**Memorial Day 5785 / 2025**

**Cpt. Eden Nimri Z”L, 22 years old**

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Design by Orit Yeshayahu

*"Despite all the difficulty, I am at peace and know that this is the right decision for me.”*

*In her final year of service, Eden Nimri was an officer in the Sky Rider (Rochash) unit of the Artillery Corps based near the northern border. On October 4, she and her team were sent to Nahal Oz base to cover for soldiers on leave.*

*Three days later, on October 7, Eden awoke to sirens. Understanding the threat, she grabbed her weapon and led her team of four armed female fighters to a reinforced shelter (migunit), where they found 24 unarmed female soldiers—spotters, medics, communications and intelligence personnel. Eden had never met them, but she instantly took command.*

*In pajamas and without rank insignia, she stationed her team at the shelter’s two entrances, placing herself at the more vulnerable one. “Even if she didn’t know exactly what was going on, she walked alone toward the shots and shouting in Arabic,” a survivor later said.*

*At 7:45 a.m., terrorists burst in. Eden’s plan had worked—her team ambushed the first attackers. Then came more attackers, who threw grenades into the migunit. Eden shielded others with her body, and returned fire, while allowing other soldiers, including her own teammates, to escape. She remained to fight the attackers alone. When her ammunition ran out, she fought with her bare hands, until her last breath.*

*She saved 17 lives. Eleven escaped. Seven were taken hostage—six of whom later returned. “She’s my hero,” said former hostage Liri Elbag, “the one who saved my life.”*

*Eden had a choice. As an elite swimmer, she was eligible for “exceptional athlete” status in the IDF—an easier path with minimal duties and time to train. But Eden chose meaning over comfort. She gave up her athletic career and joined a combat unit, determined to serve with impact.*

*Eden, who grew up in Modi’in-Maccabbim-Reut, is survived by her parents Sharon (a KKL-JNF employee) and Michael, and her sisters Hadar and Noga. Her courage and self-sacrifice will forever echo.*