

I was unable to return to Congress on November 6th and 7th due to pressing matters in my district.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA
YAROSLAVSKY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. BERMAN and Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are honored to pay tribute to our good friend of many years, Barbara Yaroslavsky. Barbara is being presented the prestigious Tzedek (Justice) Award on December 2, 2001 by the Labor Zionist Alliance in Los Angeles. We cannot think of a more deserving recipient of this award.

Barbara has a long and remarkable history of philanthropy, community service and as a strong voice for education and health care rights. When Barbara volunteers to sit on a board or task force, she doesn't just show up. She actively participates and often finds herself leading the group, always compassionately and wisely.

Barbara has served for the last six years on the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism. Last year she also worked as a consultant on several successful educational projects for the Host Committee, which brought the Democratic Convention to Los Angeles.

Barbara is a fierce advocate for education and has served as vice president for the Bureau of Jewish Education. Barbara also serves on the board of LA's Best, a nationally recognized organization for after school programs in 101 schools throughout Los Angeles. She is a member of the task force of Koreh L.A., the literacy program of the Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC). She is active on the Undergraduate Student Scholarship Committee at the University of California at San Diego. She is committed to bringing every child a stimulating, challenging, and quality education.

Barbara is equally committed to access to health care, which she believes is a right, not a privilege. She is an active member of the Friends of the LA Free Clinic and co-chairs its president's council. The Los Angeles Free Clinic is a vital asset within Los Angeles' health care system, serving over 50,000 clients. Barbara has seen to it that the clinic maintain its strong presence in the community in this uncertain time of health care availability.

The Tzedek Award honors Barbara for her legacy of community service and her passionate work on behalf of the Jewish community. Barbara chairs the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California and recently led an important mission to Sacramento to meet with elected officials on legislative issues including charitable choice, gun control and affordable housing. She is also a member of the administrative committee of the Jewish Labor Committee and participates in the Latino Jewish dialogue.

We are honored to call Barbara Yaroslavsky our friend, and we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing her distinguished record of accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN
VETERANS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the veterans of this great land. In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over. A year later, Armistice Day was declared in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made in order to ensure a lasting peace. Later this holiday was renamed Veterans' Day, and while it has traditionally been a day of parades and speeches by politicians, this year it means much more than that. This day is America's chance to thank those who have protected them, even when the threat against the homeland was not so clearly defined. This day is America's chance to honor those who lost their lives in service to our nation. This day is America's chance to unite behind the men and women who are now wearing the uniform that generations of heroes wore before them.

As our nation's 1.3 million active servicemembers fight this war, let us not forget that thousands of our nation's veterans are dying each day. Congress has made some great strides on behalf of our veterans this year. Since January, the House has passed legislation that will benefit the 2.3 million disabled veterans or survivors of disabled veterans, increasing their benefits by \$2.7 billion. We have expanded the available hours of the VA's toll free information service. We have expanded health and life insurance coverage for surviving dependants of veterans, and we have provided \$550 million over the next two years to repair and renovate VA medical facilities. Finally, we have increased GI Bill educational benefits to qualifying servicemembers by 70%.

We are on the right track, but we need to keep pressing forward. We need to make a real effort to make progress on remaining issues. Implementing concurrent receipt, making further improvements on military retiree health care, cutting the red tape for veterans claims. Our veterans sacrificed their lives and liberties. We should make every effort to show our gratitude by taking action on the issues that concern them. I appreciate all the hard work of our leadership and our Veterans Affairs Committee members, and encourage my colleagues to join in this important effort.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFELONG
DEDICATION TO CHILDREN OF
ANI "MICHELLE" TWITCHELL

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of my constituents, Ani "Michelle" Twitchell, who has used her life experience to impact the lives of numerous young people. In fact, it is safe to say that she has dedicated her own life to the improvement of all young lives.

Ms. Twitchell has recently composed a book, in which she assumes a necessary task in these troubling times. Her book, titled "What Happening," addresses the questions pre-school age children may be asking their parents and teachers in the face of the Nation's crisis. A press release reads, "[Twitchell] mentally imagines herself in the classroom telling stories about police sirens, fire engines and ambulances to her young pre-schoolers and answering their questions." Far from opportunities, the book's theme represents a profound love for children and a desire to inspire strength in the midst of confusion.

