

Bettman, Judge Gilbert

Walnut Hills, OH

HQ

•BETTMAN

Judge Gilbert, age 82, passed away February 12, 2000, beloved husband of Marianna Brown Bettman, devoted father of Helen and Ben Cohen of Houston, TX., Gil Bettman of L.A., CA. and Louise Bettman, dear brother of Dr. Alfred Bettman of Sonoma County, CA. and Carol Lazar of New York, N.Y., loving grandfather of Sarah, Joseph and Evie. Services Isaac M. Wise Temple, 8329 Ridge Road, Monday, February 14 at 2:00. No visitation at the temple before services begin. Friends may call on the family at Hebrew Union College, Mayerson Hall, 3101 Clifton Ave., Monday evening 7:00-9:00 P.M.. Memorial contributions to Legal Aid Society or Jewish Family service would be appreciated.

Judge G. Bettman dead at 82

Public service in law, politics came naturally

BY BEN L. KAUFMAN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Gilbert Bettman, feisty judge and patrician descendant of the rabbi who made Cincinnati the world center for Reform Judaism, died of heart failure Saturday at Jewish Hospital.

Judge Bettman, of Walnut Hills, was 82.

"To me, he exemplified the type of moral courage we don't see enough of in today's world," wife Marianna Brown Bettman said. "I hope someone will step in and fill the void he leaves."

Judge Bettman's mother was granddaughter of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of Hebrew Union College and spiritual leader of the synagogue that took his name.

Judge Bettman's father, a pillar of the Republican Party, was a vice mayor of Cincinnati, attorney general and Supreme Court justice of Ohio.

In 1993, recalling abuse for seemingly lenient decisions on the bench, Judge Bettman told *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, "If I have to go along with the mob spirit, I don't want the job. I'm going to do what's right no matter what the conse-



Gilbert Bettman

quences." Gilbert Bettman was an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Walnut Hills High School and Harvard University. When the United States went to war in 1941, he heeded his father's urging to finish Harvard Law School before enlisting.

He joined the Army in mid-1942 as a private, eschewing opportunities for a potentially softer berth as an Air Corps officer.

"I went to the Philippines, got promoted to sergeant," the judge told *Cincinnati Magazine* in 1987. "I landed one day, General (Douglas) MacArthur landed the next, and he got his picture in the paper."

After 100 days of combat on Leyte, the protesting Sgt. Bettman was promoted to lieutenant.

He survived as a field artillery forward observer on Okinawa to win the Bronze Star for valor in 1944 and returned to Cincinnati to practice law, marry, win a seat in the Ohio General Assembly, and begin more than three decades on

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