



Dear Rabbi/Community Leader,

Last Yom Kippur, **127 Jewish communities across the United States joined Yakir's "Unity Yizkor" initiative** to honor Israelis who had fallen since October 7. Congregants "adopted" individual fallen heroes, remembered them in a special Yizkor prayer, and, after the fast, sent messages of comfort to their bereaved families in Israel. **For families grieving the loss of a loved one, knowing that Jews thousands of miles away remembered their son, daughter, spouse, or parent had a profound impact.**

Tragically, over the past year, more courageous IDF soldiers have fallen in defense of the Jewish homeland. At the same time, Israel's defenders have too often been disparaged or even vilified around the world. **Now more than ever, we believe it is essential for communities throughout the Jewish world to salute the more than 1,100 Israeli heroes who have fallen since October 7 and embrace their bereaved loved ones. They gave their lives so that Israel and Am Yisrael might live!**

This year, we invite your community to join this effort through one of two meaningful initiatives honoring our *giborim*:

"Yizkor for our Heroes" on Yom Kippur
and
"Shabbat Giborim" on Shabbat Bereshit (October 10).

Both programs are free of charge, easy to implement, and all materials will be shipped to you in advance.

Option 1: "Yizkor for our Heroes" — Yom Kippur

Designed as a brief and powerful complement to your pre-Yizkor sermon.

The Cards: We have produced sets of 110 unique Yizkor cards, each featuring the photos and brief bios of 10 different fallen heroes. We will send enough copies for your congregation.

The Prayer: Each worshipper is invited to "adopt" the 10 heroes on their card for a special Yizkor prayer. Together, your congregation remembers all 1,100 fallen heroes. All congregants are invited to participate, including those who do not ordinarily recite Yizkor.

The Moment: When the cantor pauses, worshippers simultaneously read aloud the names of their 10 heroes. This powerful "symphony of names" gives voice to the memory of all who have fallen.

Option 2: "Shabbat Giborim" — Shabbat Bereshit (October 10)

Limmud Torah to honor the fallen; includes a special tefilla for the injured soldiers.

The Booklet: We provide 110 unique booklets, each featuring photos and brief bios of 10 different fallen heroes, prayers for wounded warriors, and engaging words of Torah.



The Dedication: Before delivering the sermon, the Rabbi invites each congregant to dedicate the Torah learned together in memory of the 10 heroes in their booklet.

The Moment: A prayer dedicating the learning to the *giborim* is recited. At a designated moment, worshippers simultaneously read aloud the names of their 10 heroes.

Following last year's program, we sent certificates to bereaved families listing the 127 communities where their loved ones had been remembered. The responses were deeply emotional.

One father excitedly posted on his late son's Facebook page that his son would never believe how many people across the United States now knew his name. One mother sent us a photo of her certificate, framed and hanging proudly in her living room.

Many bereaved Israeli families fear that the Jewish world is beginning to move on and that their loved ones will be forgotten. **Knowing that Am Yisrael remembers is a vital source of strength and solace.**

Please choose the program that best fits your community:

Register [HERE](#) for “Yizkor for our Heroes” by September 8.

Register [HERE](#) for “Shabbat Giborim” by September 16.

If you have any questions, please contact us at giborim@yakir.org.

Ktiva va'chatima tova!

With prayers for a New Year filled with sweetness, blessing, and peace,

Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier, *Yakir*

Yehuda Lanzkrom, *Mantzichim*

This project is dedicated by the Brickman, Fein, and Haberman Families in memory of their beloved parents and grandparents, ***Rabbi Seymour Brickman and Devora Brickman A”H.***