

philosophical insight, possessing power without arrogance, bringing redemptive clarity whose truths have never been more necessary, as we honor the lives of those that were lost and their legacy by how we live. Alton A. Burton, PE has risen at the age of 82 years-old to become a Great American Hero, and we claim him as one of our own, both in title and in spirit. As our Nation moves forward with a unified purpose, we realize that purpose is perhaps more significant than outcome. It is what we all become in the process to embrace all of the opportunities this country has to offer is the real purpose. Alton A. Burton continues to live his life with purpose. The people of the City of New York, the United States of America and the world became a better place because Mr. Burton has given us all his best; and he has created a mark in American history and the world that cannot be erased.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are no words too magnanimous to fully describe our gratitude; we thank former Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton for inspiring modesty, selfless devotion of the advancement of humanity, through his devoted service to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize that in Alton A. Burton, PE, we have an outstanding citizen worthy of the highest respect and esteem, from his community, the City of New York and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JERRIS LEONARD, A  
GREAT AMERICAN

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a great American, outstanding public servant, and an esteemed colleague and good friend, the Honorable Jerris Leonard, whose sudden passing on July 27, 2006, was mourned by his family and countless friends whose lives he touched. Jerris's life was devoted to God, family, country, and his fellow man, and he leaves a legacy of integrity and service that will long be remembered and appreciated.

Jerris received his undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University, where he was president of the Marquette student body and was elected to Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society. Following graduation from Marquette University Law School in 1955, Jerris began his career in Wisconsin. He was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1956, representing the North Shore suburbs of Milwaukee. In 1960 he was elected to the state Senate and became Senate majority leader in 1967. In 1968 he was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, but lost to incumbent Senator Gaylord Nelson.

In 1969 Jerris moved his family to Washington, D.C., when he was appointed by President Nixon and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He served in that capacity until 1971, when President Nixon appointed him the first Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a position he held for the next two years. Jerris remained in Washington, where he has been actively engaged in the

practice of law and advocacy. Most recently, in 2005, he launched The Leonard Group to focus on legislative and lobbying activities. He also served on the Bush-Cheney Transition Department of Justice Advisory Committee, which helped the Administration find key candidates for the agency.

In recognition of his considerable accomplishments, Jerris was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquette University Law School in 2000. In 1969 he received the Belle Case LaFollette Outstanding Professional Award from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. He is the author of numerous articles and was frequently invited to speak to groups throughout the United States.

Jerris was one of the original true conservatives, who championed core conservative values throughout his career and through his service in various organizations, such as Free Congress. His intellect and experience were invaluable to advancing the conservative agenda, and his engaging personality and enthusiasm for policy and politics were contagious. Jerris was a true statesman who made friends on both sides of the political aisle.

His friendships extended well beyond the realm of politics and career, however. He made friends in all walks of life. "He treated everyone the same, and that is what I think made him special," said his daughter Kate Leonard. On the day he was to be sworn in by President Nixon as an assistant attorney general, Jerris gathered his children and instructed them that they were going to meet the President, but they were to remember that the man who parks the car is just as important and just as deserving of respect.

Jerris was devoted to his wife, Mariellen, to whom he was married for 52 years, and to his family. He took an active interest in the lives of his six children and attended countless sports events and other activities in which they were involved. In addition to Mariellen, he is survived by his children, Mary Leonard Ralston and husband David, Gib Leonard and wife Joni, John Leonard and wife Jeannine, Kathleen (Kate) Leonard, Francis Leonard and wife Kelly, and Daniel Leonard and wife Kelly, 16 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was greatly loved.

Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in the House of Representatives knew and admired Jerris Leonard. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jerris, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come. As we adjourn today, let us do so in tribute to this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jerris Leonard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL  
WELLAND

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Phil Welland for his endless kind-

ness to those members of our community who are less fortunate.

Phil spent hours dedicating his life to providing various items to charity organizations to help those in need. He sewed blankets, handbags, smocks for kindergarten students for finger painting, and even some graduation gowns for grade school students.

Phil was born on March 27, 1913 and worked for 40 years as a lithographer for National Can in Maspeth, NY, where he worked as supervisor. Under his direction, the company honored a contract to make bomb shells and other can items during World War II. In 1988, he and his family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada.

