

same period she gave organizational leadership to the War Resisters League, serving as chair from 1977 to 1983.

She was a unique and successful organizer because she could blend the right proportions of tender loving care, anger and guilt. Above all, she conveyed a powerful sense of social indignation to all of us, and especially the youth. She truly appreciated the young for their energy, creativity and selflessness. In her interview with Nancy Zaroulis and Gerald Sullivan, authors of "Who Spoke Up?: American Protest Against the War in Vietnam, 1963-1975," Norma recalled some of the events around the May 9, 1970 demonstration (in response to the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the killings of students at Jackson and Kent State universities):

We put out a mailing of 10,000 one day's notice—we didn't have computerized mailings then. We had a staff of young people who worked incredible hours. These are the unsung heroes of that period, and their names don't go down in the history books: Linda Morse, Josh Brown, Alan Barnes, Wendy Fisher, Laurie Sandow, Bob Eberwein, and many others . . . these are the young people who were working for fifty, seventy-five dollars a week, if and when we could pay them—nineteen, twenty, twenty-one years old. . . .

Norma worried about our youth. She worked with youngsters every day in the public schools and she witnessed young people in the movement for peace and social justice. She was critical of herself and her generation for not providing the young with more meaningful role models. She was concerned that we have left them with too little hope.

In her effort to understand the dynamics of war and genocide, Norma was drawn to the study of human culture and the role of irrational forces in human motivation. She researched biology and behavior—was not satisfied with the theoretical orthodoxy and rationalistic models of the political left. She read the literature of Zen and Tao; she took courses in anthropology; she engaged her friends in long talks about the meaning of it all. She always continued to learn, to study, to know, to create, to enjoy, and to love.

A hope, a desire, a wish—or an attitude—whatever it took, it was an expression of Norma's optimism in troubled times. She understood how powerful a people's movement can be, even with the most limited of resources. And, how empowered each of us can become if we act on our inner courage, however small it may seem.

Norma celebrated our potential as persons, if we can accept one another as ally, friend and comrade. In Norma's everyday practice, she sought to heal and overcome the hurts and pains, the divisions and schisms arising from racism, sexism, opportunism and sectarianism within our movement. Time and again, she acted with courage and passion to unify our ranks against divisive assaults. Often she succeeded, and sometimes not, but she never failed to respond, no matter how difficult the task.

This is a time to celebrate Norma and give tribute to this remarkable person who gave so much of her energy, her spirit, her self, so that this might be a better world for the young—so that our children will be alive and well in the 21st Century and beyond—so that all will go well.

We love you, Norma, as our sister, friend and comrade—and we celebrate your life. L'Chayim!

THE NORMA BECKER THAT I KNEW

(By David McReynolds)

My first memory of Norma is from the Civil Defense Drill protests in 1960-61, and her attending the WRL Conferences we used to have every year at Hudson guild. I had lit-

tle knowledge of her courageous work in the South and didn't really get to know her until 1965 and the founding of the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee.

Looking back, that was typical Norma Becker. She felt that since everyone else had parades on Fifth Avenue—The Irish, the Italians, the annual Easter Parade—that the Vietnam Peace movement had a right to such a parade. She approached A.J. Muste—then in his late seventies—chaired the meetings, and had wide respect, the Communists and Trotskyites, who hadn't sat in the same room in decades, came. The Catholic Left came. Liberal Democrats, pacifists, socialists, trade unionists, Protestants, Jews—all came to that founding meeting, and to the following meetings.

The first parade, in 1965, when the Vietnam War was still widely supported by the public, marked the birth of what would, by the 1970s, become mass coalition demonstrations. (And it had one wonderful moment of theater, when Allen Ginsberg, who was in the parade, walked up to a police officer, kissed him, and handed him a flower—only Allen could have done that and left the officer looking bemused instead of angry.)

When the initial parade was over, the Parade Committee didn't dissolve. It set up offices, and drew a staff of supporters who provided the backbone of public protest and resistance in New York City—setting an example, in the process, for people all over the nation to put aside old disagreements and unite to fight the war. (Norma never forgave me for opposing the continuation of the Parade Committee, sectarian anti-Communist that I then was, I wasn't sure about institutionalizing cooperation with the Marxist-Leninists. Norma was right. I was terribly wrong).

