

Eeki Elnor bio

Eeki Elnor is an educator, author, and visionary leader who is considered a pioneer in the development of leaders in Israel. He is the founder of the Israel Leadership Institute and a son of Holocaust survivors from Haifa, Israel. In 2006, Eeki chose to locate the Israel Leadership Institute (ILI) to Sderot, Israel, a town bordering the Gaza strip that has become a symbol of Israeli heroism and Zionist devotion. Between 2001-2014, Sderot was hit by over 12,000 missiles and rockets.

On May 16th, 2007, less than one year after moving to Sderot, the danger of living next door to hostile neighbors “hit home” when a missile actually hit Eeki’s home directly. Elnor did not allow the attack to disturb his plans or detour his purpose: At the beginning of 2008, the inaugural first training session of the ILI went on as scheduled despite the attack.

Because of his courageous stand, dozens of international, political and business leaders have visited the ILI to meet with Eeki, and tour the Sderot-region including: (at that time) Senator Barack Obama, former Governor Mitt Romney, as well as an extensive list of U.S. House Congressional Members and Senators.



Speaking at the AIPAC Annual conference 2010 in Washington D.C., former House Majority leader, Congressman Steny Hoyer, spoke of his personal visit to Israel saying: *"In Sderot, I spoke with Eeki Elnor. After the rockets began falling on Sderot—he moved there. After one crashed through his roof, he stayed, because there is no purer resistance than living everyday in proud defiance of fear. Eeki Elnor is why I know in my heart that Israel will live, and endure, and have peace."*

Since moving to Sderot, Elnor has served as a Special Envoy for the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in representing the region abroad and delivering the message of struggle against terrorism. In June 2024, Eeki met with Governor Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Frank LaRose, presenting a gift to the Governor on behalf of the Speaker of the Israeli Knesset.

Eeki has fostered a special relationship with the Buckeye State. In 2012, Wright State University and the Israel Leadership Institute entered into a partnership to promote academic exchange and international understanding. In 2015, Eeki was the Keynote speaker for the local National Day of Prayer observance in Mansfield, Ohio. Eeki has also brought several prominent Israeli leaders to North Central Ohio, including Hilik Barr, the Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset, and Major General Eyal Ben-Reuven. Also in 2019, Eeki partnered with the Delaware County Sheriff’s Department to discuss urban readiness and resilience to domestic and global terror events with local leaders

Eeki sees the connection between faith and leadership and recently co-authored a book chronicling his survival from terminal cancer.