

VIRGINIA BEACH PROCLAMATION
OF RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN DAY

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, the City of Virginia Beach recently issued the following proclamation honoring Rabbi Israel Zoberman, the founding Rabbi of Beth Chaverim, the Reform Jewish Congregation of Virginia Beach:

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman was honored at a special reception on April 23, 1999 at Beth Chaverim; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman is the founding Rabbi of Beth Chaverim, the Reform Jewish Congregation of Virginia Beach; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman has been in the ministry for twenty-five years and was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree from his alma mater, the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Campus; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman is the first rabbi to serve as chairman of the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater. He is a contributing editor to the Jewish Spectator. He is also the past president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Virginia Beach Clergy Association; and

Whereas Beth Chaverim was the only Jewish congregation in the world to meet regularly in a Catholic Church; the Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach and a close bond was established between the two organizations; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman has been a force for good as his ministry has touched not only the citizens of Hampton Roads, but many others throughout the world;

Now, Therefore, I, Meyera E. Oberndorf, Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 23, 1999 Rabbi Israel Zoberman Day in Virginia Beach, and call upon all citizens to recognize his many contributions to the city.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to be affixed this Twenty-third day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Nine. Meyera E. Oberndorf

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOHN R. HARVEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM HIS OFFICE AS CHIEF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, ATLANTIC JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ON MAY 31, 1999

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, quite simply, what separates civilized countries from countries which know only official corruption, abuse of power, and economic misery is the rule of law.

Without respect for the rule of law, countries with stunning natural resource wealth, extraordinary human capital, and even formidable military might are nothing more than failed models.

The Soviet Union, and now Russia, possessed all of these attributes.

And yet the Soviet Union was never more than a declining power and a model from

which its citizens tried to flee by the thousands.

It was never one to which millions yearned to come to, and realize new and exciting possibilities.

Although the Soviet Union is an extreme case, too little regard for the rule of law is the norm, and it characterizes regimes on every continent.

America however, has always been different.

Historians have spoken of American Exceptionalism since the days of Alexis de Tocqueville over 150 years ago, and one of the most important ingredients in this belief about our special, even God-given role in the world is our regard for the rule of law.

Judge John Harvey, who retired from the bench as Chief Superior Court Judge of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit on May 31st of this year, is a man whose entire professional life inspires faith in the rule of law.

A man of probity and regard for honor, Judge Harvey brought to his life's work a quiet determination and unceasing commitment to do right.

We Americans believe in the basic framework of our rule of law as embodied in the Constitution, a document which has stood the test of time.

Despite the steady erosion in the freedoms guaranteed in this document over the past several decades, we still revere the Constitution as a reflection of what we believe in as a people, what the relationship between the ruled and rulers should be, and what is right and good about the most successful experiment in democracy the world has ever seen.

But the Constitution is not enough.

A piece of paper can never alone ensure respect for the rule of law.

It cannot protect us from encroachments on our freedom.

And it can never forfend the inevitable tendency of rulers to abuse their power.

For the rule of law to triumph, honest men and a virtuous people must insist that it triumph, and they must step forward and demand that threats to our freedom be vanquished.

The Constitution provides us with the road map; but honest judges, dedicated police officers, lawyers with integrity, and ethical federal administrators, are the ones who must make the rule of law a reality, a system to which all citizens can appeal, and from which all citizens can receive justice.

If even the least among us is denied justice under our system of laws, faith in our rule of law is undermined, and our freedoms are no longer safe.

Absent people who are committed to the rule of law, citizens will not have faith that their grievances will be addressed, or that the law-abiding will be protected from those who wish to do us harm.

Judge Harvey possesses the kind of even temperament and fair-minded approach to every case that send a signal to plaintiffs and defendants alike that in this case, in this court, before this judge, the law will be upheld and every attempt will be made for the truth to triumph.

Judge Harvey was a popular judge who was respected for his sharp legal mind and judicious demeanor.

But he was esteemed and admired even more for his reverence for the law and for his integrity.

His early success in his life as a distinguished jurist—becoming superior court judge at the age of 38—did nothing to lessen his commitment to his youthful ideals of serving as an honest lawyer in a noble profession.

Indeed, his achievement merely spurred him to take his responsibilities even more seriously and with even greater care.

Judge Harvey always wanted to be a lawyer.

Some lawyers engender respect for the rule of law; others bring our system of laws into disrepute and cause people to lose faith in the very government we elect to serve us.

Judge Harvey always dreamed of becoming a lawyer in the first category, a lawyer who will make the system work the way it is supposed to.

America will cease to be a country where the rule of law is respected without people like Judge John Harvey.

Rising before the sun and leaving the office after colleagues decades his junior, Judge Harvey adhered to work habits and ethical that touched the lives of countless individuals who are responsible for making sure that our Constitution is more than a piece of paper of an inspired origin.

His profession, his task, is to make sure that the system works and to create in the citizenry a regard for the rule of law that is all too rare in most countries of the world.

In that task, his efforts were singularly successful, and his departure from the bench is a great loss to us all.

But the example he set for others remains, and his impact will long outlive his tenure as a sitting judge.

Judge Harvey makes me proud to be an American, and it is my great honor to pay tribute to him today.

Judge Harvey, thank you for your outstanding service to the United States of America; we will miss you.

CONFLICT IN KASHMIR

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of concerns for the increased tensions in the Kashmir region of India. From the accounts that I've seen, it is my understanding that the current fighting near Kargil, Kashmir, is the most dangerous escalation since the Indo-Pak war of 1971. The current crisis apparently began when a heavily armed, and considerably large force comprised of Islamic terrorists and Pakistani regulars, including some of Osama bin Laden's followers, crossed the "Line of Control" into India, occupying Indian military positions that had been temporarily abandoned for the winter season. Indian security forces took prompt action to remove these infiltrators and defend Indian territory. Units of the Pakistani Army quickly joined the fighting, providing the infiltrators with heavy artillery fire as well as firing at Indian aircraft and helicopters striking the infiltrators' positions.

There should be no doubt that this operation could not have taken place without the direct support from, and authorization of, the highest levels of government in Islamabad. The