

Colonel (Ret.) Harold E. Fischer Jr., 83, passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 30, 2009.

He was born May 8, 1925 in Seneca Township, Lone Rock, Iowa, son of Harold E. and Pearl (Frederickson) Fischer. He received his education at Burt High School ('43) and entered the Navy in 1944. After discharge, he attended Iowa State University for two years before joining the Army. He transferred to the Air Force and completed both Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Iowa State University (Ames).

His military career spanned 30 years. He served as a fighter pilot in the Korean War, flew 105 combat missions, and shot down 10 airplanes before becoming a political prisoner of the People's Republic of China. During the Vietnam War he completed 200 combat missions primarily as a helicopter pilot. Other services included instructor, intelligence officer, tactical evaluation officer, and research associate assigned to MIT.

Military titles include Chief of Objectives and Assessment Branch (Pentagon), Commander of the Human Resources Laboratory, and Member of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (cabinet level).

Decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and numerous unit and campaign medals.

He was a member of the Association of Intelligence Officers, American Ex-Prisoners of War, American Fighter Aces, Disabled American Veterans, China Post No.1 of the American Legion, Legion of Valor, and the Retired Officers Association.

He is survived by four children: Dana Fischer of Ames, Iowa, Harold III of San Antonio, Texas, Kurt of Tivoli, New York, and Clint of Ankeny, Iowa. He leaves five grandsons: Harold IV of San Antonio, Scott Keefe of Seattle, Washington, Alexander and Austin of Ankeny, Iowa, and Pascal of Tivoli, New York. He is also survived by his companion Tsai Lan Gerth. Preceding him in death were his infant daughter Katherine Ann, his father, and mother.

A memorial service is planned for the China Post No. 1 reunion in Las Vegas in September. He is to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be sent to China Post No. 1, POB 570607, Houston, TX 77257-0607 or to the Disabled American Veterans.