



Taste of Memories



Taste of Memories is a new and unique commemoration project that aims to commemorate Israel Defense Force's fallen soldiers and Israeli terror victims, through the cooking of their favorite recipes, while telling their stories.

As part of the project, cooking sessions are being held, where the participants cook a favorite dish of a fallen soldier or terror victim, that could not come back home to enjoy it themselves.

In the session you will cook, taste and share pictures, stories, videos and anecdotes about the person behind the dish, and their family, in order to keep their memory alive



Hadar Cohen





Hadar was born in 1997 to Sigalit and Ofer.

She was their second child, sister to Mor and Yarin.

Born and raised in Or Yehuda.

The family share that she was energetic, active and full of joy since she was a little girl.



Hadar was raised and educated on the values of love of the land, giving from herself and accepting others. She dreamed about serving in a combat role in the Border Police since she was 16 years old as part of her enthusiasm to serve and help protect the people of the country she loved so much.

Her friend, Reut, was drafted to the Border Police and Hadar loved hearing her stories and experiences she had in the unit.





Hadar's decision to specifically join the Border Police matched her special personality. She always stood out wherever she was, with her maturity and social involvement.

At Hadar's enlistment party, her sister said:

"when I look at you, I see such a mature woman standing in front of me. You complete me!"



On November 19th 2015, Hadar finally accomplished her dream and enlisted, with great excitement, in the Border Police line. Since her first moment in the army, she was enthusiastic and always came home happy and satisfied.

She saw herself becoming a commander and a trainer in the future.





Her friends say that she used to encourage them and cheer them up during the hard moments in basic training. Then at night, in the dorms, would share her candy and treats with everyone.

They also told the story of when they didn't have enough undershirts for all the soldiers, so Hadar came back to the base after the weekend with a new pack of shirts to share with anyone who needed them. This was one of many acts of love and kindness that characterized Hadar's heart.



During basic training, on February 2, 2016, only 2 and a half months after she was drafted into the Border Police, Hadar participated in her first operational activity. The night before she called her father with the exciting news: “Dad, I’m going on my first operation activity, wish me luck!”



Seconds after saving her friend's life, Hadar was attacked from behind by a third gunman. She was fatally wounded.

The other two terrorists were neutralized by other officers at the scene.

The doctors fought for Hadar's life for several hours but couldn't save her.

During the investigation of the event, it became clear that the assailants had carried weapons, knives and explosive charges and had planned a larger attack on the city, but thanks to the bravery of Hadar and her squad, they were stopped at the Damascus gate.





In her actions, Hadar showed courage, determination, heroism, skill and comradeship. She protected her friends' lives, at the cost of her own and thwarted a potentially large and fatal terror attack.

During the Shiva, her commanders told Hadar's parents that she was an excellent soldier and chosen to go to the officers course which was her dream.

Border policewoman Hadar Cohen was 19 when she fell in a battle with terrorists at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem on February 3, 2016. She was buried in the military section of Yahud's cemetery. She left behind parents, a sister and a brother.



Written on her gravestone are the words: “Hero of Israel, in her death, she saved the lives of many. Your courage, heroism, and glory (The meaning of her name) are our guiding light.”

Her family said: “Strength and splendor are her clothing, and smilingly she awaits her last day” (Mishley 31). Seems like this verse was written about our beloved Hadar. It means that her soul is dressed with good values of strength (courage and diligence), and splendor (Chesed and nobility). She had a sense of humor and she laughed from her first day to her last. In her actions and heroism she’s joining a glorious list of warriors, the heroes of Israel’s wars that gave up their lives to protect the state of Israel.”



Her father, Ofer, eulogized his daughter, saying: "My beloved Hadar, my dearest daughter who was more beloved to me than anything. How am I supposed to say goodbye to you now?"

Everyone says you were a hero, a true hero, who saved so many people. But no one truly knew you, your warmth, your love of life, your captivating smile...my Hadar, I have three words to say to you: I'm proud of you. I'm proud of you and I salute you".





Her sister Mor said: "My beloved Hadar, our beloved, you have now become beloved by all, all of Am Israel (the people of Israel).

I'm writing to you with tears, deep pain and shock... Anything I say won't do you justice; your wonderful personality, your smile, your confidence. You lead and everyone followed. You were our role model, our light.

Yesterday you blocked those horrible terrorists with your own body. How much longer will we endure this senseless hatred? I love you, my dear sister. Everyone is so proud of you. We will meet again, and when we do, I will give you a big hug, as I've never hugged you before. Our hero, please watch over us from above"

הדר כהן ה"ד
ת.ב.צ.ב.ה





Keeping the Memory of Hadar Alive:

- On July 2016 there was a dedication ceremony, changing her unit's name from "Chanit" to "Hadar".
- Hadar was awarded the Medal of Distinguished Service, posthumously. This is the third most important medal given by the IDF Chief of Staff following an act of courage and exemplary service.
- Eight Babies were named "Hadar" in her honor.
- On January 2017 "Hadar's Center" was opened in Or Yehudah, an educational project named after her, to keep her legacy alive.



Thank you for taking part!



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