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House of Representatives

CONGRATULATING TONY GWYNN ON RETIREMENT FROM BASEBALL

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor not only a great baseball player but also a great citizen of San Diego. Tony Gwynn epitomizes excellence on and off the field of play. On the field he has awards and accolades most players can only dream about: the highest batting average among active players, over 3,000 hits, 8 batting titles, and 5 gold gloves.

Off the field, he has given back to his beloved community, San Diego. Tony and his wife, Alicia, established the Tony and Alicia Gwynn Foundation in 1994 to fund deserving local charitable organizations. He is also a leading participant in the Padres Scholars program that provides \$125,000 per year in college scholarships for San Diego middle school students. He is active in various other philanthropic organizations, including the Police Athletic League, Casa de Amparo, the

New Haven Home and the Epilepsy Society of San Diego. For his work, Tony was named the 1999 Roberto Clemente Man of the Year, given annually to the Major League Baseball player who combines extraordinary skills on the baseball field while being devoted to his community.

Tony Gwynn will continue giving back to the only community he has ever played baseball for by returning to his alma mater, San Diego State University, to become its baseball coach following the 2002 college season. There he will teach young players the intricacies of the game he has helped shape.

It's been a joy to watch Tony Gwynn play the game--and I join his friends and family and wish him luck with the beginning of his coaching career. Everybody knows he will be a success because he does not know the meaning of the word failure.