

Chief Justice Roberts at the Robert H. Jackson Center (2013)

*John Q. Barrett**

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On Friday, May 17, 2013, the Chief Justice of the United States, John G. Roberts, Jr., spoke at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, New York.

The Jackson Center of course honors and teaches the life and legacies of Justice Robert H. Jackson, a 20th century giant whose imprint on this century is significant and continues to grow. Among many accomplishments, Justice Jackson served on the Supreme Court of the United States for thirteen years. Following World War II, he was, at Nuremberg, the U.S. chief prosecutor of the principal Nazi war criminals.

Robert Jackson's adult hometown was Jamestown, New York. In late 2000, visionary, generous Jamestown leaders committed themselves to founding the Robert H. Jackson Center. They acquired a building, which needed substantial work. The Jackson Center soon began to host significant events, and to be renovated.

In May 2003, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist formally dedicated the Robert H. Jackson Center.¹ Fifty years earlier, William Rehnquist worked for Justice Jackson at the Supreme Court as one of his law clerks.

About twenty years before Chief Justice Rehnquist dedicated the Jackson Center, he employed John Roberts—a western New York State native—as one of his Supreme Court law clerks. When the Jackson Center welcomed Chief Justice Roberts in May 2013, it thus hosted not only the

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For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which have document images attached, visit www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju.

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¹ For video of Chief Justice Rehnquist's May 16, 2003, Jackson Center dedication speech, see <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/177576-1>. The text of this speech is at http://www.supremecourt.gov/publicinfo/speeches/viewspeeches.aspx?Filename=sp_05-16-03.html.

leader of the high Court on which Justice Jackson served with great, enduring distinction, but also a person whose path and experiences connected, through his late boss Justice Rehnquist, to Jackson himself.²

On the sunny morning of May 17, 2013, Chief Justice Roberts spoke from the Jackson Center's front porch to a large crowd, including many students from area schools.

My introduction of the Chief Justice is on YouTube.³

Video of Chief Justice Roberts's speech also is available online.⁴

² Chief Justice Roberts has long been a Justice Jackson student and admirer—my July 2005 Jackson List post “John Roberts and Justice Jackson,” which reports this, is at www.stjohns.edu/media/3/223a26f638c74ff494a3bad229116779.pdf.

³ See part 1, www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiBMXJHLRe8, and part 2, www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0Dg1NP0pkk. My text is at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2268637.

⁴ See www.wgrz.com/news/article/214847/37/Supreme-Court-Chief-Justice-Roberts-in-WNY-Today. For excerpts, see www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIWJGrYZ6E.