

Bob is married to Kris Swanson, also a Staff Officer on the Mark Twain National Forest. He has two daughters, Erin Willis, 22, Robin Wilson, 24, and a son-in-law, Tommy Wilson. In addition, Bob has two step-sons, Thomas England, 16, and Daniel England, 13. When he is not caring for the Mark Twain, he and his daughters show, breed, and raise Tennessee Walking Horses. Bob's responsibilities with the Mark Twain included managing the technical services within the forest, including computer systems, telecommunications, minerals and geology, special uses, land acquisitions, and real estate management.

In his retirement, Bob will remain committed to the outdoors with his favorite hobbies such as raising and caring for his horses, landscaping his new home, and playing tennis. He is moving on to serve as a consultant in Government Relations and Environmental Management.

Bob's tenure with the Mark Twain covered the same amount of time that an Emerson has been in Congress and both Bill and I benefited by his work there. He helped us cut through the red-tape of government over the over again. Because of that help, we have been able to move projects forward that were, and are, beneficial to the people who live in the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

His pleasant personality often made it possible for people with very different opinions to get together and work toward common goals. That consensus building helped to make sure that the multiple-use concept for our national forests prevailed in the Mark Twain. He clearly understands that the wise use of our natural resources is not only good for local economies and jobs, but also is necessary for the health of a vibrant, growing forest.

We will miss Bob Willis. If more government employees were like him then the label "bureaucrats" would not fit! My office and I appreciate his years of service.

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IN TRIBUTE TO RABBI SHIMON  
PASKOW

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rabbi Shimon Paskow, who is retiring after 31 years of spiritual leadership of Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks, CA.

Although the temple is not physically in my district, many of my constituents have benefited from Rabbi Paskow's spiritual leadership and human compassion. Among his many volunteer efforts, he has served as the Jewish Chaplain at the Ventura School of the California Youth Authority in Camarillo, CA. In that capacity, Rabbi Paskow has ministered to some of our most troubled youth.

Rabbi Paskow was ordained in 1959. The next year, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a Jewish Chaplain in France and Germany. Immediately, he proved his dedication and was honored by the Commanding General of the Fourth Logistical Command and the National Jewish Welfare Board for his outstanding work. In 1985, Rabbi Paskow was

promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1993, he was decorated with the Meritorious Service Award.

Prior to coming to Temple Etz Chaim, Rabbi Paskow served as an Associate Rabbi of the Valley Jewish Community Center and Temple (Adat Ari El), one of the largest Conservative congregations on the West Coast.

Under his leadership, Temple Etz Chaim has grown from a membership of less than 100 families to more than 700 families today. He has been instrumental in designating sections of local cemeteries for consecrated Jewish burials. Jewish Family Service established an office in Thousand Oaks' Community Concurrence Services Center through his personal efforts.

While leading the Temple Etz Chaim congregation, Rabbi Paskow also has found time to lecture to numerous college groups and serve on the faculties of several institutes of Jewish learning. He is a member of many religious organizations, in addition to his service on secular community committees. He has authored many popular and scholarly articles that have appeared in journals and newspapers throughout the country. Rabbi Paskow appears frequently on radio and television and is listed in various Who's Who directories.

Rabbi Paskow has earned many awards for his service. Among them: In 1993, he was presented with the Torch of Learning Award by the American Friends of the Hebrew University in recognition of his commitment to youth, education, Israel, and the Jewish people. With his wife, Carol, he established a scholarship fund at the Hebrew University for students needing financial assistance. The government of Israel has honored him for promoting tours to Israel.

Rabbi and Carol Paskow have one daughter, Michelle, who was ordained a Rabbi in 1991. The couple are the proud grandparents of Aaron Daniel and Jonathan Jay Cohen.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Rabbi Paskow for his many decades of service to his religion and his community, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him and his family many more years of fulfillment.

