

with a unique cross-the-alley emporium of children's books he is reaching for youngsters.

Far beyond? Six years ago, he suggested to Community Leader and Actor Edward James Olmos ideas that became the Latino Book and Family Festival. Wherever it goes—Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, San Jose, San Diego, New York—Rueben's books anchor a "Book Village" that contributes directly to the goal of encouraging Latino parents to read to their children and children themselves to read. Families come by the thousands.

Acting on his own advice, he reaches for future generations with a unique emporium of children's books just cross-the-alley from his Santa Ana bookstore. It is full of color and lined with stories in Spanish and English . . . and Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, and . . .

It all makes you wonder. Which is its purpose. Rueben's life is an open book he seems to read like a child. He turns pages, laughs and says, "What's this?" Then he tries to tell you he knew it all the time . . . that he planned it.

He is a strong believer we all should write down our goals. He writes his down. No one could have that many! And do credit to them, too.

On a coast-to-coast TV program, he commanded fathers to be perfect husbands: "Take out the trash and read to your children!" He, is a sought-after motivational speaker, a consultant to publishers, a friendly prod to writers and artists, an energizer to teachers and a media personality.

The biggest independent bookstore in Orange County, California, began as a few books for customers in a barber shop. Now he carpets the space next door with kids eager to be read to.

Rueben's life is an open book with one new chapter after another. He reads on and says, "Amazing!" And then, "That's me, too!"

VICTOR STRINGS WORDS TO COMPUTE LIFE x 13  
(By Galal Kernahan)

As Victor Villasenor emerged from adolescence, his parents sent him to Mexico City. He was overwhelmed by what he saw. The world suddenly opened, widened, deepened.

He became ill. A doctor was summoned. "You are a doctor?" "Yes." "You are a Mexican?" "Yes," answered the baffled physician. Victor thought that, though all Mexicans might not be farm workers like his friends on his father's place in Oceanside, it was unlikely they would be persons in the professions.

New realities shook him. The discovery of books catapulted him into dawning understanding of human landscapes and feelings, strivings and failures. A conflicted teenage functional illiterate he started down an endless road to finding himself. In writing.

He drove himself for decades ten hours a day, six days a week untying, re-ordering and retying strings of words. Eventually, some books reached print and modest success. Then, in 1981, he wrote the made-for-TV motion picture *THE BALLAD OF GREGORIO CORTEZ*.

Well-wishers came to the large, old Spanish colonial house on a bluff in Oceanside, California. He paid an emotional tribute to his parents, Salvador and Lupe. He promised he would write their lives. All celebrated the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) telecast. The picture was released to movie houses the next year.

In 1991, ten years later, a more-than-500 page work—parts of it laboriously rewritten more than 40 times—became a milestone in Latino literature. *RAIN OF GOLD* sold more than 200,000 copies in hardcover. Any given copy may have been read by six-to-ten people.

It recounts the Mexican youth of Lupe and Sal: surviving the Revolution, their separate journeys across the Border, how they met on this side. It ends with their marriage in Santa Ana, but not before sketching the personalities of their mothers, Victor's grandmothers. His father's scandalized the faithful at her church in Corona. Her lively conversations—even arguments—with God and Mary did not go unnoticed.

Now, more than another decade has passed. Victor has gone through multiple rewritings of his latest book. It is about Sal, Lupe and their lives in 1929, 1930 and 1931. It is published by HarperBooks.

Salvador has been dead for years. Lupe passed away in 2000. Both are very alive in pages Victor has filled. So is the cosmically talkative grandmother who, together with Sal, finally makes clear to the author what lies behind all he has been writing.

There have been tumultuous first years of marriage not made any smoother by Sal's profession. He's a bootlegger.

Victor remembers what his father often told him: *Casi todos nacen y mueren y nunca abren los ojos. Poca gente abre los ojos porque no usa todo su sentido.* ("Almost everyone is born and dies without opening their eyes. Few people open their eyes because they don't try fully to perceive things.")

What that really might mean became clear in a startling brush with the law. Salvador is driving a truck heavily laden with barrelsful of whiskey in Corona. His well-connected mother is with him. A cop pulls them over.

She begins telling God the officer will not see the barrels and that she needs help for her son and that God owes her one and that she wants it right now! The cop looks in the back of the truck and says, "Nothing here, but you better get some air at a gas station because your tires are almost flat."

Crisis over, Sal asks, "How did you do that?" "Easy," she says, and explains.

"When people finish this book," Victor claims, "They are going to think magic is possible." The title: *THIRTEEN SENSES*.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN B. GOURLEY

##### HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John B. Gourley the Chairman of the East Norriton Township Board of Supervisors for twenty-four years as a distinguished community leader in this Pennsylvania community.

