



Gus Waterman Herrman Presidential Chair Inaugurated

The Gus Waterman Herrman Presidential Chair has been established by the largest bequest in the history of the College-Institute. Rabbi David Ellenson is the first HUC-JIR President to hold the newly established chair, which was introduced as part of the Presidential Inauguration celebration.

Gus Waterman Herrman was born in 1920 to Morris and Jessie Waterman Herrman. Gus and his brother Cecil grew up in Lexington, Mississippi, a town of 2,500 people with only 50-60 Jews. Their congregation could not afford a rabbi and depended on HUC-JIR to send student rabbis to serve as the community's spiritual leaders. One such student, Rabbi James Wax, became the Herrman brothers' good friend. Rabbi Wax's impact on their lives as Reform Jews led the brothers to ultimately bequeath their worldly resources to the College-Institute.

Today, classes and religious services take place in the Cecil Herrman Learning Center on the Cincinnati campus. And now, Gus Herrman is memorialized through the Gus Waterman Herrman Presidential Chair.

Gus Waterman Herrman was a member of Congregation Beth Israel, Houston, Texas and Temple Sinai, New Orleans, Louisiana. He was a philanthropist and a decorated World War II veteran. He served as a tank commander in the United States Army under General George Patton, was in the Normandy invasion, and received both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star medals of honor. He died on December 13, 2001 in Houston, Texas. Gus Waterman Herrman's memory and legacy of Jewish commitment will be perpetuated through this historic gift to the College-Institute.

*Jessie Waterman Herrman and her sons, Gus and Cecil
INSET: Robert and Sondy Berman celebrating the announcement
of the Gus Waterman Herrman Presidential Chair with
Rabbi Ellenson*