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TRIBUTE TO BENARD KULIK,  
SBA'S ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, all of us who are privileged to serve in the House work every day with senior managers in the Executive Branch, whether in connection with our oversight responsibilities, or in providing constituent services or because of federal offices or activities in our districts. Occasionally, we are fortunate enough to work with an individual who is so knowledgeable and effective in his or her area that it is difficult to imagine anyone else in their position. I rise today to report to the House the retirement of such a senior executive, Mr. Bernard Kulik, the long-

time Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Berky, as he is known to his many friends, began his long and distinguished career in public service more than forty years ago. After serving in the corporate finance division of the Securities and Exchange Commission, he joined SBA in 1964. Although Berky has held a variety of senior positions at SBA, including Director of Field Operations, Associate Administrator for Procurement Assistance, and Associate Administrator for the Office of Investment, he is without question best known for managing since 1981 the agency's Disaster Assistance Program. As Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance, Berky oversees this vital program which provides low-interest loans to both individual and business victims of natural and other disasters throughout the United States and its possessions. These loans are indispensable for the quick recovery of both disaster victims themselves and the long-term health of their communities. SBA has provided this assistance to homeowners and businesses in virtually every state in the Nation and all U.S. possessions.

Kulik is a native of New York City and holds degrees in economics and law from New York University. He is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards. He has twice been awarded the rank of Meritorious Executive, by President Carter in 1980 and by President Clinton in 1995. President Bush named him a Distinguished Executive in 1991. Berky has also received SBA's Gold Medal for distinguished service.

My experience in working with Berky and SBA's Disaster Loan Program goes back more than twenty years to when the Committee on Small Business, on which I served, spearheaded an effort to reorganize the program's delivery system and personnel authorities. Later, SBA located one of its four nationwide disaster bases or "Area Offices" in Niagara Falls, where I am proud to say that my constituents continue to serve disaster victims not only in their own Northeastern U.S. region, but also in other areas throughout the country, backing up their three sister offices as needed when unexpected major disasters require quick redeployment of resources.

It is no exaggeration to say that most of us here have experienced disasters of one type or another in our districts, and that we know how terrible their effects can be on our constituents. Hurricanes, floods, fires, tornadoes and other catastrophes strike quickly, often with little warning and devastating consequences. No matter how well we prepare, there will always be a need for us as a society to help our fellow citizens afflicted by disasters. Years ago, we here in Congress decided that it was wiser to have government disaster response programs ready in advance than to legislate anew with each unpredictable but inevitably recurrent catastrophe. Since the late 1970s, we have had such authorizations, programs and delivery systems in place before they were needed. SBA's Disaster Loan Program has been a key element in our response strategy and it has performed extremely well under Berky Kulik's leadership.

I recently wrote Berky that his accomplishments should be a source of great pride. He

has led SBA's Disaster Loan Program through difficult reorganization and development phases, and in doing so has taken an inherently unpredictable and difficult to manage program and made it one of the best-managed in government. He has brought tremendous expertise and professionalism to difficult policy and budget deliberations in Washington. He has developed a skilled and dedicated management team and a core group of professional disaster specialists. But perhaps most important are the extraordinary numbers of people whose lives he has touched—during Berky's tenure, literally hundreds of thousands of disaster victims have received the help they desperately needed to rebuild homes and businesses ravaged by disasters of every sort.

Those of us who have worked closely with Berky on disaster issues will certainly miss that professional relationship, but all of us owe Berky our gratitude, not only for his efforts on behalf of our constituents, but for his exemplary dedication to the highest traditions of public service. I ask that all my colleagues join with me in wishing Berky the very best in his retirement after his long and distinguished career.

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INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR  
MUTUAL FUND SHAREHOLDERS

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, our tax code has many features that are economically counterproductive, but few are as destructive as those aimed at personal saving and investment. The current tax system undermines personal saving and investment in many ways, but today I would like to address the tax treatment of mutual fund capital gains distributions. Middle income savers and investors involuntarily receive these distributions from their mutual funds, and must pay tax on them even though they may have sold no shares in the fund. Today, I am introducing legislation to provide a partial exclusion limiting the federal taxation of these involuntary distributions.

Essentially, the current law forces middle income savers and investors to pay tax on capital gains they have not realized. Even if the value of their shares has declined or they have owned them for only a short time, they can be slammed with a huge tax liability. As a recent Joint Economic Committee study pointed out, this tax can reduce the pre-liquidation rate of return by 10 to 20 percent. Furthermore, due to the complexity of the law, many taxpayers can easily pay this tax twice. This is unfair and undermines incentives to save and invest.