A forty-year resident of East Norriton, Mr. Gourley has served as vice president and twice as president of the Montgomery County Association of Township Supervisors. He was the founder and first president of the Delaware Valley Association of Township Officials which encompasses the Counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery. Mr. Gourley also founded and was the first vice president of the League of Municipalities which includes 56 Pennsylvania communities. He founded the first Township newsletter in East Norriton and initiated television coverage of township meetings.

After serving five years in the United States Navy, Mr. Gourley built a professional career as a national and executive sales manager in the chemical field. Mr. Gourley has been a dedicated member of multiple civic organiza-

tions including the American Legion Post in Jeffersonville, the Sons of Italy, the East Norriton Republican Committee, and the Boy Scouts of America. He is also a long time member of Visitation B.V.M. Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Gourley is married to Nancy Pistilli-Gourley and they are the proud parents of John B. Gourley, Jr., Esquire, William Scott Gourley and Ann Marie Gourley. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize John Gourley for his outstanding service and commitment.

#### IN MEMORY OF MR. CHET OBLOCK

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Chester A. Oblock, owner of the infamous Pyramid Cafe and beloved friend, for a lifetime of dedicated service to his community.

Mr. Oblock, a Cleveland native, has been a lifelong resident of the city's South Side. He is perhaps best known for the delicious meals he has been serving in the Pyramid Cafe since 1964. Three years later he began sponsoring the Pyramid Cafe slow-pitch softball team. The team grew and with practice became the first Cleveland team to win the Amateur Softball Association's National Men's Open Slow Pitch Tournament in 1975. In 1987, he was inducted into the Greater Cleveland Slow-Pitch Hall of Fame.

Mr. Oblock was known by his friends for his great love and generosity to all his players, friends, and family. When the team traveled out of Cleveland, he took money out of his own pocket to pay for the families of the softball players to stay in hotel rooms. More important than any of his prized softball games was his family.

Before sponsoring his prize-winning softball team, Mr. Oblock served his nation selflessly in military service. During World War II, he served in Europe with the Army's 104th Infantry Division, the "Timberwolves."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Chester A. Oblock, a truly great man. Mr. Oblock is a man who truly will be missed in the Cleveland community. His love for not only the game of softball, but for all his community is an inspiration to many. His warm smile and gentle spirit will be remembered by many.

#### AUTHORIZING THE USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

##### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I, like you, have been watching in disbelief and sadness the reports from New York City and Washington, D.C. in the aftermath of the terrible attacks launched against the United States.

Never before in our history have Americans borne witness to such an egregious, savage, violent, and cowardly attack on American soil. The situation defies belief and embodies much of what had once been our greatest fear. I join with every American in support of our great country and am confident that our nation will overcome this challenge just as we have conquered past challenges.

When I swore my oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, I never imagined that this country or I would be where we are today. Each member of Congress swears our allegiance to our constituents, to one another and to the country, yet the magnitude of our oath only is truly understood when we face situations like we face today. During trying times such as these, the American Spirit shines most brightly, and we find within ourselves the ability to overcome challenges once thought unthinkable and unimaginable.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 is a date so packed with tragedy and meaning, we have tremendous difficulty fully understanding the implications of what has been done to our country and our people.

Not since the time of my father Stewart Udall's service in the Cabinets of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, have we faced such difficult and trying issues. From the fear and terror of the Cuban Missile Crisis to the national horror following the assassination of our President to the anguish of the Vietnam War, our nation was confronted with innumerable and difficult challenges. The strength of citizens overcame all these challenges, and it will once again overcome what lies before us today.

As we see images of the devastation in New York City and at the Pentagon, we are flooded by emotions ranging from profound sorrow to unbridled anger. Yet we are also called upon to defend ourselves from unknown threats and invisible enemies. Ours is a responsibility to put our raw feeling and emotions aside and focus on the grim work at hand of responding to the attacks against us and doing everything in our power to ensure that such attacks will not be perpetrated against us in the future.

The question now arises how we may best fulfill our duty to protect the citizens of the United States and, indeed, the citizens of countries around the globe. The scourge of terrorism affects more than just the United States homeland. For years our friends and allies in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa have suffered the horrors of terrorism. While offering our support and solidarity, we always believed and hoped that America would be spared from the type of tragedy which befell us last Tuesday. We hoped against hope that New York, Washington, or any American city would not be added to the infamous list which includes London, Paris, Belfast, Beirut, Johannesburg, and Tokyo. Now the fight has been brought to us, and we will respond. We must respond.

