

For most of his life, Larry lived in Brooklyn, where his sister and other family members still reside. In 1993, Larry moved to Manhattan's West Village, where he joined a local block association to promote neighborhood well-being and community preservation. Among Larry's many notable community activities is his involvement in the New York Public Library, where he has been recognized as a member of the Bigelow Society. He is also an active member of the SAGE Forty Plus Group at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in Manhattan.

Larry is devoted to his close-knit family. Larry plans to spend his retirement years in New York City as well as his apartment in Hollywood, Florida, pursuing his various interests and enjoying the things he loves with family, friends and his partner, Bill Hevert. I am pleased to join with my friend, Lewis Goldstein, in congratulating Larry on this milestone. I wish him a productive and enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. A. EDWARD
DAVIS, JR.

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Reverend Dr. A. Edward Davis, Jr., Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Pastor Davis preached his first sermon in 1969 and was called to the pastorate of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in 1976. Since that time, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives.

Under his leadership and vision, St. John's membership has grown to almost four thousand five hundred members. He preaches two Sunday services and is making preparations to build a new church building which will include an Educational Facility with a full-time Day Care Center. Over thirty-three years of untiring service, faithful dedication to the community and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Pastor Davis has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state and country. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Pastor A. Edward Davis and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICH
PERLBERG, NEW PRESIDENT OF
THE MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Rich Perlberg of Brighton, Michigan, who was recently installed as 2002 president of the Michigan Press Association.

Rich Perlberg and his family have been dedicated for three generations to continuing America's tradition of a free press. The Perlberg family also works to keep the newspaper industry viable in a highly competitive era and is fully committed to enhancing the communities they serve.

Rich Perlberg, publisher and general manager of Home Town Newspapers, is both a second generation president and the third Perlberg to head Michigan's volunteer, statewide organization of newspapers. His father, Ed Perlberg was president in 1982, and his brother Bob served in 1992. Actually, the Perlberg family tradition goes back even farther. Rich's grandfather, Floyd, once served as a board member of the now 300-member association.

Rich Perlberg understands that community newspapers are the historians of American life, as well as the watchdogs of community well-being and a cornerstone of the community economy.

Perlberg assumes the Michigan Press Association presidency at a critical time. While newspapers that reflect their communities are the very backbone of a the community, the backbone of these publications is retail advertising. Without that revenue, it would be nearly impossible for newspapers to serve their communities. The recent dip in the economy and other media competition for advertising revenue, present Perlberg with a major challenge in the new year.

Perlberg's family tradition in community newspapers and his successful newspaper career make him the right man for Michigan's newspaper industry in 2002. He began his career sweeping floors, proofing ads and writing copy at his father's paper in Bay City, Michigan. He has since risen to lead one of the state's most respected and successful community newspaper groups. He is well-prepared to assume responsibility for the association.

We congratulate Rich Perlberg on his new opportunity and wish him and the Michigan Press Association the very best in the coming year.

THOUGHTS OF RABBI ISRAEL
ZOBERMAN ON HIS RECENT TRIP
TO THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 and in the weeks that followed, it seemed inconceivable that anyone in the world would ever be able to return to true normalcy. The

horror of that day would—as well it should—live forever in our hearts and minds. But, in parts of the world, old hatreds have been revived and violence has once again become an everyday occurrence. In particular, the Middle East has again become a tinderbox.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman of the Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, a congregation that draws people from all over the Tidewater area, recently traveled to Israel for the Israel Bonds Rabbinic Conference Solidarity Mission. As someone who had grown up in Israel before coming to the United States to preach, Rabbi Zoberman is regrettably well accustomed to the daily routine of violence in the Middle East. But, he is far from desensitized to its effects on human lives. He published his thoughts on the recent violence in the National Jewish Post, and he has shared them with me. I commend his article to my colleagues' attention as well.

As an early supporter of mutual accommodation between the Israelis and the Palestinians, I urged in the wake of the 1982 Lebanon War—in an article inserted into the Congressional Record by then Senator Charles Percy of Illinois—for responding creatively to the Palestinian question while guaranteeing Israel's security. Indeed, the 1993 historic handshake between the late Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat at the south lawn of the White House vindicated those believing in the necessity of peace between the long warring parties. However, the past 16 months have painfully impacted the peace camp following Arafat's initiation of the Second Intifada, violently rejecting former Prime Minister Barak's wide proposal at Camp David to fully end the historic conflict.

While on an Israel Bonds Rabbinic Conference Solidarity Mission, we watched on Israeli TV the captured ship "Karine A," packed with fifty tons of Iranian offensive weapons ordered by the Palestinian Authority. Major General Shlomo Gazit (Res.) who headed the Israeli Army Intelligence branch, described to us the action as the most daring commando raid since the 1976 Entebbe Operation, also meant to save Jewish lives. All that while General Anthony Zinni was in the region receiving cynical assurances from the Palestinian of their commitment to implement a cease-fire.

U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, the second consecutive American Jew to serve in the important post replacing Ambassador Martin Indyk, greeted us most warmly and unequivocally state, "there is a connection between the ship and the Palestinian Authority for which it should answer." Jerusalem's Mayor Ehud Olmert, thanking us heartfeltdly as did Israelis at large for visiting at a trying time, emphasized that the ship's episode illustrates the gap "between Arafat's declarations and deeds" with peace remaining elusive.

Israel's President Moshe Katsav movingly welcoming us in his official residence was highly critical of Arafat's conduct since the Peace Process began, and stressed the internal division the latter created in Israeli society. He emphatically announced, acknowledgingly borrowing President Lincoln's famous phrase, "Mr. Arafat, you cannot fool all the people all the time." The President spoke of the need to vigorously fight terrorism while asserting the meeting points of common interests between Palestinians and Israelis.

Deputy Defense Minister, Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, daughter of the slain Yitzhak Rabin, bemoaned the transition "from hope