In recent years, mutual funds have enabled many ordinary Americans to share in the tremendous economic gains that resulted from the technological innovation, productivity gains, and surge in wealth of the 1990s. Tens of millions of ordinary Americans now have substantial investments in the financial markets, many of them through mutual funds. Federal policy should accommodate these ef-

forts of our citizens to provide for their retirement security, education, housing, and other needs. Federal tax policy should not erect excessive tax barriers undermining the incentives and ability of middle income taxpayers to plan for their own needs.

Today, I am introducing legislation providing a \$3,000 tax exclusion for individuals, and a \$6,000 exclusion for couples, to shield annual capital gains distributions. When taxpayers sell their shares in the mutual fund, they would pay the tax on these gains, but these exclusions would shield most middle income taxpayers from immediate taxation and potentially double taxation on capital gains distributions. Other investors generally are not taxed on an accrual basis on their capital gains, and we should do what we can to level the playing field, and end tax discrimination against personal saving and investment. As the eminent economist Irving Fisher once wrote, "A tax on accretion penalizes those who are rising the social scale, the builders of the nation . . ." The current tax bias against thrift should be a major target of reform for the foreseeable future.

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UNITED AIRLINES—US AIRWAYS  
MERGER

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong reservations about the proposed merger of United Airlines and US Airways. While I am a strong proponent of economic growth and development, this recently announced merger could only have a detrimental impact on Central New York air service and our economy. Congress was told by the airline industry in 1978 that deregulation would bring about greater competition, better service, and lower costs for the consumer. In many of our large, major urban centers this is exactly what happened; however, smaller urban areas haven't seen similar results. Many of these communities find themselves saddled with one dominant carrier and no competition resulting in extremely high airfares.

This combination of the two airlines would not only control about 27 percent of the U.S. market but over 50 percent of the travel market out of Syracuse, which already pays the fifteenth highest airfares in the Nation. I cannot support a merger if increased travel costs, possible loss of service, and dismissal of long-time employees are part of the equation.

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TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PORCHER

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Robert Porcher III, for being honored "Father of the Year" at The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) Annual Awards Banquet held

on June 2, 2000. The National Fatherhood Initiative was founded to stimulate a national movement while confronting the growing dilemma of father absentia. NFI is dedicated to improving the lives of children by increasing the number who have involved, committed, and responsible fathers.

In a league that has been shrouded with negative media coverage on irresponsible fatherhood, Robert Porcher was one of the first athletes to take a stand for responsible parenting. He has been a humanitarian, actively participating in Detroit's United Way as the official spokesman; a philanthropist, making a lifelong commitment to provide funds enhancing public awareness, increased educational opportunities, and aid to economically disadvantaged individuals; and a mentor, providing deserving youth with scholarship assistance and recreational activities through the Robert Porcher Scholarship Award and Top of the Line Football Camp.

Always committed to his educational endeavors, Robert graduated from Cainhoy High School in Wando, South Carolina. In 1992, he matriculated at South Carolina State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. During his outstanding collegiate career, Robert was named 1991 Walter Camp All-American and 1991 MEAC Defensive Player of the Year. He entered the National Football League as a first-round draft pick by the Detroit Lions.

Mr. Porcher is a spectacular athlete, devoted father, advocate, humanitarian, and philanthropist. He is a man of extraordinary kindness and courage, intellect and eloquence. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Robert Porcher, III, for his outstanding work as an exemplary father, athlete, and role model.

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INTRODUCING THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT RECOVERY ACT OF 2000

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today I filed the Public Investment Recovery Act of 2000. This legislation would enable the Federal Government to recover a portion of the taxpayer dollars currently used to develop pharmaceutical, biologic and genetic products.

It is important that both Congress and the pharmaceutical industry recognize that the American people, through Federal tax money, contribute substantially to the development of new drugs. Sadly, many of these same taxpayers are without prescription drug coverage and cannot afford the high costs of these medications.

Consider a recent report in the New York Times which focused on the hardships of one of our nation's senior citizens who has no prescription drug coverage. The gentleman featured in the report depends on an \$832 monthly Social Security check to survive. Tragically, these funds are not enough to pay for the eye drops he needs to battle his disabling glaucoma. Yet, the drug he so desperately needs—Xalatan—was developed with