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EIN: 13-1635278

The Rabbinical Council of America expresses its profound shock and sorrow at the sudden passing of our beloved member, Rabbi Moshe Hauer, *zt"l*, Executive Vice President of the Orthodox Union.

Rabbi Hauer, *zt"l*, was a *rabbi to rabbis* — guiding and inspiring countless colleagues during his decades as a congregational rabbi and later through his leadership at the Orthodox Union. He combined wisdom with sensitivity, conviction with gentleness. His warmth, humility, and authenticity touched all who knew him. As our Sages said of his namesake: *Moshe emet, v'torato emet* — "Moshe is true, and his Torah is true."

Rabbi Hauer, *zt"l*, served as a bridge across the Jewish world, strengthening unity within Orthodoxy and building meaningful relationships with national and international Jewish organizations. The leadership of the RCA worked closely with him and cherished his friendship and partnership. His loss leaves a gaping void in our hearts and in our collective work.

In the spirit of our early sages, Rabbi Hauer, composed a lament for those murdered on October 7 and for the hundreds of IDF soldiers who gave their lives defending the Land of Israel. Drawing inspiration from the lament written after the destruction of Jewish communities in 1096, he began with the words of Yirmiyahu: "*Would that my head were water, and my eyes a fountain of tears...*" Many communities recited it on Tisha B'Av. Rabbi Hauer was at the forefront of advocacy for and encouragement of the Jewish People always, but especially so since the outbreak of Milchemet Simchat Torah two years ago. Who will write a lament to grieve the loss of this great Jewish leader?

The annual celebration of *Simchat Torah* marks the completion of the Five Books of the Torah, — ending with the death of Moshe Rabbeinu, who gazed upon the Land of Israel and entrusted his life's mission to his students. We pray that Rabbi Hauer's family, and all who were privileged to learn from him, will carry forward his sacred work.

As Rabbi Moshe Hauer, *zt"l*, is brought to Israel for burial, may the Almighty comfort his family, the many rabbis whose paths he shaped, all who are part of the Orthodox Union, and the countless souls he inspired throughout the Jewish world. May we all be worthy to carry on the sacred work of Harav Moshe Yisrael ben Harav Binyomin Hauer, *zt"l*.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Etan Tokayer  
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Menachem Penner  
Executive Vice-President

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