

In December, 1997, he was appointed by the Mayor as a member of the newly-formed New York City Gambling Control Commission. The five-member Commission is charged with establishing and enforcing regulations for ship-board gambling to ensure that consumers are protected from fraudulent practices and to prevent the influence of organized crime.

Mr. Kerik is vice chairman of the Boy Scouts' Greater New York Councils Law Enforcement Exploring Division. He also chairs the Michael John Buczek Foundation's annual fundraiser that honors law enforcement heroes across the nation. Named in memory of a 34th Precinct, officer slain in the line of duty, the Foundation provides financial assistance to youth foundation in that neighborhood and to the law enforcement community in New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the family and friends of Commissioner Kerik's, and the City of New York, in recognizing the many outstanding and invaluable contributions Bernard B. Kerik has made to public safety through his distinguished career in law enforcement.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Zoberman, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia and past President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and the Virginia Beach Clergy Association, made the following statement on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel:

The Jubilee anniversary of the State of Israel is not an ordinary occasion. Rather it is a poignant reminder of the durability of a dream; reflecting the daring of a people small in physical size but large in vision, not to depart from history's stage in spite of immense and harassing pressure to the contrary.

Throughout the two millennia of dispersion following the Roman devastation, the Jewish people skillfully integrated their longing for Zion into their spiritual quest and way of life, bonding themselves to the land where they came to be and which served as the dramatic setting for fashioning a transforming Biblical legacy that continues to inspire as well as challenge humanity.

Israel was driven not only by its particular agenda of uniqueness and survival, attempting to transcend both geographic and tribal boundaries in a fervent embrace of a universal message of shalom unshaken by its painfully experienced lack of it. Thus its undying hope for the welfare of the human family became a source of consolation and strength in its struggle to persevere in face of terrifying odds. Its welcomed return into the family of nations came only after the tragedy of the Holocaust deprived it of a third of its people, destroying European Jewry and threatening the very continuity of an ancient folk, ironically entering the period of modernity with enormous trust in the inevitable progress of the human species and its ability to overcome past limitations.

Colonial rule over Palestine first by the Turks for four hundred years and then, from

1917 to 1948 under the British Mandate, coupled with growing Arab antagonism and hostility toward the Jewish presence, made the fulfillment of the prophetic promise of return so much more trying. Winning independence following the support of the United Nations and the defeat of the invading Arab armies by the meager and ill-equipped Israeli forces, was the beginning to an arduous journey of absorbing millions of Jewish refugees from decimated Nazi-Europe and persecuting Arab lands. My own family of Polish survivors was among them, seeking the blessing of healing in rebuilding shattered lives while giving birth to a dynamic democratic society, still the only one in the Middle East, with the demanding agenda to be faithful to the noble principles of its great legacy of values and vast suffering.

How remarkable are the accomplishments of the reborn entity in light of a constricting environment of mighty obstacles, constantly exposed to moral danger! It has managed to create, out of necessity, one of the best militaries in the world in the context of a vibrantly flourishing Western culture, establishing renowned institutions of higher learning, rescuing and integrating immigrants from multiple and diverse backgrounds such as Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union, reaching out to help Asian and African countries, developing a significant hi-tech industry and offering new models of creative communal living, most notably the kibbutz.

Israel's stamina and determination to prevail and thrive, demonstrated also on the battlefield, time and again, finally convinced its largest Arab foe of the wisdom of concluding peace in 1979 and Jordan followed suit in 1994, in the wake of the 1993 rapprochement with the Palestinians. The Peace Process already proven beneficial to both sides, economically and diplomatically, has dangerously slowed down given the watershed assassination of Prime Minister Rabin who suffered the fate of martyred President Sadat, acts of wanton terrorism against Israelis, and the election into power of Prime Minister Netanyahu who represents a different ideological bent from that of his predecessor in office. However, the Peace Process is bound to eventually gather momentum and actively involve the essential partnerships of Syria and Lebanon in an irreversible historical movement to advance the families of the region exposed to the threat of Fundamentalism and the likes of Saddam Hussein, toward a future free from the stranglehold of bloodshed, ignorance, prejudice and poverty. The role of the United States, the sole left superpower, as broker, in the unfolding destiny of the Middle East, remains of critical importance. It has stood by Israel, its trusted and faithful friend and ally, in times of war and in search for peace, continuing to be a beacon of hope at the crossroads of historic change and uncertainty with both opportunity and risk. American Jewry being a pivotal position, has been entrusted to serve as a proud bridge, connecting a mighty nation and a small but enduring people, bound together by a common yearning to hallow the human experience and consecrate the divine gift of life.

