



For Immediate Release

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**Museum Honors The Astros Foundation with the
2019 Guardian of the Human Spirit Award**

--HMH raised \$615,000 to support education programs--

HOUSTON, TX (November 25, 2019) – Almost 850 attendees were on-hand as Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) honored The Astros Foundation with the 2019 Guardian of the Human Spirit Award for their commitment to service and building an open-minded society.

The Museum established the Guardian of the Human Spirit award in 1997 as a platform for acknowledging dedicated institutions and leaders who have worked to enhance the lives of others and to better humankind. Held at the Hilton Americas-Houston on November 25, 2019, this year's luncheon raised \$615,000 to fund general operations and educational and outreach programs that promote the dangers of prejudice, hatred and apathy using the lessons of the Holocaust. The 2019 award was accepted by Twila Carter, Executive Director of The Astros Foundation.

The Astros Foundation seeks to harness the passion of baseball fans to support youth baseball and softball programs, to recognize and honor our nation's military, promote childhood cancer awareness and efforts to reduce homelessness. Known for inspiring tomorrow's leaders to serve their community today, The Astros Foundation Volunteer Corps now boasts more than 2,500 participants assisting 55 community partners with 10,000 hours of service last year. From literacy efforts to honoring first responders and programs to prevent domestic violence, the organization's combined human impact exemplifies what it means to be a Guardian of the Human Spirit.

During the luncheon, H-E-B President Scott McClelland kicked off the entertainment by engaging guests in the 7th Inning Stretch and a group-pleasing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". He then moderated a fun-filled and informational conversation with Houston Astros Executive Advisor Reid Ryan and National Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jeff Bagwell.

This year's Honorary Chairs were Art Acevedo, Houston Police Chief, The Honorable Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge, and The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston. Luncheon Chairs included prominent Houstonians Barbara and Michael Gamson, Patti and Mike Morgan and Marcie and Bob Zlotnik. The Host Committee was chaired by Renee and Alan Helfman. *PaperCity* magazine served as media sponsor.

The Kosher menu included an entrée salad of blackened salmon on a bed of mixed greens, baby spinach, allspice macerated apricots, and candied walnuts with Israeli cous cous topped with a honey cider vinaigrette. Guests enjoyed swapping desserts of passion fruit white chocolate cake and chocolate pecan tart. The spectacular decorations and flowers were managed by Aztec and River Oaks Plant House, respectively. Flowers were repurposed via Flower Power to nursing homes and shelters, while Second Helpings utilized additional meals for people in need.

Dignitaries in the crowd included Mayor of Houston Sylvester Turner, Mayor Pro Tem of Houston Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council Member David Robinson, Harris County Civil Judge Theresa Chang, Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan, Texas State Senator Carol Alvarado, US State Representative Lizzie Fletcher, Former US Ambassador to the Bahamas Arthur Schechter, Former Harris County District Judge Maria Jackson, Former Texas District Judge Susan Soussan, Former Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council Fred Zeidman, Consul General of Israel Gilad Katz, Deputy Consul General of Israel Omer Chechek-Katz, Honorary Consul General to Thailand and Vice Dean of Consular Corps of Houston Charles Foster, Chairman of Houston First David Mincberg and Member of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission Matthew Kornhauser.

Also seen in the crowd were Ginger Blanton, Tali and Eric Blumrosen, Laurie and Dr. Milton Boniuk, Nancy and Arthur Brand, Maria and Neil Bush, Pierce Bush, Rhona and Bruce Caress, Jose Cruz, Brad Deutser, Nancy and Jack Dinerstein, Denise and Steve Estrin, Kelly Cohen Fein and Martin Fein, Heidi and David Gerger, Sam and Barney Gershen, Paula Goldstein, Cheryl and Stephen Golub, Kathy and Marty Goossen, Walter Hecht, Shelly Hendry, Winell and Doug Herron, BJ and Buddy Herz, Barbara Hines, Laura Jaramillo, Carl Josehart and Sam Jacobson, Mady and Ken Kades, Gail and Dr. Milton Klein, Connie Kwan-Wong, Nicole and Glenn Lowenstein, Sunni and Gary Markowitz, Edith Mincberg, Trish Morille, Judy and Mark Mucasey, Carmen Ng, Regina Rogers, Jeri and Marc Shapiro, Joel Spira, HMH Board Chair Benjamin Warren and Joy Warren, Flori and Guillermo Guefen, Jay Zeidman, and HMH CEO Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga and Luis Zúñiga.

Previous recipients of the award have included Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and Aggie Liberators of World War II; UT President Gregory L. Fenves and The University of Texas at Austin; Ric Campo; Velva G. and H. Fred Levine; Edith and Josef Mincberg, Bill Morgan and Murry Bowden; the Harry Mach family; KIPP founders Dave Levin and Mike Feinberg; former Mayor Annise Parker, Barbara and Gerald Hines; Marc J. Shapiro; Lester and Sue Smith; Sandra Weiner and Martin Fein; Naomi Warren and Fred Zeidman; Joan and Stanford Alexander; Ed Wulfe and the H-E-B grocery chain; Jack Blanton and The Houston Chronicle; the Rev. William A. Lawson and Julie and Ben Rogers; Linda P. Lay and Siegi Izakson; and Ron Stone.

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About Holocaust Museum Houston

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1996 by Houston-area Holocaust Survivors, their descendants and members of the community, is accredited by The American Alliance of Museums. Average annual attendance is 130,000 visitors, including more than 71,000 middle and high school students. The Museum is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors' legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.