



Fred S Hirsekorn

May 3, 1924 - April 13, 2019

A remarkable life ended on April 13, 2019, when Fred S. Hirsekorn passed away. Fred led a life committed to his country, his community, and his family. He was born in 1924 in Schoenlanke, Germany, to parents Ludwig and Paula Hirsekorn. The family fled the rising anti-Semitism in Germany in 1936, finding refuge in Kansas City. In 1942, at age 18, Fred joined the United States Army to fight for his adopted homeland. During the course of the war, he served with distinction in the 14th Armored Division. He was decorated twice for bravery and became the youngest 1st Sergeant in the European Theatre. Returning from his service, Fred attended the University of Kansas, where he studied chemical engineering and met the love of his life, Barbara Nelkin, who he had the good fortune to marry in 1948. Fred's career took him and his family around the country and around the world, including stints in West Virginia, Kansas, and England. The family eventually settled in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, where Fred would build a successful career and spend his life surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as countless friends. Throughout his life, Fred demonstrated his commitment to his community and to helping others. He supported Boy Scouts of America throughout his life, having earned both the rank of Eagle Scout and the Silver Beaver Award. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the American Red Cross, serving as board chair of the St. Paul Chapter in 1989, and was also a staunch advocate for Magen David Adom, the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross. Fred was particularly proud of his accomplishments as Board Chair of Minnesota Diversified Industries, where he worked to create meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with developmental and physical limitations. Fred was an enthusiastic and talented genealogist. Late in life, he became a writer and chronicled his extraordinary life in a memoir, which will be treasured by his family for generations to come. Then, much to everyone's surprise, he began writing poetry and prose, offering another window into the life and mind of this remarkable man. More than anything, Fred's joy came from his family and extended family. He is preceded in death by his beloved daughter Robin Greenwood (Mark). He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Barbara (ne. Nelkin), and daughters Susan Ahlquist (David), Ruth Fram (Witt), and Marla Collins (Mark), as well as twelve grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Fred knew he was loved, and he passed at the very time his family had come together to

celebrate his 95 years of life. May his memory be a blessing.

The funeral service will be held at HODROFF-EPSTEIN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 671 Snelling Ave. South, St. Paul, at 11:30 am on MONDAY, April 15. SHIVA will be held at 1700 Lexington Ave. South, on Monday, April 15, and Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 pm.

Memorials preferred to Robin Beth Greenwood Memorial Fund, UCSF Foundation; Jewish Family Service, St. Paul; or Allina Hospice Foundation.

Events

APR **Funeral Service** 11:30AM

15

Hodroff-Epstein Memorial Chapel - St. Paul
671 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN, US

APR **Shiva** 06:30PM

15

Hirse Korn Home
1700 So. Lexington Ave., Mendota Heights, MN, US, 55118

Comments



“ I was fortunate to meet Fred when he agreed to be in a St. Paul Jewish Federation video and tell his story about escaping Nazi Germany. He was so upfront and articulate about all he had been through. I am lucky to have been able to sit with him and ask him questions. I admire Fred's honesty and happy spirit. May his memory be a blessing.

Julie Swiler - April 16, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Marla...thoughts and prayers to you and your family
Margie Pihlstrom

margie pihlstrom - April 16, 2019 at 12:37 PM



“ Am sorry to hear of your sad news . I was very glad to have meet fred at the family reunion. I will remember him fondly

Zara Longman - April 15, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ I was blessed to know Fred and have visited him and Barbara. He left me marveled by his stories and inspired by his intellect and achievements, including spearheading the fight for the International Red Cross to recognize Magen David Adom through the leadership of the American Red Cross. My thoughts are with you all in your time of loss.

Judy Gonzalez - April 14, 2019 at 09:16 PM



“ DEAREST MARLA, MARK AND FAMILY
IT'S VERY HARD TO SAY GOODBYE
WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE HAS TO DIE
WHETHER AGE OR ILLNESS HAS WRINKLED THE FACE
AND WE ASSUME THEY'RE IN A BETTER PLACE
WARMTH AND SYMPATHIES ARE SENT TODAY
IN THE HOPES THAT THEY MAY
EASE THE PAIN YOU NOW BEAR
KNOWING YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO CARE.
YOUR DAD WAS A REMARKABLE MAN
MAY HE REST IN PEACE



Peggy Kane - April 14, 2019 at 04:48 PM



“ I send my deep sympathy and love to your family. You are in my heart and prayers.
May his memory be a blessing! Jeannie Marver

Jeannie Marver - April 14, 2019 at 01:01 PM