



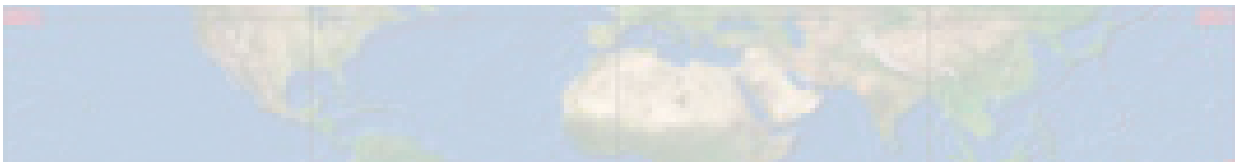
Irene K. Fischer
1907-2009

Irene Kaminka Fischer, one of the most internationally prominent geodesists of the past generation, died October 22, 2009, at the age of 102. Her professional career, spanning the period from 1952 to 1977, was spent at the Army Map Service and its successor agencies. Her outstanding record was manifested by election to the National Academy of Engineering and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Hall of Fame. A serialization of her biographical and professional memoirs appeared in the *ACSM Bulletin* in 15 installments from issues 207 (Jan/Feb 2004) to 221 (June 2006).

A few of you met my mother in person, more of you knew of her through my stories, and others in the MIT community or just as my friends may be interested in her rich web of connections to all three. With her memoir, which was published in the *ACSM Bulletin* between 2004 and 2006, and then as a book in 2005, she connected with many others outside the circle of mathematicians and geodesists with whom she had been associated.

Her twenty-five-year career at the Army Map Service where she worked on what became the World Geodetic System, produced over 120 scientific publications. She also published a high school geometry textbook in 1965—one of her many endeavors as an educator. Her memoir, which she wrote after retiring in 1975, covers the field of geodesy between 1951 and 1975, and draws attention to what it was like doing science in a man's world in a government bureaucracy.

My mother died after a brief bout with pneumonia in Brighton, Mass., three blocks from where she had first lived as an immigrant in 1941.—*Michael J. Fischer, MIT*



Robert W. Marx
2009

It is with a sad heart that I inform you of the passing of Robert W. Marx, former Chief of Geography Division. Bob succumbed to an illness on Monday, September 7, 2009 with his family at his side.

Bob's passing was quite a shock to everyone. While he had been ill, and required a bone marrow transplant, everyone was hopeful for a full recovery. His donor was a perfect match. Problems began arising in his body's acceptance of the graft.

Bob served as Chief of the Geography Division from 1983 to 2003 (interrupted by a 3 year period as Associate Director in the 1990s to prepare for Census 2000). He was the architect of the Census Bureau's TIGER System which began in the early 1980s as a collaborative effort with the U.S. Geological Survey. Bob was a visionary who sought ways to advance the importance of census geography through new technological developments that were made practical through useful applications. By making spatial data for the nation available, the TIGER effort opened the way

for GIS development and created an entire new industry which continues to grow. Bob was a friend to all and will be sadly missed by his colleagues.

During his more than 36-year career at the Census Bureau, he received several awards for exceptional performance, including the Department of Commerce's Gold and Silver Medals, and the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award.

Bob Marx is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jan. They have two grown sons and eight grandchildren.—*Tim Trainor, Chief, Geography Division U.S. Census Bureau*

Donations in honor of Bob can be made to:

University Of Minnesota Bone Marrow Transplant Program, University Medical Center, MMC 803, 420 Delaware St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. URL: <http://www.fairviewbmt.org/Giving/index.asp>. Contact Leslie Parran, Senior Director, BMT Program at 1-612-273-2800 or 1-888-601-0787.