



## Howard Weiss

January 17, 1932 - January 2, 2019

Howard Weiss, 86, of Overland Park, died Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Howard was born on January 17, 1932, in Atlantic City, NJ. He earned a B.S. in Business, with honors, from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of New York at Buffalo. He was an Air Force Veteran, serving 4 years during the Korean War, with postings on two different continents.

Howard's life changed in 1956, when he waited for two hours outside the student union building at Fairleigh Dickinson to ask his crush, Gladys Schneider, out on a date. That moment commenced a lifelong love affair – the pair were married in 1958, had two beloved daughters, and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last August.

Howard is best remembered professionally for his unwavering commitment to the special needs' community. After earning national accolades for his leadership at the Kennedy Job Training Center in suburban Chicago, he moved to Kansas City, serving the Jewish Vocational Service and Rehabilitation Institute for over 24 years in executive directorship roles where he increased the agency's scope of services and became recognized for community involvement.

Howard's professional involvement included serving as president of the MO Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, as well as five other Rehabilitation Associations in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. Howard was a board member of the Executive Agency Association (United Way) and Committee on Aging (Mid-America Regional Council). He served on several other advisory committees through Missouri Universities, Jewish Family Services, and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater KC. He was also published in multiple professional journals.

Howard's passions included: tackling home improvement projects for his and his daughter's homes, terriers, the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals, as well as a voracious appetite for reading with a particular interest in military history and leaders. None of these surpassed his true joys; traveling with his wife and spending time with family.

He is survived by Gladys, of the home; his brother Stanley (Gladys) Weiss of Palm Desert, CA, his two daughters Hali Smith of Overland Park, KS, and Julie Ellis of St. Louis, MO, three grandchildren: Danielle Lauren Ellis, Caleb Michael Weiss Ellis and Sydney Rose Ellis, and his beloved miniature schnauzer, Monty.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, January 6, 2019 at Rose Hill Cemetery, 6900 Troost Ave. In lieu of flowers; the family suggests contributions be made to either the KC Pet Project ([kcpetproject.org/donate](http://kcpetproject.org/donate)) or the Stray Rescue of St. Louis ([strayrescue.org](http://strayrescue.org)), both no-kill animal rescue and adoption centers that share Howard's love for our canine companions.

Those wishing to express condolences may visit the home of Hali Smith from 3 PM to 6 PM Sunday. Please call the funeral home for further information.

# Comments

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“ Dear Gladys, Hali, and Julie,  
I'm so sorry to learn of Howard's passing. He was a great man, and so devoted to you. Please accept my condolences.  
Best wishes always,  
Rich Seefeldt

Rich Seefeldt - January 21, 2019 at 01:22 PM

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“ From the day I met Howard when he brought my sister home on a date I felt that I met an exceptional person. There are some people who just put a smile on your face when you see or think of them. Howard was one of those people. He was engaging and intelligent. The more I met him, the more I respected his humanity and empathy. It was impossible to feel uncomfortable around Howard. I saw how he made everyone around him feel important. How lucky I felt that he was a part of my family. I know that is something everyone who ever met him shares. I rejoice in the fact that his legacy and humanity will live in the hearts of heritage generations. We have learned so much goodness and empathy from him and that will never be lost. My heart is filled with joy that he was a part of my life.

Bruce Schneider - January 10, 2019 at 09:00 PM

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“ Hali, you are in my thoughts, in my prayers, and in my heart. I am so sorry you and your family are dealing with the loss of your father, but I pray that you find some comfort since he is now in heaven, where nothing hurts and everything is beautiful. Your family has their very own guardian angel. Hugs to you my friend.

Sandy Higgins



Sandy Higgins - January 07, 2019 at 03:22 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss, especially to Gladys. (From Activities Dept. at Lamar Ct.)



**Sara Remillard** - January 06, 2019 at 11:41 PM

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“ howard was a kind, gentle, humble, and inspirational leader who was respected and admired by his colleagues in the field of vocational rehabilitation. we are very sorry to learn of his passing. god speed, howard. piedad and john parker

**john parker** - January 06, 2019 at 11:40 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy on the passing of this wonderful man. Howard was my first boss in the rehabilitation field at JVS and he was such an amazing leader for us all. I will never forget his kindness and his passion for people with disabilities, and then there was always that little grin!

**Brenda Simmons** - January 05, 2019 at 11:37 AM



“ Howard was one of the most pleasant person with whom to work, A sensitive and committed executive director. Sol Koenigsberg

**Sol Koenigsberg** - January 05, 2019 at 05:29 PM



“ I didn't meet Howard until he had retired as executive director of JVS. In retirement, he ran an airport shuttle business and he was so gracious, kind, punctual and caring to me and my family. We need more people like Howard around and we send you our deepest condolences. He was a man you could be proud of at all times. Sincerely, Naomi Kauffman

**Naomi** - January 05, 2019 at 08:57 PM



“ JVS was a part of the pride of the Jewish community, providing work for those with special needs, members of the community who were changing positions, and leading on resettlement of new Americans among other activities. Howard was truly not only a leader, but a gentle and kind man. Always of good humor, always concerned with the welfare of members of our community and those not members of our community. Howard induced confidence not only in JVS's clients but all of those in the community who looked to JVS as a star in the galaxy of social services and humane concern for all.

**Mark H Levin** - January 06, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ Howard gave me my first professional opportunity when he hired me as a vocational counselor at JVS. I remember Howard as a kind a gentle man who set a positive tone for all of us who worked at the agency. My sincere condolences to his family. Rest In Peace Howard.

**valerie pagano** - January 08, 2019 at 04:42 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Howard Weiss



**Sydney Ellis** - January 05, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ 6 files added to the album Howard Weiss



Sydney - January 05, 2019 at 11:22 AM

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“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Sydney - January 05, 2019 at 11:20 AM

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“ Hali we are so incredibly sorry for your loss. He was a great man. Please know our prayers are with you and your family. Love Jill



jill smith - January 05, 2019 at 07:31 AM

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“ My sincere condolences on the passing of Howard. He was a wonderful person and a professional who fought for the most vulnerable in our community. He will always hold a special place in my heart as he was one of the first directors who welcomed me into the Jewish world in 1980. Howard met you with a smile and he left our world a better place. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this sad time. May Howard's memory be forever a blessing.

Shari Stimetz

**Shari Stimetz** - January 04, 2019 at 02:13 PM

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“ My wife and I send our condolences to the family. I remember Howard with great fondness during his tenure at JVS. Howard was a caring professional. I had great respect for the Howard and the many lives he impacted. Ronnie and Dierdre Baker

**Ronnie Baker** - January 04, 2019 at 11:33 AM