

Rabbi Mendi Sudakevich's Message

Shalom!

Dear all who have gathered here today to honor a very special individual, General **Higuchi Kiichiro!**

The Hebrew term for gratitude is "*HaKaras HaTov*", *HaKaras HaTov* is often translated as gratitude, but that really doesn't do the concept justice. *HaKaras HaTov* means "acknowledging the good" – recognizing that someone has benefited me.

The trouble is that many times those who chose to do good stay in the shadows, and we don't recognize the gifts they have given us. Especially when people are so busy with survival.

One of the first things that we the Jewish people teach our children from a very early age is to say thank you, and as soon as we wake up every single morning we say "MODEH ANI LEFANECAN," I thank you g-d for the life you have given me.

"*HaKaras HaTov*" - acknowledging the good that someone did to us is embedded in our Jewish tradition for over 3000 years and we always remember and appreciate individuals who did good to us!

I'm very happy and honored to be able to give "*HaKaras HaTov*" in the name of my Jewish people to General Higuchi Kiichiro who in a very difficult time for the Jewish Nation, General Higuchi didn't look the other way, and did what was the right thing to do just because he felt and understood the need. What a brave and special person he was!

We should all do more in his memory and we should also act like him today and care for others even without recognition just because this is the right thing to do!
Thank you all

Rabbi Mendi Sudakevich