

Jerusalem Peace and Security Forum President Given Knesset Speaker's Award

Nurit Hirschfeld
December 2, 2014



Jerusalem, Israel - Professor Eliezer Glaubach-Gal, the president of the Jerusalem Peace and Security Forum, was awarded the Knesset Speaker's Award for his significant contribution to Israeli society as a whole and to senior citizens in particular.

The highly prestigious award is given to “nurture and encourage the improvement of quality of life in Israel.”



Professor Glaubach, who is also an Ambassador for Peace, received the award on Dec. 2, 2014, in the presence of Knesset Speaker Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, Deputy Speaker Hilik Bar, State Comptroller Judge Yosef Shapira, Minister for Senior Citizens Uri Orbach and members of the Knesset (Israel's parliament).

The Knesset Speaker's Award Committee, composed of members from all parties, noted specifically Professor Glaubach's generous heart and his responsiveness to anyone in need. All the speakers testified to Professor Glaubach's good manners and moral values that always guide his public activities.



Following is the award committee's official statement regarding Professor Glaubach:

“The Knesset Speaker's Award for lifelong contribution is granted to Dr. Eliezer Glaubach—honoring his lifetime efforts for quality of life and preservation of the environment in the community.

“Dr. Glaubach was born in 1934 in the Northern Bukovina Shire (in present-day Ukraine). As a child, in the years of World War II, Dr. Glaubach experienced severe tribulations as his whole family was deported to the death camps in Transnistria [an area of Ukraine]. Dr. Glaubach survived the Holocaust and arrived in Israel at the end of 1948. Although a young Holocaust survivor and an immigrant who arrived in Israel without a supportive family, he excelled in his studies and later served as a naval officer in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. After completing his service, he pursued an academic career and finally received his Ph.D. in political science.

“His public activity is characterized by sincere caring and volunteering activities for improving the quality of life in general and for the needy in the community in particular.

“He served as a senior elected member of the Jerusalem City Council and as a senior advisor to the late Mayor [of Jerusalem] Teddy Kollek. He held various portfolios including ‘Quality of Life and Environment’ as well as introducing to Israel the ‘Healthy City Project.’ He was active in bridging the divide through promoting quality of life and through caring for the elderly in the community. Eliezer Glaubach is a person who volunteers and manages to bind hundreds and even thousands of people for the environment and for better quality of life.

“Therefore he was recommended by the Board of Trustees headed by the speaker of the Knesset for his activities benefiting the community, the elderly and needy Holocaust survivors and upholding the environment and quality of life, starting in past decades and continuing to do so up to the present day.”

The following is Dr. Glaubach's response at the ceremony:

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

“I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the chairman of the Knesset, Mr. Yuli Edelstein, and to the Board of the Foundation Speaker Award for their warm words of appreciation and trust which they had given to me for my activities for the community and for the benefit of elders and of Holocaust survivors, which I (on a personal note) am one of.



“Quality of life appears when a person has the necessary conditions to fulfill his needs and to be happy. The quality of human life at all different stages depends largely on the life cycle, but also on the environmental conditions in which a person lives.

“Every person at retirement age has approximately 200 free hours in a month. In Israel there are nearly 1 million pensioners who retired from the work force, taking with them their knowledge and experience. Thus, a period of about 25 years of an individual's life gets completely wasted.

“I am calling on the Israeli leadership for a new approach, thinking ‘outside the box’ and call for using these tremendous human assets through a new legislation.



“Congratulations and many thanks to the precious Speaker Bureau Foundation team, to Mrs. Odeya Paz from the Ministry for Senior Citizens, and to Mr. Nazem Bader, who worked hard to organize this wonderful event and had contacted me in a very kind way.

“Last but not least: love and thanks to my dear wife, Rachel, who has always supported me during all the long years we have shared together, with the utmost dedication, grace and talent.

“Thank you all for sharing this special event with me.”