When he was a young man, Phil learned to sew and, from that, his passion grew, reaching the lives of hundreds of less fortunate people through various charity organizations. After he retired and his wife passed away, Phil moved in with his daughter and her family where he purchased two separate sewing machines to accomplish his work. He began making bags and smocks for young people for Paragon Pools, his son-in-law, Joe Vassallo's company, which was doing charity work for Street Teens at the time. Over the years, he donated at least 500 bags to Street Teens. Other charity organizations that he donated his handiwork included Child Focus, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, CCSD Title 1 HOPE education resource organization for homeless students, NECHN Partial Care—a New Jersey hospital servicing the mentally challenged—and New Jersey's St. Thomas preschool/kindergarten.

What made Phil's work unique, though, was the tag he placed inside each finished product. Each little tag read, "Made Especially for You by Phil Welland." He always thought ahead and, even though he recently passed away, his final donation of bags and blankets will be this Christmas to Child Focus.

Mr. Speaker, I gladly rise today to honor a selfless citizen who dedicated his life to helping others. His warmhearted acts of kindness will truly be missed by those he touched.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT. COL.  
(RET.) JAMES M. GRECO

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of retired Lieutenant Colonel James M. Greco of Canon City, Colorado—a beloved husband of 37 years, father of two, corrections official and veteran, who passed away on November 27th.

It was a privilege to know Jim and I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Jim was born in Pittsburgh and graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in Washington, PA. After graduation, Jim enlisted as a United States Marine and served in Vietnam in 1965.

Jim earned his B.A. from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, an M.A. from Oklahoma City University, and an M.A. from the Army Command and General Staff College. He received an Army Reserve Commission in 1974 and retired in 2004, after having served a decorated and distinguished military career.

Jim worked as a corrections official with the Federal Bureau of Prisons for 25 years, holding various assignments throughout eight states.

Prior to his death, he worked as a defense contractor and was scheduled to deploy to Africa later this month in support of ongoing military operations worldwide.

But Jim will be remembered most as a kind and gentle soul, whose charisma and caring nature endeared him to his many friends and family members.

Although Jim left us at far too young an age, he made the most of every day that he spent on this earth. We can all learn from his example.

For his dedication, courage and service to our nation, he will be greatly missed. But he will live on in the memories of the many people whose lives he touched.

May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. DAVID  
AND NANCY GROSS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I take this time to honor Dr. and Mrs. David and Nancy Gross of Schererville, Indiana. On Sunday, December 3, 2006, David and Nancy were honored for their years of service and many contributions to the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana and the community it serves. The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana honored David and Nancy at the 2006 Northwest Indiana Israel Dinner of State, which was held at the Jewish Federation Community Building in Munster, Indiana.

David Gross, originally from Canton, Ohio, has always proved himself to be a dedicated member of the Jewish community. From a very young age, David realized the need for community participation in causes aimed at supporting the State of Israel. As a fourth grade student, David's abilities in this regard began to emerge, as he organized an event that would raise over one thousand dollars for the Jewish United Fund (JUF). Throughout his youth, David was committed to the goals of the JUF, to help provide for the survival and welfare of the Jewish people and to benefit all mankind. Since relocating from Chicago to Northwest Indiana, following completion of his residency in Ophthalmology, David has continued to spend much of his spare time working with the Jewish community. He has served on numerous committees with the Congregation Beth Israel (CBI), and he has also contributed a great deal of time working on the Jewish Federation's annual fundraising campaign.

Nancy Gross, a native of Highland Park, Illinois, has always shared the same compassion and willingness as her husband to serve. Nancy has made her commitment to the Jewish community known through her contributions to several organizations, including ORT, which strives to educate communities with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in an ever-changing environment and to foster self-sufficiency. Nancy has also served on and chaired several committees, including programs of the Jewish Center Youth Camp and

K'ton Ton, where her children attended, not to mention her many contributions to the CBI, where she currently serves on the school board. Like David, Nancy has seen the importance of the Jewish Federation's annual fundraising campaign, even serving as co-chair for the campaign. Nancy's commitment to youth and her willingness to share her time and talents with her community is truly remarkable, and for this, she is most deserving of the honors bestowed upon her.

