



City of Cambridge

R-12.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 24, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of James "Jim" S. Vorenberg on April 12, 2000; and

WHEREAS: James Vorenberg was a highly respected and much loved lawyer, legal scholar, teacher and thinker; he was a former dean of Harvard Law School, a longtime law professor who was an expert in criminal and corporate law, and an associate Watergate prosecutor who helped organize the legal team who tried the Watergate case against the Nixon Administration; and

WHEREAS: James was born in Boston in 1927; he attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard College, Class of 1948 and then Harvard Law School, Class of 1951; and

WHEREAS: After law school, James spent two years in the legal section of the US Air Force; and

WHEREAS: Beginning in 1953, James was a law clerk to US Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter; he then joined the Boston law firm of Ropes and Gray and became a partner in 1960; and

WHEREAS: James was a part-time instructor at Boston University while he practiced law; in 1962 he became a full-time professor at Harvard Law School; and

WHEREAS: Two years later, US Attorney General Robert Kennedy named him the first director of the Office of Criminal Justice in the Law Department; he continued to work in Washington through the Johnson Administration and during the Watergate years; and

WHEREAS: James Vorenberg was named dean of the Harvard Law School in 1981, and remained in that position until 1989, when he resigned as dean but continued to teach until his death; and

WHEREAS: James's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Elizabeth Vorenberg, of Cambridge, his three daughters Jill Alberts, Amy Vorenberg and Eliza Vorenberg, his two stepchildren Amy Troubh and John Troubh; and his ten grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: James will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of James S. Vorenberg at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Vorenberg family on behalf of the entire City Council.

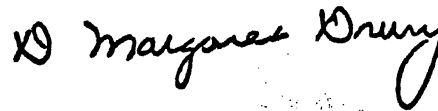
In City Council April 24, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

KB

R-12

a former dean of
Harvard Law School and
an associate

①

w/A

This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of James S. Vorenberg, on April 12, 2000; and

w/A

^{Vorenberg}
James was a ~~former~~ highly respected and much loved lawyer, legal scholar, and creative teacher; ~~he was a fun~~ and thinker; he was a former dean of Harvard Law School, a longtime law professor who was an expert in criminal and corporate law, and an associate Watergate prosecutor who helped organize the legal team who tried the Watergate case against the Nixon Administration, ^{and} ~~under Special Archibald Cox, and~~

w/FF

w/A

James ~~Wren~~ was born in Boston in 1927. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard College, Class of 1948 and then Harvard Law School, Class of 1951; and

w/A

After law school, James spent two years in the legal sector of the US Air Force; and

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Beginning in 1953, James clerked for a law clerk to US Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter; he then joined the Boston law firm of Ropes and Gray and became a partner in 1960; and

w/A

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(3)

he practiced law; in 1962 he became a full-time professor at Harvard Law School; and

W/A Two years later, US Attorney General Robert Kennedy named him the first director of the Office of Criminal Justice in the Law Department; he continued to work in Washington through the Johnson administration and during the Watergate years; and

W/A James Vorenberg ~~became~~ was named dean of the Harvard Law School in 1981, and remained in that position until 1989, when he resigned ~~and~~ as dean but continued to teach until his death;

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_____ on _____
and _____

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of all of his ~~her~~ surviving friends and

family, his wife Elizabeth Vorenberg of Cambridge,
his three daughters Jell Albert, Amy Vorenberg and
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the entire City Council.

Obituaries

James S. Vorenberg, practiced, taught law at highest level, at 73

By Raphael Lewis and Joanna Weiss
GLOBE STAFF

James S. Vorenberg of Cambridge, a former Harvard Law School dean, a longtime law professor who was an expert in criminal and corporate law, and an associate Watergate prosecutor who helped organize the legal team that took on the Nixon Administration, died yesterday two days after suffering a heart attack. He was 73.

