

## Herman George Kaiser

### 1904 – 1994



Kaiser was born in Nardorf, Germany, and attended Frankfurt and Berlin universities. He married Kate Kaiser in 1930. She died in 1987. He practiced law and served as a judge in Germany until the Nuremburg Laws, passed in 1933, barred Jews from serving as judges. Kaiser escaped in 1938 to England where he lived for two years while awaiting a visa to the United States.

In 1940, the Kaisers moved to Tulsa, where they were sponsored by a relative, Sam Miller. Kaiser gained citizenship in 1945, and in honor of America's first president he adopted George as his middle name. After the war, Herman brokered the sale of oilfield pipe from rebuilding German companies to U.S. firms. He got into the drilling business in 1949, first finding oil in western Kansas. Herman's businesses gradually merged with those of Francis Oil. He operated as an independent oil producer until his retirement in 1969, when his son George B. Kaiser took over Kaiser-Francis Oil Company.

The Kaiser's philanthropies have included Hillcrest Medical Center's Herman George and Kate Kaiser Rehabilitation Center and the Jewish Retirement Center's Herman and Kate Kaiser Extended Health Care Facility. Kaiser was president of

Congregation B'nai Emunah, and involved in Republican Party politics. He was educated in classical history and enjoyed reading about the subject. He also enjoyed golf, said his son, George Kaiser, president of Kaiser-Francis Oil Co. and chief executive officer of the Bank of Oklahoma.

SOURCE: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38704061/herman-george-kaiser>

Barrett, William P. 1991, March 4. *Shrewd Sooner*. Forbes, p. 88.