

continue her work as long as she is able to perform it.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Joan Schwade for her service and dedication to the Protivin community as a meter reader. I consider it an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

LITTLE HOMETOWN SOLDIERS OF  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
BRING GREAT COMFORT  
THROUGH MUSIC AND PRAYERS

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, With their voices of angels, the Little Hometown Soldiers of St. Petersburg, Florida bring the greatest of comfort and joy to the families of our men and women in uniform who have deployed around the world to protect our freedom.

This unique group of children ranging in age from 3 to 16, was founded in 2003 by Elaine Hopkins to speak in a special way to the youngest family members of our deployed servicemembers. Through patriotic songs, dramatic plays, cards and letters, and personal appearances locally and nationally they provide immeasurable support to children and adults alike. They visit Veterans Hospitals and Nursing Centers and sing at the funerals of fallen servicemembers. Having been with them on a number of these occasions, I can tell you that their words and songs of hope and encouragement are most appreciated.

The Little Hometown Soldiers have performed on national television, they have traveled to Washington to perform at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, and they sang for our returning troops as part of Operation Home Front at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Madam Speaker, Elaine Hopkins has done a remarkable job with these children who are this generation's young patriots. Even at their early ages, they understand the shared sacrifice of our troops and their families and they understand the true cost of freedom having attended the funerals of many of our heroes.

On Memorial Day weekend, they will perform a special concert entitled "I Believe I Can Fly" as a tribute to the children and families of our fallen servicemembers. The event at 3 pm on Sunday, May 25, 2008 at The Paladium Theatre in St. Petersburg, Florida is free and open to the public.

Madam Speaker, I wish all my colleagues could be with me that day to hear the words of support and encouragement these children bring to families who have suffered the greatest of losses. The Little Hometown Soldiers are comprised of Camry Moody, Jermaine Lewis, Sherice Johnson, RoShaun Dudley, RaShard Dudley, Nehemiah Sonnylal, Johnathan Rosario, Isabelle Rosario, Tamaira Charlemagne, Griffin Ford, Sajon Ford, Nykko Ford, Phoenix Ford, Keanu Ford, Mariangela Vasquez, Jissel Vasquez, Marcos Vasquez, Amanda Puyot, Darquell Pierre, Andrea Young, Prentazia Crawford, Shandra Gordon, Erica McCallister, Destine Wilson, Sydney

Peterman, Lyonna Holloway, Jamesia Holloway, and Gisselle Zayas. They are one of our area's and our Nation's greatest treasures and I would ask you to join me in saying thank you to them for sharing their gift of love and music.

HONORING HORACE FINCHER

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Horace Fincher, the mayor of the city of Lytle, in recognition of his exemplary leadership in the growth of the city during his tenure, which ends on May 12, 2008.

Horace Fincher served as Mayor of the City of Lytle for 14 years after having served on the Lytle City Council for 6 years. During his tenure, Mayor Fincher worked to increase the tax base for taxpayers in Lytle by bringing in businesses such as H-E-B, Sonic Drive-In, McDonald's, Bill Miller Bar-B-Q, Camino Real Mental Health & Mental Retardation (MHMR) Center, Hurley Funeral Home, and Tri-County Dialysis Center. He also has endeavored in bringing consecutive grant proposals to the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), which is a voluntary association of local governments and organizations in twelve counties that serves its members through planning, information, and coordination activities.

Mayor Fincher truly led by example and it is to his credit that the city of Lytle has seen an improvement in its business capital, and a renewal of infrastructure projects. The city is a truly better place because of the dedication that Mayor Fincher has shown in his public service.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize Mayor Horace Fincher, and I thank you for this time.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO'S CHILD SAFETY ADVOCATES

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize many of Sacramento's outstanding individuals and businesses as members of the Sacramento community gather at the Child Abuse Prevention Center's annual Inspirations luncheon. The men and women being honored this afternoon are dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and well-being of Sacramento's children and families. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

David Ballard and the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento are receiving the community service provider award. The Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento is a shelter for abused and neglected children in Sacramento County. The only shelter of its kind, the Children's Receiving Home serves over 1,800 children each year. I would like to commend them on their ability to help these children in their time of need. David is being hon-

ored for his contributions to a variety of campaigns that have secured funding to help improve and expand the facilities and make changes in the care children receive there. In addition to his dedication to the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento, Mr. Ballard has served on the Children's Coalition's board, the human services planning council, the family support collaborative executive committee and the child welfare redesign steering committee.

The hearts and hands award is being presented to Anthony Pico for his work with our foster care system. Mr. Pico was raised in foster homes and at 15 he began working with other youth in the California Youth Connection and the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Programs. He has worked with the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, Pitzer College, the California Institute for Mental Health, the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes, and has held positions with the San Francisco Youth Commission—Mayoral Appointee Commission and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. For his dedication to improving our foster care system, Mr. Pico was the 2005, 2006, and 2007 recipient of the Youth Leadership Award from the City and County of San Francisco and is now being honored by his Sacramento partners.

This year, the Board of Directors Award goes to a coalition of health care providers and agencies in Sacramento for launching California's first Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program (SBS). The Sacramento County Departments of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services, and Public Health Nursing in conjunction with Catholic Healthcare West-Mercy, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, the DC Davis Medical Center and the Child Abuse Prevention Center have championed this important cause. This program is modeled after a program in New York which has greatly reduced incidents of SBS by 50 percent in that State. With this program hospitals will provide educational materials to new parents on the dangers of shaking their babies and the prevention techniques that parents can use to avoid this heartbreaking form of child abuse. These organizations have come together to reduce the incidence of SBS and most importantly protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these individuals and businesses for their extraordinary work on behalf of children and families in the Sacramento area, and I would like to thank the Child Abuse Prevention Center for their dedication to our children's safety. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their unwavering commitment to Sacramento's youth.

HONORING LOUISIANA HONORAIR  
AND T.D. SMITH, LINDA  
DAUTREUIL AND SALLIE  
VARRELMAN

### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to America's World War II veterans. These veterans represent the best