



Fort Apache Heritage Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 507, Fort Apache, AZ 85926

MEMORANDUM

To: FAHF Board of Directors
From: Joe Kalt, Board Chair
Subject: Creation of The Frederic M. Henderson Memorial Scholarship Fund at Fort Apache
Date: April 29, 2012

Through the leadership of Board member, Brian Henderson, and the support of respectful donors, the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of The Frederic M. Henderson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Lt. Colonel (USA Ret.) Frederic (Fred) Maxwell Henderson was Brian's father. Fred's biography is attached. He was the grandson of Manuel, an Apache Scout for the United States Army from approximately 1880-1910 and was raised in Tucson, Arizona. Fred served in the United States Army and the Central Intelligence Agency during World War II and the Cold War. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in April 2012.

The Memorial Scholarship Fund honors Fred Henderson and supports the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation's promotion of historic Fort Apache as a contemporary contributor to education which benefits the White Mountain Apache Tribe of Arizona. The Fund will be administered by the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation under policies set forth by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The structure and administration of the Fund will be discussed at the Board meeting of May 11, 2012.

Fred Henderson



Following a long illness, Lt. Colonel (USA Ret.), Frederic Maxwell Henderson died peacefully on January 13, 2012 near his home in Melbourne, Florida. He will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on April 10th. He would have celebrated his 94th birthday on March 5th.

Fred Henderson was an intelligence officer – clearly an inadequate phrase to describe the complexity of his work and the passion and dedication which he brought to it during his long and distinguished career. He served in the United States Army and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during World War II and the Cold War. His accomplishments, like those of many past and present professionals in the clandestine services, have been unrecognized and unpublicized. While Fred Henderson and his colleagues preferred their anonymity, it is only now with his death that a portion of his story can be told.

Fred was born into a poor Native American family in Tucson, Arizona in 1918. Growing up he was exposed to three different cultures and languages, which provided him with a unique talent that would prove useful in later years. He also served in the Arizona National Guard for four years while still in high school from 1932 to 1936. He studied at University of Arizona for a few years in the late 1930s, adding Italian to his repertoire of languages, but dropped out of school to work in the waning days of the Great Depression.

Fred enlisted in the United States Army soon after Pearl Harbor. The Army, in the process of mobilizing millions of men for the war effort, needed able men to fill thousands of different jobs. Tests revealed Fred Henderson's high IQ and superior language ability. He was sent to officer candidate school, commissioned a second lieutenant, and, after advanced infantry training, assigned to the Army Intelligence training facility at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. He learned there the rudiments of counter-intelligence and took a refresher course in Italian before being sent to North Africa in early 1943 to work as an interrogator in the Combined Allied Interrogation Unit interviewing Italian prisoners-of-war. Following the Allied invasion of Southern Italy in the fall of 1943, Henderson commanded small, clandestine units gathering intelligence behind enemy lines. Their work included rescuing downed airmen and returning them safely to Allied lines. This effort continued throughout the Italian Campaign and included occasional forays into occupied Yugoslavia. Fred received the Bronze Star for Valor in recognition of his service.

After the invasion of Southern France in mid-summer 1944, Fred was transferred to that theater of operations. He continued his difficult intelligence-gathering work behind enemy lines and also participated in the rescue of Allied POWs from occupied and newly liberated areas of France. By the end of the war in May of 1945, Fred was in Germany, and because of his language skills (he now spoke German) and skill as an interrogator, he was assigned to the Preliminary War Crimes Investigation group, tracking German military and civilian suspects.

Fred was demobilized at the end of 1946 and returned to the United States. He used the GI Bill to complete his college education at George Washington University, earning a BA in Government. He was recommissioned an officer in the US Army in 1948 and assigned to Detachment "R" in Regensburg,

Germany. This specialized unit prepared Army officers for assignment as military attaches in capitals behind the Iron Curtain. In 1950, now a captain, Henderson commanded an infantry company assigned to the Combined British-American Command in Trieste, Italy, part of the United Nation's effort to prevent hostilities between then-Communist Yugoslavia and Italy over the disputed border.

Henderson returned to the United States in 1952, and was recruited to work for the newly-established CIA. Following specialized intelligence training and Russian language study (Fred's sixth language), he was assigned to the Agency's Soviet Bloc Division. He returned to Germany as a case officer and operated in both Berlin, the epicenter of the Cold War, and Frankfurt. The CIA transferred Fred to Madrid in 1957, where, at the request of the Spanish government, he helped process Spaniards returning from the Soviet Union. Many of these men had fought with the Spanish Blue Division on the Eastern Front and had been captured and interned for more than a decade. Others had been members of the Republican Government, who had fled with their families to the Soviet Union after Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War. The careful repatriation process, developed in part by Fred Henderson, revealed that the KGB had inserted impostors and plants among the returnees. In the end, one out of three were so identified and returned to the Soviet Union.

Fred returned to Washington in 1961, and was assigned to the CIA office in Miami, which was monitoring Cuba in the months after the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the subsequent Cuban Missile Crisis. Henderson remained in Miami until late 1965, with a brief stint in Santo Domingo immediately following the American intervention in the Dominican Republic. He then returned to Washington and was involved in numerous Agency counter-intelligence operations in such disparate countries as Japan, Mexico, Morocco and the Cote d'Ivoire.

Another tour in Germany in the late 1960s was followed by an assignment in South Vietnam beginning in early 1970. Henderson served as Province Officer in Charge of Ben Tre Province in the Mekong Delta. Fred remained in country until the end of 1972. Following completion of this tour, Henderson retired from the Agency. Fred also had remained in the Army Reserves and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel at the time of his retirement.

During his CIA service, Fred Henderson became one of the Agency's most effective case officers. His success in dozens of deep cover assignments in three continents was the product of his extraordinary language facility, which allowed him to adapt effortlessly to different cultures. His mixed race allowed him to blend in to societies across the world without arousing suspicion as he successfully completed his clandestine work. Through it all, Henderson was sustained by his superior intellect and his strong patriotism.

Fred Henderson is survived by his wife of 69 years, Virginia L. McKee Henderson, six children, twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

His family requests that donations be made in his honor to the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 507, Fort Apache, AZ 85926.