



Montefiore

*From the* OFFICE OF THE DEAN



**Dear Einstein Community:**

On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, we lost a national treasure and global light for justice and equality when we learned of the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Although she fought valiantly, defying cancer numerous times, she lost her battle with metastatic pancreatic cancer on Friday evening.

RBG—as she is affectionately known—has been described as a trailblazer, a role model for all, and an icon of quiet courage. She was the first Jewish woman member of the U.S. Supreme Court, renowned as a consummate teacher and a champion of fairness.

As I reflected on her death over the weekend, I was again reminded of how her life serves as a testament to the struggle for justice and equality; it represents a clear demonstration of the power of persistence, persuasion, and intellect.

Informed by her faith, Justice Ginsburg’s life’s work was molded by the world around her. In comments she once shared during Rosh Hashanah services, she told the congregation, “The Jewish religion is an ethical religion. That is, we are taught to do right, to love mercy, and do justice not because there's going to be any reward in heaven or punishment in hell. We live righteously because that's how people should live.”

In the Jewish faith, those who die on the New Year are considered among the most righteous. While we mourn Justice Ginsburg’s passing, it is important for us to recall the lessons she taught us through her shining example and her steadfast actions on behalf of all Americans. Her moral compass pointed toward serving the best interests of others, particularly those without power or influence; we could all do well in following the path of this historic leader.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.**

**The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean**

*Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

**Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer**

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