

several CDs of the orchestras music, which I enjoy very much.

I am pleased to join with a bipartisan coalition of members in co-sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 157, which recognizes the invaluable contributions orchestras have made to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful talents brought forth by this country's orchestras, including the amazing young musicians of the Cleveland Youth Orchestra.

#### DIANA FAIRCHILD AWARDED THE SILENT HERO AWARD

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Fairchild, an emergency response communicator in Lewisville, Texas. Ms. Fairchild was recently awarded the Silent Hero Award.

The award, presented by the Commission on State Emergency Communications, CSEC, is presented to an individual who employs exceptional professionalism in the field of emergency communications. Winners of the award must be "solid" dispatchers whom are "always reliable and professional." Diana's supervisors say she "always goes the extra mile." On her own time, Ms. Fairchild has been known to visit a number of individuals in the hospital or rehabilitation, and she has even made gifts for those whom she has helped in emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize this individual for her professionalism and dependency and big heart she brings to her job. Her prestigious Silent Hero Award echoes her commitment and dedication as an emergency dispatcher. I am honored to represent her in Congress.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to important constituent casework meetings, I was absent from the House of Representatives for portions of Thursday, June 30, 2005. Should I have been in attendance, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 346, "no"; rollcall 356, "no."

#### HONORING THE 2005 CONGRESSIONAL GOLD AWARD MEDAL WINNERS

#### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13 winners of the Congressional Gold Award from the 22nd District of Florida. Each award winner has spent at least 2 years completing over 400 hours of community serv-

ice, half of which is spent in personal development and physical fitness activities, including a four-night expedition.

Ms. Alexandra Brady of Palm Beach Gardens has dedicated her time fundraising for two different cancer groups. One is her local Cancer Society, while the other is the "Comfort Bag Project," a program that brings goody bags to young victims of cancer at St. Mary's Children's Hospital. In addition to these notable achievements, Alexandra has spent the last 4 years teaching in a local children's camp.

Ms. Carolyn Cox of Palm Beach Gardens volunteers at the Jupiter Medical Center where she assists the hospital staff. Additionally, Carolyn has dedicated her free time to working on fundraisers to provide medical services for less privileged individuals. Her quest for personal development led her to Costa Rica for a 10-day trip in which she learned about the history and culture of the Pacific Coast area.

Mr. Patrick Eucalitto of Palm Beach Gardens has volunteered with several national health organizations. Most notably, Patrick co-founded the Relay for Life Youth Council for the local American Cancer Society. In a pursuit to understand different cultures, Patrick has developed a fluent understanding of both Spanish and French. Additionally, Patrick has logged over 850 hours of training and racing time in competitive swimming.

Ms. Regen Foley of Palm Beach Gardens has proven herself as a born leader through her efforts as the founder and coordinator of the "Comfort Bag Project" at St. Mary's Children's Hospital. Furthermore, Regen spent time abroad in the Czech Republic, gaining an appreciation for the Czech culture while at the same time receiving a new understanding of her own national identity. Regen has also put in over 300 hours as a starter for her school's JV basketball team.

Ms. Elizabeth Folmar of Palm Beach Gardens has been involved with the Safe Harbor Rescue League, a shelter for mistreated dogs and cats, for the last 5 years. Additionally, Elizabeth volunteers at her local youth court serving as a lawyer. During her free time, Elizabeth has developed her nautical skills, navigating and skippering sailboats. This personal development activity has led her to plan a trip to the Outer Abaco islands of the Bahamas on her family sailboat.

Ms. Courtney Kneip of Palm Beach Gardens spends her time after school volunteering for a local kindergarten teacher. Courtney has participated in several community fundraisers for medical research. Pursuing her love of music, Courtney achieved a superior rating at Solo and Ensemble for her flute performance of Sonata Number 5. Courtney has spent time in French Canada where she immersed herself in the language and culture.

Mr. Kyle Lambrecht of Jupiter volunteers at his local Center for Information and Crisis Services and participates in a program that performs community outreach to the elderly. In addition, Kyle has auditioned for the All-State and Jazz Bands, performing both percussion and piano. Kyle is on both the varsity golf and tennis teams at his high school and he hopes to improve his skills in order to become one of the highest rated players.

Ms. Robin Lucas of Palm Beach Gardens serves as a mentor for the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Robin has spent her free time

organizing and participating on a fundraising committee benefiting the Headstart Preschool. Robin has studied piano and taken weekly tennis lessons in order to advance to the upper intermediate level. Furthermore, Robin spent part of her time abroad, living with a local family in Mexico, learning Spanish and gaining an understanding of Mexican history and culture.

Ms. Kerry O'Neil of Jupiter volunteered for her high school's Academy of Finance, tutoring her fellow students in mathematics and finance. Kerry also spends her time working in the school yearbook office. Additionally, she competes in both lacrosse and swimming, earning Junior Olympic-level times in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle event. Kerry also planned a 10-day exploration to Italy where she learned about Italian culture.

Mr. Matthew Puchferran of Boca Raton coordinated the Nation's largest youth-led National Day of Prayer Teen Freedom Rally in 2004. Matthew organized over 1,600 teens and their families in order to hold prayer for the Nation's soldiers and leaders. In his spare time, Matthew has mastered the keyboard, leading his youth group worship band. He has competed on his high school soccer team for the past 4 years, and attended weekend campouts with the Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, Matthew spent time in Juarez, Mexico serving children, and helped a Boys and Girls Club on a North Carolina Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Mr. Sean Smith of Palm Beach Gardens volunteered for Better Health, a health awareness group. Sean also served as chairperson for the Health Action Council, which is designed to promote youth volunteering. Sean spends his free time mastering the guitar as well as competing on his school's basketball team. Additionally, he has explored the Western United States, viewing several of our Nation's natural treasures such as the Grand Canyon and Lake Mead.

Ms. Alexandra Trimper of Jupiter has volunteered for Jupiter Head Start where she organized a Christmas project for young children. Alexandra also plays the flute and competes on her high school tennis team where she advanced to the Florida State Championships.

Ms. Christine Vartan of Jupiter volunteered her time teaching the elderly how to use computers. Christine took ballroom dancing lessons, and is a self-taught member of her school's golf team. In an expedition to enhance her understanding of our Nation's history, she visited St. Augustine, Florida and Savannah, GA, learning about the famous River Street and its historical significance.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF GERALD R. PIGEON

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mr. Gerald R. Pigeon, a resident of Western New York who dedicated his life to his country, his community and his family—a life cut short by a tragic accident on July 9, 2005.

A Buffalo, New York native, Mr. Pigeon was born on July 18, 1936 and as a young man attended South Park High School, where he graduated in 1954.