

On Nov. 15, 2020, our mother was severely burned. She needed ten surgeries and spent two months in the Washington Hospital Center ICU, then three months in rehabilitation. Rabbi Balto was with our mother every step of the way. This was during the height of Covid, so family members could not visit. I was able to get special permission to be there with my mother, so I can speak first-hand about Rabbi Balto's frequent visits and ongoing support.

Words can't express how much it meant to our family that Rabbi Balto was there for us; his visits were healing for the whole family. He visited our mother frequently, always with a smile to make our mom feel special and loved. Even when she couldn't speak because of the ventilator, he would visit, bringing Shabbat and Torah inspiration into her room, caring for her spiritually and helping her through the dark times. Whenever we needed something related to religious observance, he stood ready to aid us -- and if we needed something else that he could help with, he was ready to do that, too.

Much of that time of our mother's healing is a blur of stress and worry, but Rabbi Balto's steadfast presence remains a bright spot of light. Our family is so grateful that Rabbi Balto's generous caring is being honored. It will not be forgotten how he held all of the family in his heart during this time. He absolutely deserves this recognition.

sincerely,
Linda Beltz Glaser, on behalf of the Beltz family