

CONGREGATION KOL TIKVAH DEDICATION

GOOD AFTERNOON

AS MAYOR, I OFFICIALLY WELCOME CNGREGATION KOL TIKVAH TO PARKLAND.

ALONG WITH MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AND OUR SOON TO BE NEIGHBOR, CROSS RIDGE CHURCH, THIS TEMPLE GREATLY ADDS TO THE SPIRITUALITY OF OUR CITY.

IT IS A PARTICULARLY JOYOUS OCCASION FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN DEDICATING THIS WONDERFUL BUILDING THAT WAS ONLY A DREAM OF THE SIX FOUNDING FAMILIES TWELVE YEARS AGO. WITH THE WAR IN IRAQ, IT IS ALSO IRONIC THAT AS MAYOR OF PARKLAND, I AM TODAY PRESENTING THE CONGREGATION WITH A VERY TIMELY PIECE OF HISTORY.

AS YOU MAY REMMBER, SHORTLY AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 THE TERRORIST ATTACK DESTROYED THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, I WROTE TO NEW YORK MAYOR GUILIANI OF THE NEED FOR A SYMBOLIC DEMONSTRATION OF NATIONAL UNITY DURING THE TIME OF HIS CITY'S CRISIS.

I REQUESTED RECEIPT OF PIECES OF THE DESTROYED TOWERS TO BE USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEWLY PLANNED MUNICIPAL AND RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF PARKLAND. I STATED IN MY LETTER THAT "AS THE WALLS OF OUR NEW BUILDINGS RISE, SO SYMBOLICALLY SHALL THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ALSO RISE". ADDITIONALLY, I HOPED MY IDEA COULD BE DUPLICATED IN NEW CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE NATION TO ALLOW ALL AMERICA TO SPIRITUALLY SHARE IN THE REBIRTH AND REBUILDING OF HE WORLD TRADE CENTER.

AFTER MANY MONTHS PASSED, DURING WHICH TIME I CONTACTED A U.S. SENATOR AND A CONGRESSMEN FOR HELP, I RECEIVED A CALL TO ARRANGE WITH GROUND ZERO TO COURIER PIECES OF THE TOWER TO PARKLAND, AND ONE OF THE PIECES STANDS BEFORE YOU NOW.

AT THAT TIME, I OFFERED A PIECE OF THE TOWERS TO EACH OF THE THREE RELIGIOUS HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN PARKLAND TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR NEW FACILITIES. HERE AT KOL TIKVAH, THIS WILL BECOME A REALITY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE TWO OF OUR BUILDING.

WE ALL MOURN THE THE LOSS OF LIFE EXACTED ON SEPTEMBER 11TH AND NOW IN IRAQ. AMERICA'S STRENGTH, HOWEVER, IS DERIVED FROM THE UNITY OF OUR NATION AND THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF AMERICANS TO RECOVER AND OVERCOME ALL ADVERSITY.

SO NOW WITH OPTIMISM AND REVERENCE, I DEDICATE A PIECE OF THE TOWERS AS AN HONORED REMINDER OF THE PRICE OF FREEDOM AND AS A POSITIVE SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN WILL TO OVERCOME SETBACKS AND PREVAIL IN ORDER TO CONTINUE ENJOYING THE PRECIOUS GIFT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN; TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND PARTAKE IN THE OPPORTUNITIES OF DEMOCRACY.

AND I SAY GOD BLESS OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW TEMPLE HOME AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.