



REV. DR.
**FRANKLIN H.
LITTELL**

Franklin Hamlin Littell is often referred to as “the father of Holocaust Studies in America.” His book, *The Crucifixion of the Jews*, was the pioneering book in the field, encouraging a generation of younger theologians to re-think the meaning of the Holocaust, antisemitism, the survival of the Jewish people, and a restored Israel.

Dr. Littell was an Emeritus Professor of Religion at Temple University and from 1972-1992 had been an Adjunct Professor in the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He was the inaugural Distinguished Ide E. King Visiting Professor of Holocaust Studies at Stockton State College in New Jersey, and from 1993-1994 was the Robert Foster Cherry Professor of Distinguished Teaching at Baylor University. During the 1996-1997 academic year, he returned as the Distinguished Ide E. King Visiting Professor of Holocaust Studies at Stockton.

For nearly a decade he was an officer in the American occupation of post-war Germany, attaining the rank of Chief Protestant Advisor to the U.S. High Commissioner. In 1959 he received the Grosse Verdienstkreuz, 1. Kl. (distinguished service award) from President Heuss of the German Federal Republic for his assistance to religious and educational institutions and movements and for furthering American/German reconciliation.

From 1978 to 1993, he was a member, by presidential appointment, of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and in 1980 he was appointed by the Israeli cabinet as the first Christian member of the International Council of Yad Vashem. Also in 1980, he received the Jabotinsky Medal from Prime Minister Begin, and in 1991 the Ladislaus Laszt International Ecumenical Award from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev for his work on behalf of Israel and in the furthering of Christian/Jewish understanding. In 1996, President Roman Herzog of the German Federal Republic awarded him the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal for his work in fostering Christian-Jewish relations and for his role in the founding of the German Societies of Christians and Jews.

For more than five decades, Dr. Littell concerned himself with problems of religious liberty, extremism and the identification of totalitarian movements. Concerned with the role of these factors in respect to democratic society, his particular interest was to underline the special responsibility of academics and churchmen.