

Harav Hershel Schachter – I hardly know where to begin.

You bring the rigor of Talmud, the prodigious knowledge of kal Hatorah Kula, the open warmth of a rebbe, the courage of a posek, and the understanding heart of a gentle man, to enrich our world. As a *Talmid Muvhak* of the Rav, much of what you teach others is your understanding of the legacy of the Rav. How appropriate that your yeshiva honors our Rav Muvhak with the conferral of the Harav Yosef Dov Halevi Soloveitchik Aluf Torah Award. As we recognize you on the fiftieth anniversary of your serving as a rosh yeshiva, and celebrate you at this chag hasmicha, , we invite our young musmachim to savor and anticipate how they can impact on our world.

As the son of Rav Melech Schacter and RebbetainClair Schacter,zichronom livracha, you were raised in a home of kedusha and ישרות, tremendous ethical sensitivity, and a home filled with learning. At age 22, as a graduate of Yeshiva University High School and Yeshiva College, you became assistant to the Rav, while concurrently working towards an M.A. in Hebrew Literature from the Bernard Revel Graduate School and rabbinic ordination. At the age of 26, in 1967, you then became the youngest Rosh Yeshiva at RIETS.

You filled the halls of Yeshiva with sanctity while sensitively nurturing and developing many *talmidim* into Roshei Yeshivah and community leaders. In addition to being a maggid shiur par excellence, with almost 5,000 shiurim available on YUTorah, you have written over a hundred articles and books, providing the world with your own precious Torah insights.

Many visit yeshiva to meet with you. As one of the nation's premier poskim, you help others through addressing complex *shailos* and resolving pressing conflicts. Yet people who know you, and learn from you, see that you are

exceedingly sensitive, extraordinarily humble, and are an exceptionally warm man .

Fifty years ago, you assured your destiny by marrying Shoshana, who has partnered with you in all aspects of your world, shared your investment in this Yeshiva, and has showered love on its talmidim. And together you have built the Schacter legacy:

Aviva and Dadi

Aliza and Moshe

○ Yosef Aryeh and Chani

○ Yehudis and Akiva

- **Yaffa and Tani**

- **Yummy and Shoshanah**

- **Shevi and Eli**

- **Shay and Rina**

- **Shira and Aharon**

- **And your grandchildren who, thank God, are like the stars of the sky – too numerous, and illustrious, to count.**

- **All of them together shine bright, enhancing both of your lives.**

You are fond to describe how the Rav , living in a a Post War era where so much was lost, had a burning desire to spread as much Torah as he could. Rav Schachter, it is clear that your learned well his lesson of harbatzas Torah.

Despite all of your personal achievements as a scholar, teacher, and global *posek*, you model humility and retain an unassuming disposition. You empathize with those in distress and act to redress the plights of the downtrodden.

You delight in the joy of others and share in the sorrow of your brethren. You are able to see the world through the spectrum of your tears and the sunshine of your laughter.

Rav Schachter, we recognize you for advancing the Jewish world through the core of our vital *Mesorah*, blessed and bound by a timeless and textured legal system, the Halachic process. In modeling the values of our Yeshiva, for being a guide for our *musmakhim*, and for producing *klei kodesh* and *Lay Kodesh* of the highest order, we celebrate all that you have accomplished thus far

It is therefore my honor, on behalf of Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanon, to bestow upon you the Harav Yosef Dov Halevi Soloveitchik zt"l Aluf Torah Award.