

Obituary: Lee Nehrt

Professor Nehrt died on Mar.13, 2013 in Bloomington, Indiana. He was born in Baldwin, IL, the son of Martin and Amanda Nehrt, and graduated from Sparta High School in 1944. He received a BS in engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He met his wife, Ardith (nee Saltzman) in Honolulu and they were married in the Chapel at Pearl Harbor. After serving for four years as an officer in the Coast Guard, including several years as Executive Officer of the USCGC NETTLE, he resigned and, along with his wife, went to France where they studied for two years at the University of Paris from which he received a Diploma in Political Science. He then received an MBA from Columbia University followed by four years of work with Atomics International, a California company. He returned to Columbia University and earned his PhD in International Business in 1962.

His first teaching position was at Indiana University, beginning in 1962. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1965 and to Professor in 1969. In 1974, he transferred to Wichita State University where he was R. P. Clinton Professor of International Management (an endowed chair). From Kansas he went to New York City where he was Director of the World Trade Institute, in the World Trade Center. His last teaching position was as the Owens-Illinois Professor of International Management (an endowed chair) at Ohio State University. He retired from teaching in 1986.

Among his overseas consultancies, from 1965 - 1967 he was Ford Foundation Advisor to the Minister of Economics and Planning in Tunisia. From 1969 - 71 he was Chief of Party of a Ford Foundation project to develop the Institute of Business Administration in Dacca University in East Pakistan. Then, from 1986 - 1989 he was World Bank Advisor to the Ministry of Planning in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dr. Nehrt was a frequent consultant to the United Nations and to the World Bank. He was Chief of Mission on 23 consultancies to various countries in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

His professional association was the Academy of International Business, of which he was President from 1972 - 74 and then Dean of the Fellows of the Academy from 1978 - 81. He is the author of seven books, three monographs and various articles.

After retirement he founded, in Nashville, IN, the International Blacksmith Museum, of which he served as Director and Curator. He was a member of the Board of the East Monroe Water Co. and was Chairman of the Board of the Monroe County Red Cross.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Paul Nehrt, of Chester, IL, a sister, Ruby Saylor, of Long Beach, CA and a sister, Hulda Hammel, of Baldwin, IL.

He is survived in death by his wife of over 60 years, Ardith Ann Nehrt, of Bloomington, IN; his son, Chadwick Nehrt, of Cheshire, CT; his son Philip Nehrt, of Barrington, IL; his daughter, Dana Koch, of Oshkosh, WI; his six grandchildren, Ashley, Genevieve, Ross, James, Spenser and Alex; and two great-grandsons, Maddox and Jackson.

After cremation a private memorial will be held later in the year by the family. Friends and family may, if they wish, send a commemorative donation to Community Kitchen, Food Bank or the Red Cross.