

IN APPRECIATION OF HERBERT TENZER

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Herbert Tenzer—who was active throughout his life in communal, philanthropic, political, and legal activities—described his involvement in the following way: “My father, of blessed memory, taught me as a child that ‘I must count every day.’ After my Bar Mitzvah, he added: ‘It is not only important that you count every day—but you must make every day count.’”

A man of humble beginnings, Herbert Tenzer was born on November 1, 1905, on New York’s Lower East Side. The sixth of seven children, he was educated in the city’s public schools, graduating Stuyvesant High School in 1923. He received his LL.B. degree from New York University School of Law in 1927. Almost immediately, Herbert Tenzer began his lifelong interest in communal life, being elected President of the Yeshiva of Crown Heights in 1932. In 1937 he founded Tenzer, Greenblatt, Fallon & Kaplan, which is one of the city’s leading law firms. He also served in the United States Congress from 1964 to 1968.

It was through his leadership of Yeshiva of Crown Heights in the 1930s that Herbert Tenzer became involved with Yeshiva University. He served the University by volunteering legal counsel at the request of Dr. Samuel Belken. He was a founder of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He was a member of the Board of Trustees (and later Chairman) when the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law was founded, and he was instrumental in the creation of the school. He endowed the Florence and Herbert Tenzer Chair in Jewish Law and Ethics at Cardozo, which is currently held by Professor J. David Bleich. On two occasions, Herbert Tenzer was awarded honorary degrees by Yeshiva, a L.H.D. in 1972 and a LL.D. in 1984.

In the late 1970s, when the University was in severe financial trouble, it was Herbert Tenzer who played an instrumental role in securing the financing for Yeshiva that led to its financial renaissance.

Through his life, Herbert Tenzer gave generously and freely, to all persons, without regard to race, religion or creed. Those of us who knew him knew a wonderful, special man of dedication and

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devotion. In his practice of the law he served as a model for our students and alumni. Today, throughout Tenzer, Greenblatt, Fallon & Kaplan, Cardozo graduates are serving clients in the way that Herbert Tenzer wanted them to, with care and a real dedication to their needs. We shall miss Herbert Tenzer, and are only comforted by the knowledge that he shared so much of himself with us.