

A Lifetime of Service

Brig. Gen. Edward "Ed" Hirsch, U.S. Army, Retired

July 10, 1922 – Oct. 13, 2007

It was with great sadness and a deep sense of personal loss that the Defense Acquisition University family learned of the death of retired Army Brig. Gen. Edward Hirsch on Oct. 13, 2007. Ed had been a part of the Defense Systems Management College and DAU since shortly after his retirement from active duty. Even after his official retirement from DAU in 1999, Ed continued to support the university as a consultant.

The July-August 1999 issue of *Program Manager* (Defense AT&L's predecessor publication), for which he authored many articles, featured an appreciation of Ed on the occasion of his retirement



from DAU: < www.dau.mil/pubs/pm/pmpdf99/hirshja.pdf > .

Ed Hirsch will be remembered at DAU for his many contributions, professional and personal. But for many people, he will be remembered best for this, in the words of a former longtime DAU employee: "He always had time for people."

We are grateful to former DAU professor and Hirsch family friend, retired Navy Rear Adm. Stephen S. Israel, Ed Hirsch's biographer, for the following official obituary.

Judith M. Greig, *Managing Editor*

Retired Army Brig. Gen. Edward "Ed" Hirsch, 85, passed away quietly Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007, at his home in Alexandria, Va. His wife, Marciene, had preceded him in death, Nov. 3, 2000; they had been married 52 years.

After retiring from 35 years of Army service in 1977, Hirsch joined the Defense Systems Management College, now the Defense Acquisition University, after a few years in defense-oriented private industry. He worked at DAU and continued to contribute to the education and training of Department of Defense program managers right up until the day he died. He was instrumental in establishing the School of Program Managers at DAU's Fort Belvoir campus, rising to the position of provost in 1993. He retired in 1996 from full-time employment but continued his association with the university as a consultant, actively participating in curriculum development as well as student and professor mentoring. To honor his service from 1984 to 2007, DAU recently inducted Hirsch into the Defense Acquisition University Hall of Fame.

Hirsch, a son of Hungarian immigrants, was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, but moved to Philadelphia, where he finished high school in 1940. In 1942, he received a commission in the Army of the United States as a second lieutenant by participating in Citizens Military Training Camp for three summers and then taking qualification exams. Transferring to the regular Army in 1949, he later received his bachelor's and master's degrees in history and international relations from the University of Maryland. He completed the Naval War College international relations senior course in 1970.

Hirsch's service was varied and included tours of duty in the Aleutians during World War II and in the Vietnam highlands with the Central Intelligence Agency in 1967. He was stationed overseas in Japan and Germany. Promoted to brigadier general in 1972, Hirsch was a combat arms officer who spent many tours in Army air defense units, including several commands. As general, his final assignment was the senior air defense advisor to the chief of staff of the Army. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters.

Hirsch is survived by his two children and their families: Dr. Kenneth Hirsch, Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy (Ret.), and his wife, Nancy, of Hawaii; Larry Hirsch, developer-builder, and his wife, Kathy, of Alexandria, Va.; three grandchildren, Keith, Andrew, and Jennifer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services with full military honors were held at the Fort Myer Chapel on Friday, Dec. 28 at 11 a.m., and interment followed at Arlington National Cemetery.

Contributions in memory of Ed Hirsch may be made to the Zachary Fisher House, 6900 Georgia Avenue N.W., Building 56, Washington, D.C. 20307. Zachary Fisher established the Fisher House Foundation in 1990 to provide "homes away from home" for veterans in need of long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation and temporary residence for their visiting families.

Stephen S. Israel, *Rear Admiral, Retired*