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JP resident Larry Rasky honored for role in Zakim bridge naming

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 6, 2012 11:00 AM

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(Globe Staff Photo / David L. Ryan)

The Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial cable-stayed bridge opened above the Charles River in 2003.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A Jamaica Plain resident was recently recognized for his role in advocating that a bridge built as part of the Big Dig project along the city's northern edge be named, in part, after civil rights activist and former director of the Anti-Defamation League's New England office Leonard P. Zakim.

Larry Rasky, who chairs a Boston communications firm that represents major clients including the Boston Red Sox, was honored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of New England.

A long-time ADL board member, Rasky received the Abraham Joshua Heschel Interfaith Relations award before nearly 350 people at a dinner last month "that recounted Larry's pivotal behind-the-scenes role in naming the [\[The Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge\]](#)," according to an ADL press release.

The bridge is also named after the 1,500 revolutionaries who fought the British on nearby Bunker Hill.



(Globe Staff Photo / Tom Herde)
Leonard Zakim in 1996.

"Larry Rasky was a tireless advocate for naming the bridge after Lenny Zakim, who as ADL New England Director worked for two decades to build bridges of

understanding among Boston's various ethnic and religious groups," Derrek

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Shulman regional director of the organization that fights anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry said in a statement.

The award Rasky received is presented to an individual who "has demonstrated a commitment to social justice by improving and strengthening relations among different racial, religious and ethnic groups," organization officials said.

Two of Leonard Zakim's children, Josh and Shari Zakim, along with their mother Joyce attended the event last month at the Westin Copley Place Boston Hotel.

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(Courtesy: ADL)

Clockwise from left: Rasky, Josh Zakim, Shari Zakim and Joyce Zakim.

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