HONORING THE HONORABLE FRED LIPPMAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a respected and admired

public servant from Florida: The Honorable Fred Lippman. Representative Lippman announced recently his retirement from the Florida House of Representatives.

Representative Fred Lippman, who represents most of Hollywood and parts of Hallandale Beach, has been a member of the Florida Legislature since 1978. After attending the Graduate School of Pharmacy at Columbia University in New York, Representative Lippman moved to South Florida and opened several pharmacies. It was at this time that he became active in community affairs. For two decades as a public servant Representative Lippman has fought for legislation to protect children, senior citizens, and to improve Florida's health care systems.

Representative Lippman was vital in the effort to pass the country's first laws to mandate the use of child-safety seats; the design of Healthy Kids health insurance program for children; and revising Florida's child abuse laws. The Lippman Family Center and the Lippman Shelter, both in Broward County, were named after Representative Lippman in honor of his work on behalf of Florida's troubled youth and families. Representative Lippman's efforts to provide care for Florida's needy children and adults have earned him numerous awards and honors from organizations such as the American Lung Association, American Jewish Congress, Florida's teachers, professional firefighters, children's advocates, Chambers of Commerce, public health providers, Jaycees, and many others.

I believe Representative Lippman leaves the state house with the knowledge that Florida is better for him having served. I thank him today for his work.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. VERLOTTE

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great citizen of Pennsylvania, James J. Verlotte. James Verlotte retired on June 30, 1997, after forty-three years of service to the Mohawk Area School District.

Jim Verlotte began his service as an educator in 1954. Over the next four decades, he made an impact on the lives of so many young people in Lawrence County. In addition to his career as an elementary school principal, Jim took the time to make a difference in other areas of the state and local community. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary Principals, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, and the Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators. At the local level, Jim Verlotte has served as the Assistant Director of the Lawrence County GED Test Center and is an active volunteer at St. Anthony's Church in Bessemer.

His commitment to his career in education is rivaled only by his commitment to the children of Pennsylvania. James Verlotte has earned the respect among his peers that can only be achieved after a lifetime of service to others. He has touched the lives of a great number of people, both young and old, throughout his years as an educator and fellow citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking James J. Verlotte for his years of

service. We wish you the best in your retirement. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO LEN SHERRY

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mr. Len Sherry of Danvers, Massachusetts who is retiring from the town's Housing Authority Board after more than 20 years of devoted service, having served 14 years as its Chairman.

During his tenure on the Housing Authority Board, Mr. Sherry was a leader in persuading the community at large of its obligation to provide much needed support for housing programs, and his efforts resulted in the addition of elderly and family units to Danvers' housing stock. Mr. Sherry was also instrumental in the expansion of rental assistance and community-residence programs.

Those who worked at and were served by the Danvers Housing Authority were not the only ones to benefit from Mr. Sherry's community spirit. He was also a Town-meeting member, school committeeman, Little League coach and Sunday school teacher. He used his skills as a communicator to promote partnerships within the community that served to better the lives of everyone. Very few, if any, people in Danvers have not been touched in some way by Len Sherry.

Indeed, Mr. Sherry has been an inspiration to his friends and family. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here to recognize the accomplishments of Len Sherry; his dedication to the Town of Danvers is to be commended. I hope my colleagues will join with me today in wishing Mr. Sherry the very best as he begins his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RYLAND EDWARDS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to say a few words in tribute to John Ryland Edwards, a superb soldier and educator, who is retiring after 22 years of service to Wentworth Military Academy.