While they remain truly committed to the Jewish community, David and Nancy's greatest enjoyment is the time spent with their three beautiful daughters: Samantha, Rachel, and Elly. David and Nancy's commitment to improving the future for the youth and the entire Jewish community is surely an extension of their commitment to their daughters.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. and Mrs. David and Nancy Gross as they are honored for their service and dedication to the Jewish community. Their years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom they have served. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF  
THE NEW FAIRFIELD CORDELIA  
LIBRARY

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Grand Opening of the new Fairfield Cordelia Library in the City of Fairfield, California.

On December 14, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., the new Fairfield Cordelia Library, located on 5050 Business Center Drive, in Fairfield, will open its doors to the public.

Constructing a library in the Cordelia and Lower Green Valley area of Fairfield was identified as a top priority in the Solano County Library's 20-year Facilities Master Plan that was developed in 2000 and was also listed as a top priority of the citizens in the area.

The new library will provide access to the residents of the Cordelia and Green Valley areas of Fairfield, which due to their location and traffic conditions are far removed from convenient library access.

The two-story, building will provide a civic presence that includes a library and city offices for residents in the area.

The City of Fairfield partnered with the County of Solano and the State, to build the \$14.5 million, two-story 29,000 square foot facility.

As the lead agency, the City of Fairfield will be the owner of the facility and the County of Solano through the Solano County Library will provide library services.

The Solano County Library's mission statement reads: The Solano County Library offers professional, innovative, cost-effective service by providing library materials, resources, information, entertainment and life long learning opportunities to enrich the lives of the people of Solano County.

The City of Fairfield will continue to partner with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School Dis-

trict, Solano County Office of Education, and Friends of the Fairfield and Suisun Community Libraries to provide educational services the library and meet the goals as envisioned by the Solano County Library.

As the citizens of Fairfield open their new library, I would like to recognize the City of Fairfield and their partners for this achievement and extend my congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM ROKAKIS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the efforts of Mr. Jim Rokakis, who has dedicated his life to public service in Ohio. Mr. Rokakis has improved life for all residents of Cuyahoga County as he initiates sweeping reform from the treasurer's office. He has been dedicated to both economic development and job creation and retention.

Mr. Rokakis has served diligently both Cuyahoga County and Ohio. Mr. Rokakis represented Cleveland's Ward 15 as councilman for 19 years, the final seven of which he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee. As councilman, Mr. Rokakis aided in upgrading Cleveland's bond rating, improving the city's investment returns, was a leader in developing the Gateway Sports Complex, responsible for Cleveland's gun buy-back program, the Indoor Clean Air Act, the creation of Cleveland's Housing Court, and a law aimed at fighting car thefts. Since 1997, Mr. Rokakis has excelled as Cuyahoga County Treasurer where his innovative ideas have revolutionized the county's investment and collection procedures.

Mr. Rokakis has significantly improved Cuyahoga County's investment function, increasing the county's return and the diversification of the portfolio, while significantly reducing the fees spent on advisory services. He worked successfully to pass several Ohio House bills to better serve the state. In addition, Mr. Rokakis' work has earned him the recognition of The Cleveland Plain Dealer who in 1999–2001 awarded the county's portfolio as having the best performance among those evaluated for the period; as well as being honored by the State of Israel Bonds for his values and ideals rooted in democracy and the inalienable rights of working men and women. Specifically, Mr. Rokakis developed the Home Enhancement Loan Program, the first of its kind in the country, which has received the Community Impact Award from Dominion East Ohio/Inside Business Magazine, an award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, and won the 2003 EPA Smart Growth Award. As treasurer, Mr. Rokakis has aided in developing numerous programs to better all residents from students to seniors.

Mr. Rokakis is a proud graduate of Oberlin College and Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. He serves the important role of husband and father to his wife Laurie and their three children.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, I ask you to rise with me in recognition of Mr. Jim Rokakis' contributions within Ohio. I anticipate seeing what great accomplishments Mr. Rokakis holds in his future.