

REMEMBERING LARRY SHARPE: HCC 2/23/11

FRED M. RASKIND, RABBI

We know how Larry loved and served America. But among many remembrances, I want to share with you briefly about Larry's sense of Jewishness. He was fiercely proud of his Jewish heritage and supported the synagogue, the Naval Academy's new Jewish Chapel, and especially Israel.

He believed in Israel as the ancestral homeland for Jews, the origin of our faith and people. He saw Israel as more than a haven for Jewish refugees. To Larry, Israel was the rightful inheritance of a people validated by having its own state and nation—no different than the 18-20 countries whose official religion is Christian, or the 40+ official Islamic states.

More than once—perhaps 3 or 4 times-- Larry told me: 'Rabbi, you have no idea what it was like to be a Jew before the State of Israel. In the State department, the military, and elsewhere, the whole attitude toward accepting and respecting Jews *changed* after 1948 when Israel was re-established, and 1967, the 6-Day War.'

Larry Sharpe historian, diplomat, warrior and Jew, knew what he was talking about.

Zecher tzadik livracha—may the remembrance of the righteous person be for us all, always, a blessing.