

Dr. Mark Hasten, OBM, was a visionary leader. Mark often focused his philanthropic interests on education as an engineer and an entrepreneur in myriad businesses, including banking, real estate, and health care. He was Chairman of the Board during Touro University's most significant period of growth. He helped Touro launch its western divisions in California and Nevada and was a significant contributor to the establishment of Touro's Lander College for Women - The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School in Manhattan. Mark was born in Poland in 1927. He and his family survived WW II. He fought with the Polish Brigade of the Red Army against the Nazis on the Eastern Front during WW II. He participated in the liberation of a concentration camp in Poland. He joined the Israel Defense Forces in 1948 and participated for two years in Israel's War of Independence. He married Anna Ruth in 1952 and emigrated to the US in 1953. He went to school in 1959 and earned a BS in mechanical engineering. He then spent nine years working for General Mills in Minneapolis, inventing and designing the products and machines that produced the bendable straw, Cheerios, Pringles, and Bugles. They moved to Indianapolis in 1968. With no Jewish day school in Indianapolis, the Hasten Brothers decided to create one - The Hasten Hebrew Academy, which opened in 1971. Mark was also appointed by Governor Evan Bayh as the Chairman of the Indiana Department of Financial Institutions. A proud Hoosier, Hasten was honored as a Sagamore of the Wabash, a Shriner, and a renowned philanthropist and humanitarian.

Mark's fantastic life is told in his memoir book *Mark My Words!* Written in 2005, Mark's story is one of determination, ingenuity, and abiding religious faith. Dr. Hasten died on February 28, 2020. Mark Hasten was born in 1931 and is a post-war Jewish phenomenon. As one of the sole survivors of his boyhood Polish shtetel, he arrived in the US as a refugee and overcame the odds to forge a new life of unparalleled business success and as an internationally respected Jewish communal leader. An insider within the Israeli political power structure, Mark enjoyed a 25-year intimate friendship with his mentor, Nobel Prize statesman and Prime Minister Menachem Begin. He began working in Minneapolis for the Bemis Paper company in 1961 and was transferred to Indianapolis in 1989 by Bemis to save its company in Indianapolis from going under. This helped him to rise to the

top levels of finance and industry. His life story, *I Shall Not Die!*, published in 2002, tells it all, from arriving penniless in the US to becoming an integral part of his community, not only giving his wealth but also his time and knowledge. Hart had personal insights from his close relationships with Israeli and Jewish leaders such as Ariel Sharon, Elie Wiesel, and Benjamin Netanyahu. Hart has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. He was named Sagamore of the Wabash by the State of Indiana. He and his wife Simona were married on July 30, 1961, and are the parents of three children. Hart was one of the founders of the Hasten Hebrew Academy. I want to quote Miriam Gettinger, principal: "that the school's mission was to produce future leaders of the Jewish community locally and globally and that his vision was to inspire the next generation to communal involvement as knowledgeable, articulate and passionate Jews." In the 50 years since its founding, the school has delivered high-quality Jewish and secular education to thousands of students. Hart Hasten is a driving force and has the strength and commitment as a world leader, and that has defined him as a serious and observant Jew and as a man.