

Mere words cannot convey the deep personal loss and void that כלל ישראל felt when the נפטר was ראש הישיבה זצוק"ל.

Everyone felt how this giant of a man in spiritual and physical stature was a father to us all and the loss is irreplaceable.

He loved us. He cared for us. He did whatever he could for us. His soft spoken tone with the strongest of convictions was the embodiment of his name ישראל. He loved כלל ישראל and כלל ישראל loved him.

He loved Hashem. He loved Yidden. He loved growing. He loved seeing others grow as a father proudly looks at the growth of his child.

I remember him coming to Miami Beach and how the conversations he had with בני תורה was always a מעין עולם הבא. No question was too trivial and he always made time to answer even if he really did not have the time. His patience was astounding given the fact that השם blessed him with such a mind that was also cultivated with years of tremendous עמלות בתורה. His high level Shiurim that seemed so simple yet it reflected a depth that was quite breathtaking upon greater examination. The stories of גדלות בתורה and יראת שמים with the גדולים whom he personally knew was a powerful tool to help people grow. We knew we were in the presence of גדלות.

Nothing is by chance- this past week's Parsha in פרק יח פסוק כא we find the qualifications for a דיין דיין - דיין פסוק כא - דיין which represents שבט כב when the ראש הישיבה זצוק"ל was buried, it says that the דיין must be an אנשי חיל. The ראש הישיבה זצוק"ל was a חיל who was willing to go to battle even at great personal sacrifice. We all knew and felt that. His name ישראל הלוי was מרומז in that פסוק. We lost our great protector - a true איש חיל.

I feel like I lost a father.

Someone who would look out for me.
Someone who would be proud of me,
Someone who would fight for me.

He will always serve as an inspiration to me of how to always grow despite any personal setbacks. He will always be a beacon of light of how an אדם גדול should be.

יהא זכרו ברוך - תהא נפשו צרורה בצרור החיים

יהושע סבא

מיאמי ביטש - ארצה"ב