



FRANCIS W. NIEDENFUHR

Francis William Niedenfuhr V, age 90, died on September 11, 2016, in West Orange, New Jersey, of complications from a head injury suffered in a fall. He had Parkinson's disease. Dr. Niedenfuhr was an engineering professor at the Ohio State University and was employed at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the MITRE Corporation before his retirement in 1991. He lived in Washington, DC, for over 50 years until August 2015.

Born on January 23, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois, Niedenfuhr grew up in Birmingham, Michigan. He served as a Sergeant in the Asiatic Pacific Theater with the U.S. Army during World War II. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in engineering mechanics at the University of Michigan in 1950 and 1951, when he went to California to work briefly for North American Aviation. He returned to the Midwest, where he earned his Ph.D. in engineering mechanics at OSU in 1957 and taught engineering mechanics at OSU from 1952-1964, leaving OSU as a full professor.

Moving to the Washington, DC, area in 1964, Dr. Niedenfuhr worked for the Institute for Defense Analyses, Research & Engineering Support Division until 1966. He then became Director of the Technology Assessment Office at DARPA, where he worked from 1966-1976 as they were developing the technology for ARPANET, the predecessor to the internet. In 1975 he received the Civilian Meritorious Service Award of the U.S. Secretary of Defense for his work at DARPA.

Dr. Niedenfuhr worked for MITRE from 1976-1991, first in the Battlefield Systems Division and then as a consulting engineer in the Strategic & Theater Army Systems Division. He published extensively in the field of military armaments, with 22 in-house publications and 36 outside refereed journal papers on subjects ranging from weapons effectiveness to communications systems performance.

After his retirement in 1991, Dr. Niedenfuhr devoted much of his time to Egyptology, focusing on the language and literature of the Pharaonic Period. He was president of the Washington, DC, chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) from 1992-2002 and continued to lead a study group of ARCE-DC members that translated classical Egyptian hieroglyphic texts until 2014, as well as teaching Ancient Egyptian at Georgetown University and the Institute for Learning in Retirement. He was also a member of the Cosmos Club from 1998 until his death.

Survivors include his wife of more than 65 years, Susan (Jones) Niedenfuhr of West Orange, New Jersey, a former Agnes Meyer (*Washington Post*) teacher of the year for the DC public school system; two daughters: Mary Niedenfuhr of West Orange, New Jersey, and Lisa Niedenfuhr of Ojai, California; and four grandchildren. Donations may be made in his name to the American Research Center in Egypt-Washington, DC Chapter at arcedc.org/ or to support research for Parkinson's disease at michaeljfox.org. A memorial service will be held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC at 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