Whether he was advocating legalized prostitution, as he did in a 1976 article, or creating a holistic vision of the justice system, as he did while directing President Lyndon Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, Professor Vorenberg's weaving of the theoretical and practical usually managed to astonish his peers.

"He was good at everything he did," said Archibald Cox, the former Watergate special prosecutor. "He was a combination of a thinker with a strong grasp of reality and an ability to deal with it."

It was his work under Cox, in the summer of 1973, for which Professor Vorenberg is perhaps best remembered. And it was the work he remembered most fondly, said his wife, Elizabeth.

Under Cox, who had known him as president of the Harvard Law Review, Professor Vorenberg was responsible for pulling together lawyers from across the country to try the Watergate case. While not the most glamorous task, Cox said, it was one of the most important.

"It was the nuts and bolts, but it takes imagination, responsibility and judgment to put an organization like that together," Cox said.

Prior to his affiliation with Cox and Watergate, Professor Vorenberg headed the Commission on Law Enforcement, which produced a 10-volume, 2 million-word report in 1967 that still serves as a model of research.

Nicholas Katzenbach, the former US attorney general for whom Professor Vorenberg worked as a special assistant, said yesterday that the report stands out as a notable achievement.

"I think that was a truly extraordinary piece of work," Katzenbach said. "If you read that report today, it would hold up, and that's remarkable; 35, 36 years after the fact. There's very little he or I would have changed today."

James Vorenberg was born in Boston in 1927. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard College, Class of 1948, then Harvard Law School, Class of 1951. After law school, he spent two years in the legal section of the US Air Force during which time he was one of a team of attorneys that successfully negotiated for Air Force bases in Spain.

For two years beginning in 1953, Professor Vorenberg was a law clerk to US Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. He then joined the Boston law firm of Ropes & Gray, becoming a partner in 1960. While practicing law, he was a part-time instructor at Boston University Law School. In 1962, he took a full-time professorship at the Harvard Law School.



1989 PHOTO
JAMES S. VORENBERG

Just two years later, US Attorney General Robert Kennedy named him the first director of the Office of Criminal Justice in the Justice Department.

His work in Washington through the Johnson Administration and during the Watergate years as well as a stint as chairman of the Ethics Commission in Massachusetts stood him in good stead when he was named dean of the Harvard Law School in 1981.

During his stewardship of the school, Professor Vorenberg had to deal with a verbal crossfire that featured adherents and opponents of the controversial Critical Legal Studies movement, which held that the traditional approach to law preserved the status quo at the expense of social justice. These ideological differences erupted into bitter political battles over tenure votes at the law school in the mid-1980s.

"He loved it all," his wife said of his deanship. "He is a great politician and he really liked threading his way through the factions. He loved being dean."

At the time of Professor Vorenberg's resignation as dean in 1989, Harvard president Derek Bok was moved to say that "under Jim Vorenberg's leadership, the law school has not only maintained the traditional excellence of its academic program but has broadened its curriculum to meet the challenges of contemporary society and the needs of today's legal profession."

The dean returned to the classroom and continued to teach until his death. For the last 14 years of his life, he lived with Parkinson's disease, which had been diagnosed in 1986.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth Vorenberg, of Cambridge; three daughters, Jill Alberts of New York, Amy Vorenberg of Concord, N.H., and Eliza Vorenberg of Los Angeles; two stepchildren, Amy Trough of Newton and John Trough of New York; and 10 grandchildren.

A service will be held at Harvard's Memorial Church on May 10.

Edgar Driscoll, formerly of the Globe staff, contributed to this obituary.

DATE:

4/12/00

TIME:

9:15

COUNCILLOR:

Born

BIRTHDAY:

BIRTH:

DEATH:

✓

MARRIAGE:

ANNIVERSARY:

BACKGROUND IN

NEWSPAPER

NAME:

James Vorenberg

Message taken by:

Gail

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386R

Resolution #12

Resolution on the death of
James S. Vorenberg.
**Councillor Born and entire
membership**

In City Council April 24, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED