

**Oral History Excerpt**  
**George Hess '55 interview by Mac Barrett '67**  
**June 15, 2011**

**On being welcomed by the Class of 1955:**

**Hess:** Well, I was lucky in the sense that my father knew Bob Swindell, who was the father of my classmate, Tom Swindell. And the Swindells had a party for me when they heard that I was coming to the school. And so I met a number of people in the class-six or eight, something like that---one of whom was Pete Powell, and he and his family were just as gracious to me as were the Swindells. And you have to know that at that time, there hadn't been any other Jewish kids come to Gilman. There certainly weren't any African Americans. And so, there was an effort to find out whether I would be able to be happy at Gilman with my Jewish background, and the fact that I lived in northwest Baltimore and there weren't any other kids living in there, either. So, there was some real fortunate beginning to the Gilman story with these guys who were very nice to me.

**Barrett:** So, you liked these guys pretty much from the beginning.

**Hess:** Yeah, and they're still good friends.

**Barrett:** That's very special.