005 MLS Cup's Most Valuable Player, midfielder Guillermo ''Pando'' Ramirez.

The coaching crew was also instrumental in cultivating this triumphant team. The fantastic staff was led by head coach Steve Sampson; assistant coaches Afshin Ghotbi, Billy McNicol, and Ignacio Hernandez; Head Athletic Trainer Ivan Pierra; Team Administrator Anthony Garcia; and Equipment Manager Raul Vargas.

Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Los Angeles has the best fans any team can ask for. They are more than just spectators, they are the 12th player on the field—building momentum and inspiring their team to fight on to victory. These devoted and spirited fans contributed to eight sold out home games and brought the average home game attendance to 24,000 people this season.

The Los Angeles Galaxy deserves as many accolades for their heroic work off the field as they do for their gallant efforts on the field. During the past several years, the Galaxy Foundation has hosted the Foundation's Feast, which provides Thanksgiving dinner for 200 needy children and families. The Foundation also hosts a special holiday shopping spree for children selected by several local Salvation Army chapters.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman TOM DAVIS, Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN, Congressman CHRIS CANNON, and Congressman DANNY DAVIS for their help in bringing H. Res. 574 to the floor today.

The Los Angeles Galaxy is a truly remarkable team whose high standards of excellence, professionalism, demonstrated courage, sacrifice, and teamwork should be commended. Their passion continues to captivate a growing and diverse fan base from all across Southern California.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me and all soccer fans from across the country and the around world in congratulating the 2005 Major League Soccer Cup Champions Los Angeles Galaxy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. Last Thursday, I was unable to vote on tabling the motion on H. Res. 591, a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House (rollcall No. 622), due to an unavoidable commitment in New Jersey. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall vote 622.

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK SCOTS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE TEXAS CLASS 4A DIVISION I HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Scots of Highland Park High School in Dallas, Texas for winning their first State Championship in almost half a century, defeating the Marshall High School Mavericks by the largest margin of victory in Texas High School eleven-man Football Championship history. I am proud to represent Highland Park as part of the 32nd District of Texas.

Head Coach Randy Allen and his team put on an impressive display at Tyler's Rose Stadium in front of over 14,000 fans plus several thousand more who couldn't get in due to a lack of seating. It was a fitting end to their first-ever undefeated, untied season of 15–0. Highland Park dominated the competition throughout the season on their way to their first State Championship appearance since 1957, with only one game in the entire season decided by 7 points or less.

This team and its fans have certainly waited a long time to reach this point. They have come extremely close to reaching the final game several times in recent years, but have always come up just a little shy. Twice in the past 10 years the Scots have seemingly been within arm's reach of the championship game, losing in the semifinals in both 1996 and 2003. After having come so close with such talented teams, they and their fans were very ready to return to glory.

Their avid fans came out in droves to support them in the championship game, even prompting the operators of the Rose Stadium to erect more seats at the last minute to accommodate up to 2,000 more fans. They also lobbied successfully to have the game broadcast live so that all of the Highland Park faithful who were unable to get tickets to the game could at least watch from afar as their beloved Scots brought home their first championship in 48 years.

The 2005 Scots, dubbed the ''Band of Brothers,'' fielded quite a large and talented team. It consisted of 116 total players, including at least one national standout. Matthew Stafford, the Scots quarterback, broke the school's passing record on the team's road to victory by throwing for over 8,000 yards in his three seasons at the helm. Stafford, considered by some to be the top recruit in the country at his position, will attend the University of Georgia next year. Another notable performance was that of senior Jake Feldt, who scored an incredible five touchdowns in a valiant effort for his team during the championship game.

In closing, I would like to honor the Highland Park Scots Football Team, HP coach Randy Allen, and the Community of Highland Park for their spirit, dedication, and winning attitude in their best season in a historically competitive program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error my vote was not recorded for rollcall 618. I should have been recorded as voting ''yes.'' Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following this vote. H.R. 4440, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, rollcall No. 618, ''yes.''