

In Memoriam



John Hardt

John Hardt, an alumnus of the Russian Institute Class of 1955, and a Columbia University Ph.D. in economics, died in December 2015 at the age of 93. He was preceded in death by six months by his wife of over sixty years, Mary, and is survived by five sons and ten grandchildren. John worked for over thirty years as senior specialist in Soviet (and later post-Soviet) economics at the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

John was born in Seattle, Washington, and during World War II served as army captain in France, Germany, the Philippines, and Japan, receiving ribbons and battle stars in both the European and Asiatic theaters of operations.

After earning his degree, John worked for the Operations Research Office and the Research Analysis Corporation, both in the Washington area, before joining the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in 1971. As a senior specialist at CRS he advised members of Congress and their staff on economic issues related to socialist and postsocialist countries. He frequently testified before congressional committees and traveled as adviser with congressional delegations. John accompanied Hubert Humphrey on a delegation to meet with the Soviet Party secretary in 1974; he advised a senate strategic arms limitation delegation to the Soviet Union in 1979, participated in a trade mission of the Ways and Means Committee to Eastern Europe in 1983, and accompanied congressional staff delegations to China in 1993 and 1998. As part of his duties he also briefed new members of Congress on contemporary trade and economic issues.

He retired from CRS in 2003. A tribute by Senator Robert Bennett honoring his service to Congress appeared in the *Congressional Record* that year.

John was author and editor of numerous books, from *The Cold War Economic Gap* (1961) to *Russia's Uncertain Economic Future* (2003). He was perhaps best known as editor of an extensive series of collective volumes published by the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress on economies of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China. Some of the over seventy volumes in the series include *China Under the Four Modernizations* (1982), *Gorbachev's Economic Plans* (1987), and *Eastern European Economies in Transition* (1994).

He was adjunct professor in economics at George Washington University for almost four decades, beginning in 1966, and he also taught at Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, the University of Maryland, the Foreign Service Institute, and the Army War College.