

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