I am hardly surprised that Ms. Twitchell has taken on such a task. As I stated, her life's path has led her to an unmatched level of dedication to children's education. She grew up in Princess Town, Trinidad and Tobago, in a family of six children, where she was consistently called upon to act as a parent. At the age of 20, she was widowed with a five month old son. Seeking a better life for herself and her child, she came to this country wishing to raise all children as healthy and strong individuals.

At present, her story finds her as a teacher and Health and Safety Coordinator for the Kindercare facility in Germantown, Maryland, with three beautiful sons, aged five and seven and eighteen. She has long dreamed of establishing a boarding school for abandoned children. Perhaps her book will serve as a stepping stone to the realization of this dream.

War and terrorism are more than evils to be fought with intelligence and weapons. They are frightening strangers in the minds of young children, which we have disburbingly little ability to explain in terms familiar to pre-schoolers. Neither public condemnation nor news coverage provide meaning for our young. While we are all affected in these times of terror, only our children lack the life experience to help them through their fear.

I am proud of Ms. Twitchell, I am thankful for her words, and I believe we are all blessed by the love in her heart. Please join me in thanking Ms. Ani "Michelle" Twitchell for her unmatched contribution to our children's wellbeing.

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE OF
GINNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Vice Chairman of the Capital Markets Subcommittee of the Financial Services, I wanted to join in the concern expressed by the Subcommittee Chairman RICHARD BAKER about a proposal to expand the government guarantee provided by Ginnie Mae (the Government National Mortgage Association) into the conventional mortgage market.

Last week H.R. 3206, "The Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act of 2001," was introduced in the House of Representatives. While I strongly support the spirit and intent of this proposal, I am deeply concerned that the unintended consequence of the bill will be to make the American Taxpayer liable for unnecessary risk in the event of an economic downturn.

Over the past few years, under the leadership of Chairman BAKER, the Financial Services Capital Markets Subcommittee has spent considerable time examining the potential of an "implied" government guarantee of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. I am concerned, because H.R. 3206, as introduced, would expand the express government backing of Ginnie Mae into the conventional home loan market. This could place American Taxpayers at a greater risk of assuming more default risk for home mortgages.

Our housing finance system is the model of the world. Combining the conventional mortgage market, the government market of FHA and VA, and the jumbo market, the national homeownership rate is close to 68%. The housing sector is the bulwark of the economy and I am very willing to consider good public policy to help more Americans achieve the dream of home ownership. I worry, however, that H.R. 3206 is an unnecessary expansion of a federal government guarantee that inappropriately puts American Taxpayers at risk.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the VA-HUD bill. My frustrations concerning NASA's international space station and its ongoing budget woes have been echoed by the independent Management and Cost Evaluation Task Force. This panel recently reported to Congress that the space station is faced with crippling cost overruns.

Congress almost got it right in 1993 when the space station survived by just one single vote. We recognized then that NASA could not afford the station. In the years that followed, this behemoth has squeezed the budgets of the so-called "smaller, faster, cheaper" missions. Not since the Hubble Space Telescope repair and the Mars Pathfinder missions has the American public been rewarded by the fantastic discoveries offered by our space program.

Now the independent task force has told us that overall management of the whole program and its total costs has been inadequate. As a result of budget overruns and schedule delays, NASA must reorganize the entire space station program, redefine the scientific objectives and drastically cut spending to keep the current three-person crew financially feasible. The panel further reported that plans to complete the basic U.S. part of the station over the next 5 years with the \$8.3 billion allotted to the program are not credible.

No one has a good estimate of how much the space station will cost. GAO estimated years ago that it would cost American taxpayers more than \$100 billion to build and operate over its lifetime. Now it is clear that there will be no worthwhile scientific research to show for it. The station's eight original sci-

entific research objectives are gone along with the crew return vehicle, which might have allowed an adequate number of crew members to conduct research.

