

E U L O G Y

DELIVERED BY

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PRESIDENT, BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION

IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
MR. JULIUS HALPERN

It is my sad duty as President of Beth Shalom Congregation to officially record the passing of Mr. Julius Halpern, one of the most outstanding leaders in the entire history of our Congregation, and to pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Halpern served this Congregation faithfully, conscientiously, and to the best of his ability and even beyond that for more than 40 years.

During the years of his service to Beth Shalom he presided as chairman of many important committees including the Finance and Cemetery Committees.

He served Beth Shalom as one of its Vice-Presidents for a period of six years and later as President for three consecutive terms.

It was only last May 9th that Mr. Halpern retired from the office of President with the title of Honorary President.

I know of no person who had greater reverence and respect for his faith and its traditions nor do I know of any member of this Congregation who was more devoted to it in his love and willingness to serve in whatever capacity he was called upon.

His continuous and devoted service to Beth Shalom was only a part of his wide participation in communal activities. Mr. Halpern's

interests were wide and varied and he always strived to strengthen Jewish life in this community by service and through his liberality.

He could not remain quiet even when he had reached the period of life when it is customary for one to lighten his burdens and relax his daily activities. Mr. Halpern was continuously embarking on new adventures. Life to him was a continuous adventure. He lived only for accomplishment. This was his life and this was what he wanted out of life.

He was a man of determined convictions but could be swayed when he was convinced that some other course was most advisable or better in the interests of the project with which he was concerned. Mr. Halpern believed in the truth and never sought to evade it or the responsibilities which go with the truth.

But underneath this firmness Mr. Halpern was a man of understanding and kindness. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need and give of his every assistance when so called upon.

It was only three weeks ago that his oldest grandson was Bar Mitzvah in this Synagogue. I sat beside him on this pulpit and will always remember the great joy and pride he had in this simchah. He said it was the greatest event in his entire life. And this was not only so because it involved his own flesh and blood but because he was so devotedly steeped in the faith of his people.

God in His infinite judgment has seen fit to take Julius Halpern from us. His passing has left a void in our hearts and lives. We shall miss his good counsel and advice always freely

given and always in the best interests of our Congregation.

Each of us mortals, on his journey through life, comes to a barricade in the road upon which is written:

"This is the end of the journey; enter now the shadow of the bridge, where you will be taken by the hand and guided to that destiny which you have chosen by the deeds of your travels."

For some this journey is short; for others, much longer. As fellow travelers, we are still upon the way whether weary with years and labor or flush with the strength of accomplishment and activity.

Our departed colleague was not one of those travelers weary both with years and labor. Years he had but weary he was not. Up to the moment of his passing, he was actively engaged in many endeavors and fields of activity, both communal and material in nature and scope.

The ancient prophet lamented:

"Man goeth to his long home and the mourners go about the streets."

And the lament of the prophet finds an echo in our sad hearts as we pay our spoken tribute to the memory of our respected and revered colleague. But words are inadequate to give proper expression to the depth of our sorrow and to the extent of our loss.

To his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, and to all the members of his family, we can only express our sympathy and our sincere hope that the Almighty who watches over all of us will bring solace to them in this hour of bereavement and grant them strength and courage to carry their burden. We at Beth Shalom

have suffered a great loss and we share the sorrow of his loved ones.

And may I close with the words of the poet, Samuel Coleridge, who said:

"How well he fell asleep
Like some proud river,
Widening toward the sea,
Calmly and grandly, silently and deep,
Life joined eternity."

May his memory be for a blessing.