The question is how we respond. We will be quick to act, or will we be thorough, careful, deliberate, and patient?

We first responded by granting to President Bush the authority needed to prosecute this effort with the strength the task requires. The Congress will appropriate money, grant authority, and rouse popular support for the President as we take each step against terror

together and jointly exercise the Constitutional responsibilities invested by our Founders in both branches of the government.

Our efforts require and are receiving the support of the international community of responsible nations. The support is a crucial component of any action which our government may take in defense of the American People. The world must not be seen as tolerant in the least of terrorists or those who support terrorists. The strong backing of our allies is a reassuring sign that our international partners stand beside us as we jointly face this danger.

As we embark, we recognize that the Congress and the President are equal partners in the effort. We are making decisions and taking action only after tremendous consideration and deliberation. We have a profound understanding of the gravity of the situation which lies before us. We understand that the Constitutional principles upon which this great country is founded must be respected at every turn. As we defend the safety of Americans, we must also defend their liberties. To defeat terror in a way that robs us of our most cherished freedoms must be avoided. I believe that it is possible for America to be safe and free. As we continue to contemplate further actions and investigate those that have taken place, we must be vigilant in the defense of both our safety and our freedom.

As we respond to the attacks, Americans will continue to unite as we have over the past several days and in ways that we have not seen for years. We draw strength from our tremendous diversity as a nation and from our myriad experiences and abilities. We defeat terror by embracing each other in the face of those who would terrorize us and rising above the petty differences that might once have separated us. Our unity will be our strength as we confront this new challenge. The American House in which we all live will not, as President Lincoln said, be divided against itself. We will continue on, stronger and more united than ever.

The United States will meet this challenge as we have met previous challenges before. Our great nation will unite more strongly than ever, and we will prevail. My faith in our country is exceeded only by my admiration for those who place their own safety in jeopardy so that others will be free. America is great. God bless America.

#### HONORING PAUL F. MARKS ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and salute my dear friend Paul F. Marks on the occasion of his retirement from Michigan State University Agricultural Extension, and for his many years of dedicated service to our community.

Paul began his career with Extension more than 27 years ago. Since that time, Paul has received numerous awards and citations, including the National Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

At heart, Paul is a teacher. He is recognized throughout the state for his expertise and skill

in the areas of vegetable crops, fruit crops and beekeeping. In his professional capacity, he has developed and implemented a large number of award-winning educational programs in such areas as cider safety, agriculture employer seminars and pesticide certification.

Paul's passion for teaching extends well beyond Extension. When working with kids in 4-H or the Junior Livestock Association, one can see Paul's gift truly shine. Paul's exemplary teaching efforts were again recognized when he received the Monroe County 4-H Alumni Award. Paul's leadership has also been outstanding in directing Monroe County's Ag Awareness Day that annually gives more than 1,300 county elementary students a better understanding and appreciation of agriculture. And when the County Fair rolls around each summer, you can be sure Paul will be there making sure that every kid has their animal ready for show.

When Monroe County was added to my District in 1982, I gained a special knowledge of Paul's ability to educate. Knowing little about farming, I paid a visit to the Extension office and met a young Extension Agent by the name of Paul Marks. I asked him to do the impossible—teach a Polish lawyer from Detroit about farming. To his great credit, Paul was up to the task.

Since then, I have come to rely greatly on Paul's advice and counsel on agricultural matters. More importantly, Paul has become a great friend. His expertise and knowledge will be greatly missed by all of us.

Mr. Speaker, as Paul leaves behind a long and rich history as an Extension Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent to spend time with his beautiful wife Jeannine and his family, I would ask that all of my colleagues salute Paul, his excellent service to his community, his wonderful sense of humor and above all his earnest good will and compassion for his fellow man.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANCESC DE PAULA SOLER

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Francesc de Paula Soler, a gifted and prolific musician. This world-renowned instrumentalist will grace the Library of Congress on October 2, 2001, and fill it with his music. This concert will feature music to soothe and lift our spirits during this difficult time in the wake of the national tragedy.

Francesc de Paula Soler was born in 1949 to a celebrated Catalan family of artists. He began studying music at age 6 and was dedicated to his guitar by age 11. As a young adult, he became an astute and devout student of the great Andrés Segovia, known as the father of the classical guitar. He also studied under the great Narciso Yepes for a number of years. From these musical founders, Soler was taught the classical guitar in its pure form. His music has an original, raw quality that makes it distinct and loved by many.

Although the guitar's ancestor probably originated in ancient Egypt, the version that we use today came from Spain in the early