

Remembering Rabbi Hy Arbesfeld z"l

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A TRIBUTE TO RABBI HY ARBESFELD Z"L

To me and to everyone who knew him, Hy Arbesfeld lived for and personified YU, and particularly RIETS. While everyone knows how Hy, after receiving a scholarship to attend Yeshiva University High School for Boys, dedicated his life to paying back that scholarship and then some — I think for every scholarship dollar he received he paid thousands of dollars back to Yeshiva — it was not just the money he so generously donated over the years, but all his years of service on the RIETS Board where he worked tirelessly on behalf of Yeshiva.

I owe a personal debt of gratitude to Hy for getting me involved in RIETS and Yeshiva. While Hy himself was never chairman of RIETS, Hy was the chairman of the RIETS Nominating Committee. It was in that role where,

years ago, he convinced me to seek the chairmanship of RIETS. He constantly gave so much of his time and his sage advice to help the entire RIETS Board in serving Yeshiva.

For Hy, everything, and I mean everything, was about what's best for Yeshiva — what's best for the institution, its Roshei Yeshiva and faculty, its students — and how it could get even better in as many ways possible. He was always focused on the importance of preparing students to assume leadership roles in the Jewish community and of spreading Torah far and wide. He accomplished this in many ways. For example, over 13 years ago Hy and his wife dedicated the popular Sunday morning Kollel Yom Rishon and Midreshet Yom Rishon programs in memory of Hy's parents. These two weekly adult

education programs, where shiurim are given by Yeshiva's Roshei Yeshiva and other scholars, attract hundreds of students to Yeshiva's uptown campus, while thousands more download these shiurim.

Hy was also very intent on making sure that Yeshiva was available to anyone who had a desire to attend, regardless of financial circumstances. For that reason, he established scholarship programs for students to attend Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women as well as Yeshiva's high schools.

Putting aside for a moment Hy's generosity to Yeshiva, which knew no bounds, I will so miss his friendship, his smile, his genuine good-naturedness, and his unparalleled passion for Yeshiva. Yehi Zichro Baruch.