

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.

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 Conscience 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.

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.