

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.