

# Arbel Reich

“In your eyes a reflection of sky and sea  
And the wind sends you into eternity.  
This is how you loved nature,  
And now you are part of the view.”

The above lines are part of a poem written and set to music by a friend of Arbel, and performed at the ceremony to mark 30 days after he fell in battle.

Arbel Reich, son of Moshe and Yael, and the brother of Moran and Einav, was a combat soldier in Elite Unit of the Givati brigade. Arbel was killed on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 during a battle with terrorists in the Gaza Strip. He was 21 at the time of his death.



Arbel was born and raised in the community village of Yuvalim in Misgav Regional Council. He was particularly fond of nature and walking and challenging sports. He was a basketball player and also a music-lover, playing the drums and percussion instruments.

Named after Mt. Arbel, which overlooks the Kinneret, Arbel was tall, sturdy, sociable, and full of the joy of life. He was loved by his friends, admired by his troops, and appreciated by his commanders.

In his eulogy, Arbel’s unit commander said: “You fought heroically and you devoted yourself to the task at hand. You led your force, setting a personal example to the other soldiers in the platoon, during fighting and under fire just as in routine times. It is strange to speak of a fighter in the past tense, and particularly of one like you, Arbel: Dominant, cool-headed, and a friend to one and all. You could always be seen at the head of your troops whether in battle or calm.”

Some comments from Arbel’s friends:

- “When you think about Arbel you can understand why people say that God always takes the ‘best ones,’ because that’s what you always were – the best, the very best in every sense of the word. The glue that holds the team together and motivates it. The guy who always arranges the evenings out and trips. A true leader.”
- “Apart from the massive hole you left in each one of us, you have also left a massive hole in the team. Commanders come and go, but Arbel the leader will stay with us for ever.”
- “I have no idea why God took you. I guess He needs someone like you up there.”

Among Arbel’s personal effects his dairy was found. In one entry he wrote of the values to which he wanted to educate his soldiers. Arbel writes: “I hope that I will be able to instill in them the things I believe in:

- Fellowship (comradeship in arms)
- Responsibility
- Love of the land, its people and its landscapes
- To be a “crazy” individual and group
- To be willing to sacrifice our life for our country
- Modesty.”

In the spirit of Arbel’s values and legacy, we established at Yuvalim and in front of the Arbel's mountain an observation points that became an attractive meeting place for youngsters, children, and adults. The observation points are very important and meaningful to us. We believe that this is the most appropriate way to commemorate Arbel’s legacy and values.

Reich family