

for his expertise in program management; he has achieved membership in the DoD Acquisition Corps and is certified in multiple acquisition career fields.

Throughout his career Mr. Horrell has distinguished himself and earned the respect of his subordinates, peers, and superiors. His contributions have been recognized through the award of both the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, two awards, and the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal, two awards. He has been a loyal and dedicated civil servant who has contributed unselfishly and with pride to the defense of our Nation. It is my pleasure to acknowledge his distinguished career.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. JOHN  
WITHERS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a venerable public servant and retired veteran, Dr. John L. Withers, born on September 18, 1916, in Greensboro, North Carolina and now living in my congressional district.

Dr. Withers served as a first lieutenant during World War II, commanding a segregated African-American quartermaster company, and received an honorable discharge in 1947. Despite strict Army regulations and the difficulties imposed by segregation, Dr. Withers always performed bravely and with the highest moral and ethical standards. Indeed, during the war, Dr. Withers courageously rescued two Polish Jewish orphan boys from the Dachau concentration camp. Thanks to his heroic efforts, one of those boys became a successful businessman in Connecticut. Dr. Withers stayed in touch with that young man all of his life.

After serving as a professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Dr. Withers devoted his life to international development efforts. He was stationed in Laos, Thailand and Burma before serving with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Seoul, Korea in 1960. Later, he worked as a USAID representative in India before becoming Director of USAID's regional services office in Nairobi, Kenya. His primary responsibility included supporting the operations of various USAID missions in nine African countries, including Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. His last duty before retiring was to serve as USAID Mission Director for Ethiopia.

Dr. Withers recently celebrated his 90th birthday with his devoted wife Daisy and his sons John Jr. and Gregory. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join with me in honoring Dr. Withers on this wonderful occasion and to recognize him as a man of good deeds, a sharp wit, gentle sense of humor and outstanding accomplishments. I am delighted to wish Dr. Withers a year of good health and happiness and to thank him for his extraordinary contributions to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR SHEILA  
YOUNG

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Sheila Young upon her retirement as Mayor of the City of San Leandro, California. Mayor Young has served from 1998 to 2006 and is the only female mayor in the city's 135-year history to serve two complete terms of office.

Mayor Young's distinguished public service is noteworthy. She served two terms as Chair of the Women Mayors of America within the U.S. Conference of Mayors Caucus, has represented all of the cities in Alameda County as a Director/Commissioner with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and has served as President of the Alameda County Mayors Conference. In June 2006, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

As the first elected Co-Chair of the Oakland Airport Noise Forum, Mayor Young served for 8 years and is currently Ambassador to the Forum working nationwide on issues of importance in aviation and community involvement.

Mayor Young is actively involved as a speaker and expert in disaster preparedness for Alameda County. She is a charter member of Sundance Summit, a Mayor's Gathering on Climate Protection, and was a participant in the 2003 Jerusalem Conference of Mayors in Israel.

Her other accomplishments during her exemplary tenure as mayor included the creation of the Mayor's Community Fund in San Leandro to assist nonprofit organizations as well as her oversight over the largest building period in the history of the city of San Leandro, including the development of the new Marina Auto Mall, the rebirth and rebuilding of Bayfair Center, the creation of the new U.S. Postal Service Distribution Center, as well as an increase in new quality housing.

Mayor Young has received numerous awards and certificates for her outstanding contributions locally, statewide and nationally. She is engaged in a host of community and civic activities and is active on the speaker circuit sharing her knowledge about city government, environmental and transportation issues and public policy.

A retirement event will be held in the Mayor's honor on January 19, 2007. I join the city, her friends, colleagues and admirers in thanking Sheila Young for her dedication and commitment. She leaves an indelible mark of positive change.

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A TRIBUTE TO ALTON A. BURTON,  
PE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alton A. Burton, PE, a distinguished member of the New York City community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this

outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

During the course of history there have been a select few people known as visionaries. Mr. Burton is one these visionaries that view our world not as it necessarily is, but as it can be.

Alton A. Burton was a U.S. Air Force lieutenant, serving as bombardier, navigator, and pilot during World War II. After distinguished service in our Armed Forces as a Tuskegee Airman, Mr. Burton pursued the power of ideas through higher education by obtaining a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering. He also obtained a license as a Professional Engineer, PE, in the State of New York. Soon after receiving his degrees and license, Alton A. Burton, PE, joined the staff of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in design engineering. Mr. Burton's assignments included contract plans for various facilities, including marine terminals. Little did Mr. Burton know that he was being positioned by the hand of destiny for something more. During the 1950s and 60s, Mr. Burton toiled in the eye of the storm of civil and political unrest, a time of cultural, human and civil rights crisis. Against all odds, Alton A. Burton was able to understand the situation and conditions of a racially charged environment and era that would have been deemed impossible. In 1962, the late Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, appointed Mr. Burton the Chief Civil Engineer in charge of the planning phase of the multi-billion dollar project known as the World Trade Center.

In the minds of most Americans, the deeply disturbing images of the inferno that engulfed the Twin Towers and then the crumbling to the ground after being hit by two hijacked commercial airliners 5 years ago on 9-11-01, will never be forgotten. Most of us are unaware that over 40 years ago, Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton designed and fortified the infrastructure, which accounted for the reliability of the Twin Tower structures to withstand tremendous force, including that of an earthquake. Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton and his team of civil engineers had no idea that some 40 or so years later, terrorists would fly jets into the towers. Because of the fortification of the infrastructure, due to Mr. Burton's vision and preparation for the unexpected, the towers as damaged as they were, managed to hold—giving our first responders, EMS, NYPD, FDNY and other emergency units a grace period to do what they do best, save lives. If not for Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton's vision of a fortified infrastructure, the World Trade Center's Twin Towers would have immediately toppled to the streets below. With steel beams heating to over 3000 degrees F, the infrastructure still managed to endure. The North Tower held for 1 hour 42 minutes and the South Tower for 56 minutes before the total collapse. We note with regret that approximately 3,000 lives were lost that infamous day and we offer our sincere condolences to their families. However, keeping in mind Mr. Burton's efforts to fortify the infrastructure with the best materials known to architectural and civil engineering at that time, between 10,000 and 20,000 individuals were safely evacuated from the towers and surrounding areas, so many more lives were saved.

Chief Alton A. Burton's prolific civil engineering work carries with it profound moral and

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.