Regardless, the station is now limited to a crew of only three—the number of astronauts that can fit inside a Russian Soyuz re-entry vehicle. That is why Europe, Japan, Canada and other international partners will not be able to conduct research. Instead, they will spend their time simply preserving and keeping in orbit a behemoth that can't afford the manpower to yield any new meaningful science.

I am also concerned that this bill comes up short on critically important housing programs that serve this country's most vulnerable citizens and families. Many accounts within the Department of Housing and Urban Development are simply zeroed out under this legislation. For example, the Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant program has been eliminated. Funding for empowerment zones is cut by 78 percent, public housing modernization by 5 percent, and community development block grants by 2 percent.

Mr. Speaker, additional cuts to distressed public housing revitalization and fair housing and equal opportunity activities will not help alleviate the shortage of adequate housing in America's inner cities and rural areas. I cannot support efforts to cut off poor and rural families from finding decent housing in these areas.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM
MCFARLANE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) McFarlane for receiving the 2000 Agriculturist of the Year Award. The award is given by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce to an individual who exemplifies leadership and integrity in California's Central Valley agricultural business community.

Bill McFarlane is a native of Fresno. He grew up on a small farm near Clovis. In 1948, McFarlane and his father formed a farming partnership and expanded their farming operations. His family currently continues to operate the farm, which has about 1,000 acres of almonds, oranges, and wheat. McFarlane and McFarlane also own a farm in Butte County on which rice is the principal crop. Their family farming operations was active for 25 years in western Fresno County, producing almonds, tomatoes, cotton, garlic, melons, and lettuce.

Bill is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Clovis Unified School District's Reagan Educational Center Agriculture Department. He also serves on the Friends of Agriculture Extension for the University of California Cooperative Extension. He is a past chairman of Blue Diamond Growers and a previous president of the Central California Almond Growers Association.

McFarlane is a past recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the Fresno County Farm Bureau and the Co-op Farmer of the Year from the Agricultural Council of California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate William McFarlane on his 2000 Agriculturist of the Year Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. McFarlane and wishing him many more years of continued success.

COMMENDING VETERANS OF
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding veterans we are so fortunate to have in our community in Sussex County, New Jersey. On Saturday, November 10, 2001, a County Salute to all Military Veterans from Sussex County will be held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. On this day, we will honor the veterans of Sussex County and celebrate the spirit of those who have fought so bravely to preserve our tradition of democracy.

As Veterans' Day approaches, the eyes of the nation turn to the service and sacrifice of those who serve. As a nation, we owe these men and women our gratitude. I believe that the government has made solemn promises to its citizens who served in the armed forces that must be kept! I believe that Congress must make sure that this promise is not broken. By ensuring that we maintain a system of reliable, effective and compassionate benefits, this nation both keeps its promise and honors veterans.

In my 22 years in the House of Representatives, I have kept in close contact with our veterans of New Jersey. And I have learned that none of the legislation we pass in Congress can provide real assistance to veterans if our veterans do not know these benefits exist.

That is precisely why I have cosponsored the Veterans Right to Know Act. This bill requires the Veterans Administration (VA) to inform veterans about eligibility for benefits and health care services whenever a veterans first applies for any benefits. In my conversations with veterans and veterans' leaders, this legislation is a top priority.

In addition to this bill, the Congress has taken important steps in keeping our promise to veterans. This June, the President signed into law our Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvement Act. I co-sponsored this bill which created new life insurance and health care benefits for up to 2 million eligible spouses and children of veterans.

I strongly supported the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act which we passed in the House. This bill increases the Montgomery GI Bill education benefit by 70 percent over the next 3 years and raises the value of VA education benefits from \$23,400 annually to \$39,600.

I have co-sponsored the Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act which authorizes \$550 million over two years for much over-due-repair of dilapidated and obsolete Veterans medical facilities. This bill was also strongly supported in the House.

And just this week, on Thursday, November 8, 2001, the House and Senate both approved of the final appropriations for veterans for the Fiscal Year 2002. This budget increases the total spending for VA programs by \$4.3 billion,