

medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and in 1999 was ranked the No. 1 player in the world.

In addition to his achievements on the court, Andre participates in many charity organizations and founded the Andre Agassi Charitable Association (ACA), whose mission statement is to provide educational and recreational institutions and activities for abandoned, abused, and at-risk kids. Every year, the ACA holds a concert benefit entitled Grand Slam for Children, featuring performances by artists such as Celine Dion, Robin Williams, and Sir Elton John. After its 11th year, the event has successfully raised over \$50 million for the at-risk children of Las Vegas. In 1995, he won the ATP Arthur Ashe Humanitarian award in recognition of his efforts for helping disadvantaged youth in Las Vegas. In 1997, Andre opened the Boys & Girls Club to assist the youth of Las Vegas, which features a junior tennis team, Team Agassi, as well as a basketball program, the Agassi Stars. In 2001, Andre opened the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy in Las Vegas, NV, a K-12 public charter school founded on the principle that nothing can impact on a child's life more than the education they receive. Additionally, through the ACA, he supports Clark County's only residential facility for abused and neglected children called Child Haven, donating funds for a six-room classroom building now named the Agassi Center for Education. His foundation also provided \$720,000 to assist in the building of the Andre Agassi Cottage for Medically Fragile Children.

In addition to his professional success and his contributions to the community, Andre is a dedicated family man; he is the loving husband of former tennis champion Steffi Graf, and the devoted father to 4-year-old son Jaden Gil and 2-year-old daughter Jaz Elle.

The consummate sportsman, Andre praised his fans following his match on Sunday, September 3, 2006 at the U.S. Open. This match brought to a close one of the most impressive professional careers in all of sports. After walking off the court, Andre said "The scoreboard said I lost today, but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what I've found. Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty. You have pulled for me on the court and also in life. I have found inspiration. You have willed me to succeed sometimes in my lowest moments." He will always be No. 1 in the world, not only as an athlete, but also as a great humanitarian. Andre has willed our community and children to succeed at some of our lowest moments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Andre Agassi. I would like to offer Andre my sincerest congratulations on an esteemed career, my warmest thanks for his ongoing contributions to the Las Vegas community, and wish him much luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHERN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute and congratulate the 2006 Little League World Champions, the Northern Little League team of Columbus, Georgia.

The victory by our Northern Little Leaguers over the undefeated Kawaguchi City team representing Japan, makes them only the second team from Georgia to win a World Championship. While a team from Marietta won in 1983, our team is only the second team from Georgia to ever qualify for this event in its entire 60 year history.

As the Member of Congress representing Columbus and Muscogee County, Georgia, where most of the young men live, I can not tell you how proud we all are of this fine young team.

The entire city and surrounding community was thrilled by the success of its native sons. The Columbus Northern Little League players are not only world champions; they are hometown heroes and celebrities as well.

These young men represented the city of Columbus, the State of Georgia and indeed, our great nation, in the finest tradition of the Little League, and what it stands for and represents—teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie.

The spirit of sportsmanship was no more apparent than this year. After winning the Championship game, the entire Columbus team walked over to their opponents dugout, and invited the Japanese team to help them hoist the championship banner and to join them in taking the victory lap around the field. Then, side by side, the two teams scooped up dirt from the infield to keep as souvenirs.

I also want to pay tribute to the parents of these young men. Any parent of a little league baseball player, or for that matter, football, soccer or other sports knows and appreciates the love and commitment needed to be successful in these activities.

Let me also pay tribute to the dedicated Columbus fans, hundreds of whom took the 900-mile trip to Williamsport from Columbus to support our team, as well as the other Little League teams in the Columbus area, and the many volunteers, sponsors and supporters who have dedicated themselves to Little League sports year after year.

Throughout the World Series, it was clear that our Northern Little Leaguers were well schooled and prepared, which in large part, points to the hard work and dedication of the team's Manager—Randy Morris, and Coach—Richard Carter.

But it was the members of the team themselves who had to put it all together on the field. And I would like to pay special tribute to each one of the team members individually, including: Brady Hamilton #6, Ryan Lang #18, Josh Lester #4, Matthew Hollis #10, Patrick Stallings #25, Mason Meyers #16, Kyle Rovig #8, Matthew Kuhlberg #7, Cody Walker #21, Kyle Carter #19, and J.T. Phillips #22.

Babe Ruth once said, "Baseball was, is and always will be to me the best game in the world."

And indeed, for the millions of Little League fans around the world, the 2006 Little League Championship game will go down as one of the best single games in the history of the event.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER SWANSON

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of a young soldier from Anne Arundel County, Maryland, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice in the global war on terror, saddens all of us. As we continue to fight this war, the loss of each and every service member is a tragedy.

Anne Arundel County, the state of Maryland, and our Nation lost a great hero when Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Swanson of Rose Haven was killed in Anbar on July 22.

More than 50 of Maryland's bravest have now died in the war in Iraq.

Christopher Swanson was completely dedicated to protecting his fellow troops. He wrote on his personal website, "I would do anything for them even if it means giving my life to save theirs."

Swanson was highly regarded in his family and community. As a teenager, he traveled on mission trips with members of the First Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, providing the hope of a better life to gang members in West Virginia and Ohio.

He was the captain of his soccer team at Southern High School, where faculty remembered a "happy go-lucky kid that was always lending a hand."

In August of 1999, Sergeant Swanson enlisted in the Army, even as others tried to talk him out of it. He served in Kosovo as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and was part of the initial assault on Iraq in March of 2003, the first of three tours.

Sergeant Swanson was awarded two purple hearts, one after being injured by an improvised explosive device just weeks before he was killed. He persevered, telling his brother Kenneth that he would not be sidelined.

Christopher Swanson gave his life for all of us. As his representative in Congress, I am grateful for his patriotism and his sacrifice. The Fifth District of Maryland and all Americans join the Swanson family in mourning the loss of this fine young man, a real hero.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JUDGE JOHN W. GOODSON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Judge John W.