

The NATIONAL STRATEGY FORUM REVIEW

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Morris I. Leibman: 100th Birthdate Commemoration

The month of February 2011 marks the 100th year of the birth of our founder, Morris I. Leibman's, birth. This issue of the *National Strategy Forum Review* commemorates and is dedicated to him. His legacy as advisor to U.S. Presidents and Congress, and founder of the National Strategy Forum, co-founder of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security, and several other national security and world peace organizations, is very much alive.

Morrie Leibman's profession was as an attorney, and, most importantly, as a counselor who possessed the rare abilities to think and act strategically, to identify paramount objectives among conflicting and competing ideas, and to resolve issues for his business clients and for America which he loved passionately.

Many vexing national security issues have occurred since Morrie's death. As we analyze these issues, the starting points are always what would Morrie do, what are the critical objectives, what is the appropriate strategy, and how do we communicate? These principles provide a way forward through the morass of competing voices, ideologies, and imperfectly understood facts.

The National Strategy Forum operating standard is derived from Morrie who was a consummate educator for those who had the good sense to know that they were in the presence of a wise elder. Morrie counseled, gathered objective facts, asked questions (and didn't answer them), arrayed options, and constructed an overarching strategy that addressed the contemporary problem and its anticipated future consequence. All of this was done on a scrupulously non-partisan basis, with great respect for competing ideologies. All of these principles were to be presented with respect, civility, and good humor.

In addition to being a counselor and educator, Morrie was a talent scout and a recruiter. Morrie mentored a legion of talented young people who shared his impulse to serve America as national security practitioners. This younger generation has become the present generation of national security strategy policymakers and counselors. In turn, they have used Morrie's principles to recruit and mentor a new generation of America's leaders. Thus, continuity and sustainability is being achieved.

Morrie would have reveled in the daunting array of contemporary U.S. and global issues that the National Strategy Forum is addressing. For example, the U.S. budget deficit; the U.S. military

presence in Afghanistan and Iraq; counterterrorism; political instability in the Middle East — Egypt and Tunisia; how to strengthen Pakistan; the multi-relationships among the U.S., PRC, Taiwan, India, and Pakistan; Iranian and North Korean nuclear proliferation; the compatibility of civil liberties and national security; the U.S. adaptation to a multi-polar world; immigration; how to learn fiscal responsibility from Canada; cybersecurity; and how to enhance a good neighbor policy with Mexico and Central and Latin America.

"Not to worry" as Morrie would often say. For us, Morrie is here and always available for good advice.

For more information regarding the life and times of Morris I. Leibman, see the link [here](#).