

In particular, I would like to recognize Sgt. Eugene O'Connor, Cpl Joshua O'Connor, PVT Matthew Shaw, Sgt Gary Spengler Jr., PVT Jarred Leavitt, Cpl William Maher, Sgt James Thompson, LCpl Chris Manns, LCpl Jason Florea and Cpl Jonathan Monaco, our local heroes who selflessly defended peaceful international relations and helped secure freedom for the Iraqi people. Each played an integral role in their company and deserve our recognition and respect.

Through their valiant efforts they assisted stabilizing the city of Hit in the province of Al Anbar, protecting Iraqis and their comrades, aiding in the arrest of 116 insurgents, and assisting in exposing over 150 weapons stores and 160 bombs.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the 27th Congressional District and all Americans I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to these courageous and noble soldiers. Their service and sacrifices help protect the safety and freedoms that make this Nation great.

CONGRATULATING MARIELA
AGUILLON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Mariela Aguillon for receiving the PacifiCare Latino Health Scholarship.

Since 2003, PacifiCare has awarded \$356,000.00 to 155 deserving students in the Latino Health Scholars program. This program was created to educate students about career opportunities for Hispanics and Latinos in the healthcare field. In order to qualify for this \$2,000.00 scholarship, applicants are required to demonstrate a grade point average of 3.0 or better and be fluent in Spanish and English. In addition, applicants must be enrolled in an approved health care program at a university, community college or accredited technical college.

According to the Office of Minority Health, there is a nationwide shortage of bilingual and bicultural professionals in the health care field. Specifically, the shortage of Spanish speaking personnel in nursing and other allied health professions, coupled with the growth of the Latino population in the United States, requires training and recruitment of an ever-greater number of qualified professionals. Mr. Russell Bennett, Vice President of PacifiCare's Latino Health Solutions, notes that the Latino Health Scholars program has "made a positive difference in the lives of these deserving youths who are beginning their journey toward realizing their academic and professional aspirations."

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Mariela Aguillon on receiving this scholarship funded by the PacifiCare Foundation. As a doctor of over 21 years, I commend Ms. Aguillon's dedication and desire to help others by pursuing a career in the health care profession.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2005
SACRAMENTO MONARCHS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the 2005 Sacramento Monarchs, the deserving winners of the 2005 Women's National Basketball Association championship. The 2005 Monarchs successfully beat the Connecticut Sun three games to one in a thrilling best of five games series to be crowned WNBA royalty. By winning the 2005 WNBA championship series, the Sacramento Monarchs gave Sacramento its first national title in professional basketball. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the triumphant 2005 Sacramento Monarchs.

The 2005 Sacramento Monarchs were comprised of an outstanding blend of seasoned professionals with several years of WNBA experience under their belts, as well as young, talented recent college graduates. The team was led by Yolanda Griffith, a former WNBA MVP and four-time WNBA All-Star. During the regular season, Griffith averaged nearly fourteen points and over six rebounds a game. Against the Sun, when it mattered the most, she increased her averages to eighteen points and ten rebounds a game and was named Finals MVP.

During the playoffs, point guard Ticha Penicheiro led the league in assists, and averaged five a game throughout the Monarchs' playoff run. She was recently recognized in her hometown of Figueira da Foz, Portugal, with the "Medalha de Honra ao Merito Desportivo," a medal honoring her outstanding achievement in the WNBA.

In addition, the 2005 WNBA Championship team was assisted by the contributions of many other great players including Olympia Scott-Richardson, DeMya Walker, Kara Lawson, Rebekkah Brunson, and Nicole Powell. All of these Monarchs proved themselves to be among the best in the entire league. Whether a veteran or a recent addition, every member of the championship team demonstrated excellent team work, dedication, and integrity as they fought their way to win the title. Later this month, the entire team will find themselves on supermarket shelves across the country, as they will be the first WNBA team featured on a Wheaties box.

Besides having an extremely talented roster, the Monarchs could not have gone as far as they did without the commitment of a great coaching staff and an uncompromising leadership team in the front office. On the bench, head coach John Whisenant and his able assistant coaches Tom Abatemarco, Steve Shuman, and Monique Ambers each contributed countless hours of film watching, strategizing, and coaching to transform the Monarchs into champions.

In the front office, the Monarchs are led by the ownership of the Maloof Family and the astute management of team president John Thomas. Under the Maloofs, the Sacramento Monarchs have taken great steps to gain a widespread following among area fans. Given the team's commitment to their fans, it is no wonder that Sacramento fans are so loyal to

their professional sports teams. In September, over 3,000 fans cheered the Monarchs on as they paraded through downtown Sacramento with the WNBA championship trophy.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento Monarchs revel in their most successful season in their nine year history and prepare for another outstanding season, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hardworking women and men of the Monarchs' franchise. Over the past few months, they have brought so much joy and civic pride to the city of Sacramento. Their success and loyal following is truly a testament to the ever increasing importance of women's professional sports, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to commend them on their accomplishments. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Sacramento Monarchs on a memorable season and wishing them continued success in the future.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. BONNIE
MANLEY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Bonnie Marley of San Diego, California and Mr. Ron Blackman of Fort Wayne, Indiana. These special individuals dedicated their lives to educating the United States' next generation of cosmetologists. Mrs. Manley and Mr. Blackman were owners of Pivot Point International member schools, part of a global beauty education company headquartered in my district. They honorably supported the company's philanthropic commitment to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Mrs. Manley was passionate about the welfare of children. Whether it was caring for her own grandchildren, or a missing child hundreds of miles away, she inspired her students to raise more than \$50,000 for NCMEC.

Ron Blackman refused to allow even a disaster to stop his commitment to the National Center. Despite severe flood damage to his school, he continued to raise money. Each year their students joined hundreds of others nationwide to raise money for NCMEC. Their contributions are now approaching the \$500,000 mark.

Tragically, both of these amazing individuals have recently passed away. To honor their commitment to children, the Pivot Point Member Schools have created the "Manley-Blackman Spirit Award." This award will be given to a Pivot Point school owner, faculty member, or staff person who demonstrates a willingness to push limits, has shown a commitment to community service, inspires others to be the best they can be, and demonstrates perseverance in the face of adversity. I hope that all my colleagues join me in recognizing the lives and achievements of Bonnie Manley and Ron Blackman.