



Dr. Eric Willenz

August 5, 1921 - April 12, 2018

Eric Willenz was born in Vienna, Austria on August 5th 1921 to Hans and Lola Willenz (nee Lowenberg). He completed his Gymnasium (high school) education in 1939 and fled Austria at the age of 18 with his mother soon after the Anschluss. He lived in Chicago IL for 3 years before volunteering for the US Army Air Corps to fight in WWII as a navigator aboard a B-17 bomber, obtaining his US citizenship as part of the process.

At the end of WWII he served as an interrogator for the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals. After his discharge from the US Army Air Corps, he completed his Masters degree in political science and sociology at the New School for Social Research, and then joined the RAND corporation.

In 1953 he left RAND to continue his education and obtained his Ph.D. at Georgetown University, then joined the U.S. State Department. He rose to the position of Director of the Office of External Research and retired in 1984.

Eric was a professor of Political Science at American University, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and Georgetown University. Eric also worked as a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace and the Brookings Institution.

In 2016, Eric moved to Brighton Gardens to be closer to his children, and

passed away on April 12th, 2018 at the age of 96 with his family in close attendance.

Eric is survived by his two daughters, Nicole (Chris Gardner) and Pamela (Mike Heib), Opa to his grandson, Christopher Willenz Gardner Jr., and his first wife June Willenz. Eric will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made at:

Alzheimer's Foundation of America - <https://alzfdn.org/>

Jewish Social Services Agency - <http://jssa.org>

World Union for Progressive Judaism - <https://wupj.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Eric Willenz*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *I am so sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. There is a very comforting scripture found at Isaiah 25:8. It says that soon Jehovah will swallow up death forever and that he will wipe away all of the tears. So we can look forward to a time when death will be done away with forever. I hope that this scripture fanbbring some comfort during this time.*

April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM