



Cleo Parker Robinson hugs Rabbi Steven Foster after receiving the Anti-Defamation League's 2008 Civil Rights Award Monday. Also honored were lawyer John Holland and the late Judge Phillip Figa. *Craig F. Walker, The Denver Post*

His honor earns honors

Judge gets Anti-Defamation award; lawyer, dancer named, too

By **Howard Pankratz**
The Denver Post

The Anti-Defamation League posthumously presented U.S. District Judge Phillip Figa its Distinguished Community Service Award Monday, with presenter Stuart Pack saying that Figa, the son of Holocaust survivors, "battled brain cancer like his father battled the Nazis."

"He lived a life of substance and consequence," Pack said of the federal judge who died Jan. 5 and who was honored for his civic leadership, his passion for law, his devotion to community service and his deep commitment to fighting bigotry and Holocaust denial.

In addition, the ADL gave Civil Rights Awards to Denver lawyer John Holland and Denver dancer and choreographer Cleo Parker Robinson.



John Holland has fought for rights, justice and reform.

of racial, sexual and religious discrimination.

In particular, he was honored for his work with detainees at Guantanamo Bay, specifically his success in having won the release of a man who was held

"We are recognizing three distinguished people who truly have been agents of change in our community," said Rob Klugman, board chairman of the ADL Mountain States Region.

Holland was honored for his fight for wheelchair accessibility on buses, for nursing home reform, and for justice for victims

as an enemy combatant for six years without ever having been charged or given an opportunity to present his case.

Robinson, the founder, executive artistic director and choreographer of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, was honored because she consistently used her work to highlight social themes including civil rights, African-American history and apartheid.

"Her philosophy of 'One Spirit, Many Voices' is reflected in all that she does," said the ADL.

Over the years, working with people of all persuasions and race, Robinson said, she learned "the incredible power of people who come together for a cause.

"We are one, we are one and knowing we are one is a very powerful thing," she said.