

During Robert H. Jackson's lifetime he was involved in many events that protected the civil and human rights of others. If it wasn't for him, then many people would not have their civil and human rights protected, including the many Jews that were harmed in heinous ways during World War 2.

One example of how Jackson contributed to protecting other's rights was when he joined the Supreme Court on October 6, 1941. There were many cases that he was included in, but there is one particular case that really caught my attention. This specific trial was the Barnett sisters' case. These two young Jehovah's Witnesses were expelled from school for refusing to say the Pledge of Allegiance. They had a valid reason, though; their religion said that they should not worship anything but God. The Barnetts' case went to many district courts, but they still said that these girls were not following the law. Finally, they sent in a request to the Supreme Court and they agreed to hear the case. On March 11, 1943, Robert Jackson and the other justices heard the case of *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnett*. The Supreme Court announced their decision several weeks later, on June 14, 1943. The majority of the court agreed with the Barnett sisters. They ruled that states could not require school children to recite the pledge. This case was one of the many cases that Jackson helped to settle.

Another example of how Jackson helped to protect people's civil and human rights is when he accepted the offer to be one of the American prosecutors at the Nuremberg trial. On November 2, 1945, Robert Jackson took his chair at the American

prosecutors' table at the Nuremberg Trial. The day before, prosecutors from each of the four Allied countries read the charges against the defendants. Robert Jackson read his opening speech that he worked on for weeks. The Allied countries presented evidence of the crime such as movie clips of the Nazis in action, pictures of people who were executed and Nazi "Souvenirs". The Nazi "Souvenirs" consisted of lampshades made of human skin, shrunken human heads, human organs, and many more sickening, horrid items. This evidence helped the Allied countries to win the case. After many days of the trial, the Allied countries' prosecutors made up their minds on how to punish the Nazis for their unbelievable acts. The prosecutors made their decision; twelve men were sentenced to death by hanging, three of the Nazis received life in prison, four received shorter prison terms ranging from ten to twenty years. Most of the defendants showed little emotion of their fate. This case was one of the many cases that Jackson helped to settle.

As you may have gathered, Robert H. Jackson was involved in many events that protected the civil and human rights of others during his lifetime. Jackson has obviously contributed to the world by using his intelligence and empathy to solve many important cases.