



ArchivesSpace

Zaretski, Joseph; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Joseph Zaretski Papers
ID:	apap283
Date [inclusive]:	1966-1970
Physical Description:	60.8 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	These materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [Collection]:	X
Abstract:	Joseph Zaretski was born in New York City on March 9, 1900. Zaretski served in the U.S. Army during World War I and was a lawyer. Zaretski was a member of the New York State Senate from 1948 through 1974 (23rd District 1948-1965, 32nd District 1966, 28th District 1967-1974) and was Senate Majority Leader in the 1960s. He was a member of the NAACP, American Legion, Freemasons, and Elks. Zaretski died on December 20, 1981, with an extensive obituary for him on December 21, 1981, in the New York Times.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Joseph Zaretski, 1966-1970. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Zaretski Papers).

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Biographical Sketch

Joseph Zaretski was born on March 9, 1900 in Warsaw, Poland. After immigrating to the United States during his childhood, Zaretski served in the United States Army during World War I and graduated from Columbia College. Zaretski went out to Columbia Law School and eventually practiced law in the upper

Manhattan area. During the Great Depression, Zaretski worked close with politicians in Tammany Hall and became a local district leader.

In November 1947, Zaretski was elected to the New York State Senate. Zaretski represented Washington Heights, Manhattan from 1948-1974. Zaretski also served as the Democratic Minority Leader from 1957-1964, and then again from 1966-1974. Zaretski was the first Democrat to be a Majority leader when the Democratic party gained control of the Senate in 1965. During his time in the Senate, he became a proponent of legalized off-track betting.

Zaretski lost his seat in the New York State Senate in 1974, when Franz S. Leichter defeated him in the Democratic primary election. Zaretski returned to practice law in the private sector until his death on December 20, 1981 in the Bronx. He was survived by his wife Helen, his two brothers, and a grandson.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of materials from Joseph Zaretski's service in the new York State Senate, including correspondence, bills, subject files, reports, and press releases.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is unprocessed and is likely disorganized. Individual items may be difficult to find.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Collection level created by Sheri Sarnoff. 2020

Processing Information

This collection is unprocessed.

Acquisition Information

Joseph Zaretski donated his papers to Syracuse University in 1967. Additional materials were donated in 1970. In 2006, the materials were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives.

Access

Access to this collection is restricted because it is unprocessed. Portions of the collection may contain recent administrative records and/or personally identifiable information. While it is likely that portions of the collection may be viewed, access must be managed by an archivist.

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Politics and Politicians
- Zaretski, Joseph, 1900-1981
- New York State-- Senate