



A Proclamation by the President of the United States

Today a senseless act of violence has robbed the United States of a close friend and robbed the world of a statesman and courageous champion of peace.

Yitzhak Rabin was a brave man who defended his country for half a century and whose vision and tenacity brought the world closer to peace.

He was a man of hope, a man of wisdom, a man who sought to improve the lives of all those he touched.

The peace process that he began will be his legacy. The people of the United States and the peace-loving people of the world are determined that the peace process will go forward.

As a mark of respect for the memory of Yitzhak Rabin and America's support for peace in the Middle East, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until his internment. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States Embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

Eulogy for Itzhak Rabin by Consul General Arye Mekel

The biography of Yitzhak Rabin is the history of the State of Israel. He was involved in every major step the Jewish state took from its inception, and long before that.

Rabin was born in Jerusalem in 1922 and he was to become the first Israeli Prime Minister to actually be born in Israel.

As a teenager he was inducted into the Hagana by Moshe Dayan and as early as 1941 he participated in an operation in Syria. His unique style of leadership was immediately recognized and he was rapidly promoted in the ranks. His talents were not hidden from the eyes of the British rulers in Palestine and in 1946 Rabin was arrested along with hundreds of other Jewish leaders.

During the 1948 War of Independence Rabin fought in Jerusalem, Lod, Ramle and the Negev. After the war he continued his meteoric rise in the ranks of the Israel Defense Forces. On January 1, 1964 at the age of 42, General Rabin became the IDF's seventh Chief of Staff. In this capacity, he led Israel to its glorious victory in the Six Day War in 1967 and will forever be remembered in Jewish history as the General who liberated and reunited the holy city of Jerusalem.

In 1968 he retired from the army and was named Ambassador to the United States, where he served for five years. Upon his return to Israel he became active in the Labor Party and was elected to the Knesset. Rabin served as Minister of Labor in Golda Meir's cabinet and after her resignation in June 1974, Rabin, then 52 years old, became the Prime Minister of the State of Israel.

Rabin served as Prime Minister for three years and under his leadership the government issued the order for Operation Entebbe in 1976 liberating the hi-

jackd passengers. Between 1984 and 1990, Rabin served as Minister of Defense and in 1992 he won the elections and became once more the Prime Minister of Israel as well as the Minister of Defense.

His premiership was marked by unprecedented landmarks in the peace process in the Middle East. On September 13, 1993 he signed the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles on the White House lawn in Washington D.C. and shook hands with the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A year later he signed a treaty of peace between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Just several weeks ago Rabin signed the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank. Rabin was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in December, 1994 along with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Yitzhak Rabin was taken away from us so abruptly 48 hours ago. He left a void that cannot be filled. However, he also left a legacy in the form of the struggle for peace.

On behalf of the State of Israel, its government, and acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres, I promise you here tonight that the State of Israel will continue to do everything in its' power to achieve peace with all our neighbors just as the slain Yitzhak Rabin did.

Tonight we are saying good-bye to a great leader who is now entering into the annals of Jewish history. Next to giants such as David Ben Gurion the father and founder of Israel, Golda Meir the mother of Israel, Menachem Begin who brought about the first peace agreement between Israel and an Arab neighbor, and now they are joined in Heaven by their equal, Yitzhak Rabin. A soldier during wartime and a warrior for peace, his contributions to the Jewish people,

the Jewish state, the Middle East, and indeed the entire world, will never be forgotten.

On behalf of the State of Israel, I am gratified to see so many of you here tonight. I know that you are here not only to say good-bye to Prime Minister Rabin but also to encourage Israel and its neighbors to continue the struggle for peace.

Many of us were supposed to meet him next week in a major Jewish gathering in Boston, Massachusetts. Rabin will not be there but we still will continue his efforts for the Jewish land and the Jewish people.

Shalom, Mr. Prime Minister. Farewell, General Yitzhak Rabin. A soldier and a statesman, we all salute you.

Telegram received by Rich Osborne, president of the JFGC:

Wish to convey to the Jewish community our deepest sorrow in tragic loss of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a great spokesman for humanity and peace.

W. Robert Spinks-Director of Ecumenical Institute-Wake Forest University

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