

Quintessentially popular mariachi performances have included the legendary Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Sol de México de José Hernandez, Las Reinas de Los Angeles, Mariachi Mujer, Mariachi Divas, and Mariachi Champaña. Other diverse artists included Latin jazz great, Tito Puente, the romantic trio, Los Tres Reyes, famed folklorists Tlen Huicani (Veracruz), and the brilliant Ballet Folklorico del Pacifico. The famous pop artist, Vikki Carr graced Sinfonia's portfolio, as did Alicia Juarez (widow of José Alfredo Jimenez), Lalo Guerrero, Mayor Judith Valles, sopranos Maria Luisa Tamez and Florencia Tinoco; tenors Alejandro Guerrero, Pedro Rey, Raul Hernandez, Dennis Meade, Daniel Hendricks, and the West Coast debut of tenor Daniel Rodriguez performing with a symphony orchestra (the former New York police officer who awed the nation with his rendition of "God Bless America" in the aftermath of 9-11). Sinfonia endeavors to help promote the musical careers of local young aspiring artists such as Elizabeth Quintero and Desiree Flores. Sinfonia supported the very first youth mariachi in the region, Mariachi Estudiantil and founder Lou Herz, whom Sinfonia sponsored for several years, and supported the debut of the region's first all-girl, Mariachi las Princesas.

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. The board of directors and staff invite interested members of the community to become involved in Sinfonia Mexicana programs.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARIANO RIVERA

HON. JOSÉ E SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera, as he is awarded the 2004 Latino MVP Relief Pitcher of the Year Award by Latino Sports and the Latino Sports Writers & Broadcasters Association (LSWBA).

Rivera made his major league debut with the New York Yankees in 1995. Since 1997 he has served as the team's closer and has blown away his competition. Rivera is arguably the most effective closer in postseason baseball history, recording final outs in three Yankee world title seasons (1998, 1999 and 2000). He also owns the Major League record for most postseason saves with 32, as well as most World Series saves with 9. Rivera also established the longest scoreless innings streak in postseason play with thirty-three innings pitched and was named as the World Series MVP in 1999 and the Most Valuable Player of the American League Championship Series in 2003. He currently leads the Yankees as the club's all-time saves leader with 366 and boasts an incredible Earned Run Average below 1.00 in postseason play.

Mariano Rivera was born on November 11, 1969, in Panama City. The son of a fisherman, he grew up poor and played baseball as a kid using a glove fashioned out of a cardboard box. He has been described by many as being a deeply religious man, and says that he would one day want to move back to his

native Panama to become a Priest. While fans of opposing teams dread to see Rivera on the mound, all will agree that he is a class act. Never one to boast or brag about his incredible gift, Rivera comes to work and does the job better than anyone. He is fearless yet humble, a combination that we seldom see in today's athletes.

When the game is on the line, great athletes always rise to the challenge. Jordan, Montana and Pelé all separated themselves from the pack with their ability to overcome their fears and anxiety and play with a high level of confidence. With his ability to shut down opponents at the end of a game Rivera has earned a place among these elite competitors.

Mr. Speaker, Mariano Rivera is proof of the great contributions Latinos continue to make to this country. While I am proud of the many championships Rivera has helped to bring to the city of New York, I am more proud of the fact that he has helped to improve the lives of many young people in the South Bronx. Whether he knows it or not, Rivera's attitude towards the game of baseball provides all who watch him with a model of how to approach life—hard work and determination.

Mariano Rivera exemplifies the idea of an athlete as a role model. For his unyielding competitive spirit and positive impact on the lives of all Americans, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera as he is awarded the 2004 Latino MVP Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SPRING HILL NATIONAL DIXIE YOUTH AAA BASEBALL TEAM

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 the members of the Spring Hill National Dixie Youth AAA baseball team on their recent victories at the State championships and world series.

The Spring Hill Nationals are made up of 9- and 10-year-olds who have worked tirelessly for their successes. The 13 members of this extraordinary team have demonstrated through their victories the traits of sportsmanship, dedication, loyalty, and discipline.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following members of the Spring Hill team: Gabe Abbadessa, Mason Arroyo, Drue Brooks, Brandon Brosher, Alex Martin, Danny Gendusa, Derek Newman, Nic Pasarella, Nick Ramirez, Drew Dessa, Brad Smith, Evan Webster, and Joey Wright. Their manager, Dave Smith, and assistant coaches, Bob Pasarella and Dave Newman contributed to their successes.

The Spring Hill National Dixie Youth AAA baseball team is Florida's team. I am honored that these fine young gentlemen are from my district and am proud of their accomplishments.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANASTASIA "ANNIE" SAIZ, OF BELEN, NM

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in loving tribute and memory of my sister Anastasia "Annie" Saiz, who passed away over the August congressional recess.

Beloved wife of Seferino Saiz, beloved sister of Florenio, Maria "Lupe" Napier, Morris, Tanny, Raymond, Joe, and Theresa Perez, and the late Abiflio Baca, beloved mother and mother-in-law of Robert Saiz and Lisa; Elsie Giron and husband, William; Sefe Saiz Jr. and wife, Liz; Dorothy Johnston and husband, Johnny; Lorraine Marquez and husband, Carl; and Charlie Saiz and wife, Rose, all of Belen. She is survived by 16 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren.

Annie lived life to the fullest, reaching the mark of 78 years young. She and Seferino had just celebrated their 60th anniversary with a family dinner at their home on August 5. They were married in 1945 in La Joya.

Annie was widely admired by family, friends, and colleagues. She was hard working, dedicated, committed, disciplined, loving and supporting. She was everything one would want in a sister, daughter, mother, wife, grandmother, and great grandmother.

She was employed by the Los Lunas Hospital and Training School, working with mentally challenged children. She had a big heart and compassion for the less fortunate. She would bring home children during the Easter holiday to enjoy the picnics; she couldn't see them being alone.

She was a devoted Catholic, and active in our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, and she volunteered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She participated in civic causes, volunteering her time, getting up at 7 a.m. to drive voters to the polls. When she believed in a cause, she would work her heart out.

She loved to shop. During the holidays she always gave out presents to strangers and her friends. She enjoyed listening to Mariachi music, going dancing at the senior citizen dances with Seferino and friends. She enjoyed listening to Jennifer sing Mariachi songs. When we would visit she was always so thoughtful and kind to give me and Barbara and my children a little gift. We will always remember her kindness and love for family.

Annie enjoyed spending time with her family. She always supported her children and grandchildren, cheering them on at baseball games; she was their No. 1 fan. She defended her family, as she stood by their side. She was all about "familia." On her children's birthday, she would call the local DJ and dedicate songs to her children. She would tell them to turn on the radio, and there is a special song, chosen from her heart.

She was a great cook. Everyone would go to her house, and even if you were not hungry, she would make sure that she gave you a plate and made you eat. The food was always so delicious, how could you refuse. We loved her tortillas and atole. She had special Mexican food remedies for our colds.

Annie's life was dedicated to family, friends, and community. Her memory lives on in our