Born in Lexington, MO, John Edwards graduated from the University of Missouri with a BS in Education. In 1955, he became a teacher and coach at Henrietta, MO, High School, but joined the United States Army one year later. From 1956 to 1976, Mr. Edwards served his country in the U.S. Army while stationed in Texas, Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Washington, DC, Vietnam, and Okinawa. During his tenure in the Army, he worked as an Adjutant General Corps Sports Director, an Assistant Army Service Officer, a Special Service Officer, an Administrative Officer, a Recreational Services Officer, an Adjutant General, the Director of Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Office, Army Project Officer for the Presidential Reception honoring Vietnam veterans, Director of U.S. Army Sports Program, Officer

in Charge of U.S. Armed Forces basketball team, and the Army Representative to the 1976 Olympics. John Edwards retired from active duty in 1976, with the Legion of Merit award, a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his active duty career, John Edwards moved back to his hometown of Lexington, MO, to serve at Wentworth Military Academy. During his 22-year tenure at Wentworth, John served as Operations Officer, Special Events Coordinator, Project Officer, Athletic Director and basketball coach, Alumni Director, Adult Education Director, and Interim Superintendent. John has provided superior leadership at Wentworth, and has worked with every department on campus. He served as the man behind the scenes who made every event work with precision.

In addition to his military career, John Edwards has participated in many community activities. He is a member of the Lexington, MO, Lions Club, Lafayette Regional Health Center Board of Trustees, Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce Board (serving as President for one term), Lafayette County Health Department Board, and Member of Turners. He has received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award and Lion of the Year Award, as well as the Lexington Outstanding Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to John Ryland Edwards, an outstanding Missourian. His career in the United States Army and at Wentworth Military Academy, combined with superb community service, make him a role model for young military and civic leaders.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HOFFMAN

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Walter Hoffman of Wayne, New Jersey, who is being honored by the Wayne Democratic Organization.

Walt was born in Newark, New Jersey on December 21, 1924. He was raised in Glen Ridge and East Orange, and was active in scouting activities, including Assistant Scout Master and Explorer Adviser. Walt was also co-captain of his high school's track team.

Walt is a Marine Corps veteran, having served his country during World War II in the Pacific Theatre of Operations from 1943 to 1946. Upon leaving the Marines, Walt attended the University of Michigan where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1948. Pursuing a career in law, he attended the University of Chicago Law School and earned his J.D. in 1950. He was also Associate Editor of the law school's Law Review.

Walt has an accomplished and distinguished career in both law and public service. He was a trial attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in 1951 and a staff attorney for the House Ways and Means Subcommittee Investigating Administration of Internal Revenue Laws from 1951–52. From 1955 to 1985, Walt

sought out the private practice of law and was a senior partner in his own firm for 26 of those years. During this time, however, he still remained active in public matters. Walt served as Chair of the Arms Control and Disarmament Committee and Vice-Chair of the International Courts Committee from 1974–78. He was founder and Executive Vice-President of the Campaign for United Nations Reform from 1975–91 and Executive Director and Executive Vice-President of the World Federalist Association from 1985–93. Walt was appointed by House Speaker Thomas Foley to the United States Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of the United Nations, serving from 1992–93, Chair of the International Organizations Interest Group from 1995–96, and President of the Center for U.N. Reform Education from 1993–96.

In addition to his vast experience in governmental affairs, Walt also has a strong teaching background. He has taught courses on Political Science, American Government, Political Theory, and Law at such institutions as William Paterson College and Ramapo College. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor of American and International Studies at both Ramapo College and William Paterson University. Walt is also serving as Legal Counsel to the World Federalist Association and Treasurer of the Center for U.N. Reform Education.

Walt has also been active politically, having served as Councilman for the Township of Wayne from 1964–71. He was also a Democratic candidate for Mayor in Wayne as well as the State Assembly, and served in numerous capacities for Presidential candidates Eugene McCarthy and Norman Cousins.

Walt is married to the former Lois Johnson, and together they will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary this June. They have three adult children: Anne Ferruggio, who is Minister of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Allentown, PA; Laura Calixte, who is the Chief Window Clerk at the Pequannock Post Office; and Charles Hoffman, who is a mortgage banker with Northwest Mortgage Company. Walt and Lois also have three grandchildren: Sylvianne Calixte, who is a student at William Paterson and Raymond and Gregory Hoffman, who are in the 4th and 1st grades respectively, in Havertown, PA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Walt's family and friends, and the Township of Wayne in recognizing Walter Hoffman's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to our society as he is being honored this evening by the Wayne Democratic Organization.

HONORING THE HONORABLE JACK TOBIN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a respected and admired public servant from Florida: The Honorable Jack Tobin. Representative Tobin recently announced his retirement from the Florida House of Representatives.

Representative Tobin, who represents parts of Broward County, has served in the state legislature since 1983. During his sixteen