

The Best-Lived Lives Leave the Best Footprints

Honoring the Legacy of Harry Kamish: A Postal Worker Pioneer for Individuals with Disabilities

Everyone hopes to make a difference, but few do so as profoundly as Harry Kamish. Born on October 10, 1910, Harry's legacy is one of advocacy, activism, and a passion for uplifting those who needed it most.

Activist & Advocate

Beginning his career as a postal worker, Harry quickly gained recognition for his extraordinary writing and speech-giving skills. These talents led him to work closely with Moe Biller, the president of the American Postal Workers Union. During the 1970s, Harry played an instrumental role in spearheading the only postal worker strike in history, advocating for fair wages and better working conditions for postal employees across the nation. His leadership as a powerful advocate helped transform the postal workers' movement, cementing his reputation as a tireless activist.

Working Together for Today & Tomorrow

But Harry's heart for justice extended far beyond the postal service. Alongside fellow union member and activist Ida Rappaport, who was involved with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Harry channeled his activism into the founding of Lifespire in 1951. Lifespire aimed to revolutionize the support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities—a mission that continues today. The organization now serves over 3,000 individuals monthly across 135 certified sites in New York City, Westchester, and beyond, embodying the vision that Harry and Ida had for equality and dignity for all.

All Great Change Starts with People

Harry Kamish's work didn't just change lives; it changed the very systems that serve individuals with disabilities. His vision, grounded in his experience as an advocate and leader, has continued to inspire and empower generations. As we honor his 114th birthday, we celebrate a man whose extraordinary contributions are still felt today. His legacy serves as a reminder that real change happens when we believe that every life matters, and that miracles are possible when we don't limit our own potential.

Harry Kamish may have started as a postal worker, but he ended up leaving footprints that will be walked in for generations.