

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.