



Sol Hirsch (1923-2014)

NWA Charter Member (1975)

Executive Director (1981-1992)

Sol Hirsch began his weather career in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 when he was selected to attend school for observers at Chanute Air Force Base. He served as an observer at a number of air bases until 1946 when he chose to leave the service and return to college under the GI bill. He returned to the City College of New York in 1946 and received a B.S. degree with a major in Meteorology in 1950. Mr. Hirsch began work for the U.S. Weather Bureau in that same year by accepting an appointment as a weather observer in Baltimore, Maryland. He instituted service at the new Friendship Airport and was soon promoted to the Observer–Briefer category and continued in that capacity until 1952 when he was promoted to the forecaster grade. As a forecaster he prepared forecasts for Baltimore City, Maryland, the Delaware zone forecasts, and for a period the two state forecasts. A number of radio broadcasts originated from the Weather office each day through a local radio station, and Mr. Hirsch delivered several thousand during the period from 1952 to 1962.

In 1962 he accepted a promotion to work in the newly formed Weather Bureau satellite program. This program grew in leaps and bounds and soon became an independent agency, and after a series of name changes became known as the National Environmental Satellite Service. The program was based in Suitland, Maryland and involved a daily round-trip commute in excess of 100 miles. In 1966 he enrolled in an evening master's program at Johns Hopkins University receiving a degree in management science in 1971. In 1978 there was a temporary assignment to

the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility in Washington as a satellite specialist in a program sponsored by NOAA and USDA. In 1980 Mr. Hirsch retired after more than 30 years of service.

Upon retiring, Mr. Hirsch, in concert with three other retired meteorologists, organized a private consulting firm called Intercon Weather Consultants, which was located in the Suitland area. In 1981, Mr. Hirsch was asked to assume the job of Executive Director for the National Weather Association. In 1988, the members of the consulting company decided to retire again and consequently Mr. Hirsch formed a new company called Capitol Weather Consultants. Sol Hirsch continued as Executive Director in the Temple Hills' office until the beginning of 1993 when he retired. He remained active as Chairman of the Education Committee for many years.

Mr. Hirsch was a charter member of the National Weather Association, and a member of the American Meteorological Society. He was an organizer and charter member of both the Association of American Weather Observers and the International Weather Watchers, two amateur weather organizations that unfortunately are no longer in existence. He was active on the boards of three volunteer organizations and had served as president of one. Sol passed away on Oct. 8, 2014, in Baltimore. He is survived by his wife Shirley, six children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.