

My name is Allan Carroll and I'm President of the Portes Foundation. It has been my privilege to work with Richard Kohan, who was our Chairman for nearly 30 years.

When Janice called with the sad news of Richard's death, a quotation popped into my mind. This came from the eulogy which Robert E. Lee offered for Gen. Thomas Cobb following the Battle of Fredericksburg. Gen. Lee said, "Know, all, that on this day a great man has died."

That started me to thinking. What was it that made Richard a great man in my eyes? Unlike so many, Richard was never content to sit on the sidelines and be a bystander. He became involved in meaningful ways. I just learned of Richard's involvement with this synagogue, and while I was unaware of his years of service, I certainly wasn't surprised.

Some of you will remember that the Portes Center was located on Huron Street, and our mission was to provide health-care screenings. When it was no longer feasible for us to continue, Richard supervised the difficult and painstaking process whereby we changed into a Foundation that now funds healthcare studies. And when our long-time President, Dick Kalish (whose wife, Ellie, joins us today) died, Richard again stepped in and provided the strong leadership which carried us through those difficult times.

To Richard's family I offer these words from our tradition, "May the source of all comfort provide comfort to you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

And to you, Richard, I quote from an old folk song:

"And so, dear friend, we bid adieu.

I'm a better man for just the knowing of you."