Norma functioned in a movement where men played the leading roles as the main speakers and writers. While this was a period when the feminist movement emerged, and Norma considered herself a feminist, she was more concerned with getting work done than with getting credit. She was a constant figure in all the shifting coalitions and mobilizations, often using her apartment on Charles Street as the meeting place from which new ideas and new approaches emerged. It would be an enormous mistake to think that because she was not the "public figure" for the movement, that she was thus "merely" an organizer. (Though God knows, being the kind of organizer Norma was, if that was all she did it would have earned her a place in heaven—if not the history books).

What needs to be said is that while many of us, including myself, had jobs in the movement, Norma's full time job was that of a school teacher—a first class one, active in her union. In addition, she was a divorced mother raising two children. For most human beings that would have been enough. But Norma was a tower of strength in the broader movement, negotiating her way through forests of egos and organizations. She had taken on the role as Chair of War Resisters League, and, like all of her other tasks, she took that seriously. Did Norma somehow operate outside the usual time spectrum? Did she have a 48 hour day, while the rest of us had only 24?

Norma was one of the first in the Jewish community to initiate informal dialogue with Arabs in New York City, bringing together members of two groups who had operated at a great distance from one another.

When the Vietnam War ended, and most people returned to their pre-war routines, Norma, with the help of Sid Lens, founded the Mobilization for Survival in 1977. While "Mobe" eventually folded, during its ten years or so of active life it generated a num-

ber of local "Peace and Justice" centers, and laid the basis for the enormous demonstration in 1982 in Central Park, when the numbers of those who came were so great that estimates of a million remain only a guess. I was there—the crowds were so dense it became frightening. Norma was, for once, a speaker, late in the program, and she alone dared raise the issue of the Israeli military actions taking place at that time.

With the recession that came with the Reagan years, Norma tried hard to push the War Resisters League to embrace economic justice as part of its agenda. Together with Norma we helped set up a coalition—the name now escapes me—which tried to get the peace movement to put unemployment, poverty, and economics on its agenda.

She had a restlessly curious mind. To visit Norma for dinner was to be plunged into intellectual discussions far beyond the agenda of the moment. Toward the end of her life she suffered from mania and depression. She was out of the usual organizational loop. The death of her son, Gene, probably precipitated her agitation. Norma would be furious with me if I skipped over this, as if her life was too perfect for a touch of reality. Norma was very real, to the dinners she prepared, to the love and concern she showed to all, to the incredible ability to forgive slights. Perhaps, most of all, I remember her laughter

I have been lucky in this life to have known closely and well a number of those the world has considered great, among them A.J. Muste, Norman Thomas, Dave Dellinger, Bayard Rustin. Norma was as "great" as any of them. Let the record show that because of her, fewer Vietnamese and Americans died. She showed us that—in the midst of apathy—resistance and mass mobilization is possible. It was my good fortune to have worked with her during many years of struggle. The memory of that struggle shames us if we think, in a period equally dangerous, we can fail now to mount a resistance, one that reaches out to mobilize the many.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
FORMER TEXAS SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE JOHN HILL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of John Hill, the only person in the history of the great State of Texas to serve as Secretary of State, Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. John was a friend of mine. He was a spellbinder and, in my opinion, the greatest and most successful trial lawyer of his day.

John entered politics as an organizer in the 1964 re-election campaign of Governor John B. Connally. Governor Connally appointed him Secretary of State in 1966, a post he would hold for 2 years. In 1972 John was elected Attorney General, where he pressed lawsuits against polluters, created an organized crime task force and persuaded the Legislature to pass consumer legislation. In 1984 he was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. He resigned in January of 1988 to advocate his belief that the partisan election of judges fostered an environment which allowed campaign contributors to have undue influence upon the courts. He continued to campaign for

a system in which judges would be appointed until his death.

He remained engaged in public service, working as Governor George W. Bush's appointee to the Texas Lottery Commission, and supporting the Governor in his bid for the White House. The final years of John's legal career were spent as a senior partner with Locke Liddel and Sapp LLP, and later as a senior partner with the Winstead firm, where he was a shareholder.

John is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Ann Graham; a son, John Graham Hill; two daughters, Melinda Elizabeth Hill Perrin and Martha Hill Jamison; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great American, outstanding public servant, and respected jurist, the Honorable John Hill.

MENTAL HEALTH

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, our country has been witnessing and suffering the pain and anguish when a distressed individual takes to shooting at random or killing in revenge, be it a student or a former employee. More and more we hear of stories relating to our returning war heroes' mental health plight and inability to cope with what they have gone through in Afghanistan and/or Iraq. While most older veterans will quickly tell you they had periods of rest and relaxation between tours, that is no longer the case.

