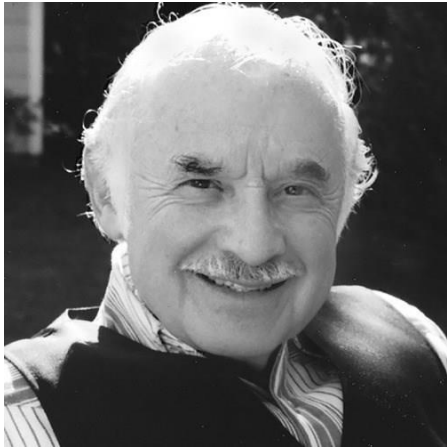


# Manuel Carl Zenick Obituary

July 8, 1926 - January 27, 2024



Manuel "Mick" Zenick, a longtime resident of the Washington area, died at age 97 from complications of a fall. Born in Hudson, New York of immigrant parents from Czarist Russia, Mick was educated in public schools in Hudson and Brooklyn, NY. He received a BS from Baruch College at City University in New York. Mick interrupted his college studies at 17 to join the Navy during WWII and served at various domestic bases at Guantanamo Bay before his final assignment as the sole medic aboard the USS ATR5, a seagoing tugboat. Following the war, he resumed his college education which included a summer program in Europe to study the Marshall Plan. Mick later completed studies at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in

Geneva, Switzerland.

Passing the Junior Professional examination was the beginning of Mick's challenging and interesting overseas assignments. He first started in the US State Department as an economist before transferring to the US Foreign Aid Program. His first overseas assignment was in Paris where he served on the US Delegation to NATO and OEEC. Returning to the US in 1963, he received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study economics under Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago. Mick then accepted an offer from the World Bank working primarily with the Caribbean and Colombia. In 1969 he was selected to open the first Resident Bank Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. Under the King, Afghanistan at the time was a peaceful, but extremely poor, country with a government eager to accept developmental assistance from the World Bank and other international agencies. Having a Resident Mission resulted in the country's receipt of critical economic assistance. Once back in Washington, Mick realized how much he missed hands-on work in developing countries. Inspired by the stories of his wife Linda's Peace Corps service as a nurse midwife volunteer in Malaysia, Mick sought employment with the Peace Corps. For five years, he served as Country Director in Thailand and Guatemala. He took great pride in supporting and assisting dedicated volunteers in health, education, and agricultural projects. Mick returned to the World Bank headquarters in 1979 where he served as Chief of the Korea Division. He was delighted with his last assignment as Chief Loan Officer in the World Bank Mission in Indonesia until his retirement in 1988.

In his long retirement, he visited "paths less traveled" including Tibet, Easter Island, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and PNG. Besides travel, he designed and built a vacation home in Berkeley Springs, WVA; answered the comment line in the Clinton White House; taught a course on the 1920s at American University's Institute of Learning in Retirement; and actively participated in the Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Thomas Wolfe Societies. He loved 1920s big band jazz, card playing, the theater, dim sum, and political banter. Mick treasured the many friendships from his overseas posts and keeping in touch with people he met in his travels. A few months before his death, he self-published a memoir and some poetry. Mick leaves behind his wife of 55 years Linda, their daughters Emily (Tom), Jenny (Eddie), and their

children Benjamin and Henry Bergeron and Miles and Cora Wexler. He also leaves children from his first marriage Pamela Zenick, Jeffrey Zenick, Melanie Lynch (Tom), Andrew Zenick, four grandchildren - Jeremy, Sara, Mollie and Nadia - and numerous friends and neighbors who enriched his life. A celebration of life for family and friends will be held in March; an interment at Arlington National Cemetery will take place next year. Donations in his memory can be made to [Doctors Without Borders](#) or Heifer International.

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