For far too long we have shunned speaking of or dealing with brain functions misfiring, or in stigmatized words, "mental health." We do not see it, hear it, or speak of it, as it connotes "crazy" and "institutions." However we cannot ignore that mental illness does not discriminate. It touches all regardless of race, gender, class, or religion.

Look at rising suicide statistics for jailed or homeless individuals and unattended veterans who attempt such drastic measures. It is a national crisis and our great shame. Enough of words, action should have begun yesterday. Early prevention must be implemented in schools to allow for early identification by teachers of children who exhibit behavioral problems. And the government must pay attention at every level as this is an issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the community's well-being and economic stability.

We have tests and screenings for breast cancer, heart attacks, strokes, and a myriad of other diseases and conditions, but we have not yet woken up to the fact that the brain's functions are vital to our body's health and survival. It is critical that we destigmatize mental illness so that our children, our families, and our wounded warrior veterans receive the necessary help they need to lead productive lives with supportive families and communities.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Funding for Schools Act, which reauthorizes and improves an important education program called Impact Aid. Impact Aid benefits millions of American students attending elementary and secondary schools in every State in the country. Through this program, the Federal Government does the right thing by reimbursing local school districts for lost tax revenue due to its actions.

The majority of public school funding in America comes from local property taxes. Unfortunately, this vital funding stream is drastically reduced for school districts where the Federal Government takes control of part of the land. For instance, the many U.S. military bases located in Hawai'i take up a vast amount of space and house large populations, but these bases do not generate local property taxes. In other States large national parks, Federal prisons, and Indian lands all similarly decrease local property tax revenue. Left uncorrected, this loss of revenue would leave the children living in these areas with a second class education, funded by substantially fewer dollars than their peers living in areas with no federally impacted land.

In 1950, Congress recognized the need to address this inequity and created Impact Aid, a program by which we provide additional Federal dollars to school districts feeling this kind of financial strain.

Impact Aid is one of the most effective programs run by the Department of Education because it sends money directly to local school districts with very few strings attached. Just like the property tax revenue it replaces, Impact Aid dollars can be used to fund the most essential needs identified by the school district—textbooks, computers, utilities, and salaries, for instance. Many districts rely heavily on this money, and without it their students would be shortchanged. Therefore, we must reauthorize the program.

Even great programs need to be tweaked every so often, and this Fair Funding for Schools Act makes necessary changes in Impact Aid. It addresses the military realities of base realignment and troop redeployment by allowing Impact Aid payments to be calculated using current student counts instead of prior year data. This change will allow districts receiving an influx of new military families to receive their Impact Aid dollars in a timely manner.

The Impact Aid law also has become overly complicated during its 57-year history. This bill simplifies the law by eliminating some outdated provisions that were adding unnecessary complications. It also maintains the program's traditional focus on need, whereby payments to school districts are calculated based on the percentage of the budget lost due to Federal actions and on the number of federally connected children.

Madam Speaker, this is a vital important bill for Hawai'i and for many school districts across the country. The students most impacted are often from families serving in our military. Given the sacrifices we ask of military

families, they deserve nothing less than the best education for their children. This bill will take us in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HONORING TIM MADDEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Tim Madden and to commend him for his service to the Eastern Madera community. On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Madden for his continued dedication to not only its chamber, but to the North Fork Chamber of Commerce and Eastern Madera County.

Tim Madden is a 17 year resident of Eastern Madera County, his continued commitment to his community is evident by his service in a multitude of leadership positions throughout the area. Within the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Madden's positions include past president (2007), president (2006), president-elect (2005), and member of the board of directors (2004). During his service with the Chamber, the efforts of Mr. Madden enabled the Chamber to authorize the inaugural Trade Mission to China, regain fiscal solvency, create a county-wide promotion system, promote local commerce and further downtown development and maintenance for the Oakhurst Business District.

Tim Madden also served as president of the North Fork Chamber of Commerce from 1998–2000, and as a member of the board of directors for 6 years. The list of community positions and appointments held by Mr. Madden continues, as does the esteem and gratitude of Eastern Madera County. Concerning the relationship Mr. Madden shares with his community, he remarked, "Our connection to each other extends far beyond our business relationships. We are much more like a very large extended family."

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor Tim Madden and the respect his community has shown for his dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Madden many years of continued success.

HONORING CHANCELLOR JOHN WILEY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Wiley, upon his retirement as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. John is a dedicated public servant who has earned the respect and admiration of the professors, staff, and students under his supervision. Passionate, genuine, and sincere are just a few of the words used to describe Chancellor Wiley's commitment to the university and greater Madison community.

As a graduate student, former faculty member, provost, vice chancellor, and current