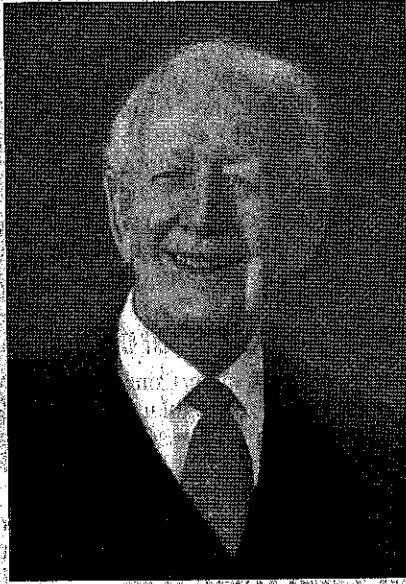


**John W. McDonald** *CH-R*  
"Making the Impossible Possible" *9-245-2019*

John W. McDonald, 97, a retired Foreign Service officer, passed away peacefully on May 17 in Arlington, Va.

Mr. McDonald was born on Feb. 18, 1922, in Koblenz, Germany, where his father, Capt. John W. McDonald, an army cavalry officer, was stationed during the occupation of the Rhineland at the end of World War I.

Mr. McDonald earned a bachelor's degree in 1943 from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He received a law degree from the University of Illinois in 1946 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in the same year.



In early 1947 Mr. McDonald arrived at the Office of Military Government-U.S. in Berlin, one of the first civilians to work in the U.S. Legal Division of the Four-Power Allied Control Council.

He joined the Foreign Service in 1949 and was named to the Allied High Commission and as assistant district attorney in Frankfurt. In 1950 he assumed the role of U.S. Secretary of the Law Commission of the Allied High Commission in Bad Godesberg.

In 1952 Mr. McDonald moved with his family to Paris, where he worked on the Marshall Plan as staff secretary to the U.S. Mission to NATO.

In 1955 he was assigned to the Office of Policy Reports and Operations in Washington, D.C., and named interim executive secretary of the International Cooperation Administration, the forerunner of USAID, until he was formally sworn into this position in 1956.

In 1959 he was assigned to CENTO (formerly the Baghdad Pact) in Ankara to oversee the building of a 3,000-kilometer microwave system along the Turkish-Soviet border and a railroad linking Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

From 1963 to 1966 Mr. McDonald worked at Embassy Cairo on economic and agricultural affairs. He returned to Washington, D.C., for a one-year program at the National War College. In 1967 Mr. McDonald was assigned to the Bureau of International Organizations.

During a 40-year diplomatic career, Mr. McDonald served for eight years in Europe, four years in Washington, D.C., eight years in the Middle East and then, for the next 20 years, focused almost exclusively on multilateral affairs, including four years with the United Nations as deputy director-general of the International Labour Organization in Geneva.

**U.S. Ambassador (ret.)  
John Warlick McDonald**

U.S. Ambassador (ret.) John Warlick McDonald, 97, of Arlington, Va., and formerly of Grinnell, died May 17, 2019, in Arlington, surrounded by family and friends, and with his wife Christel at his side.

A memorial service is scheduled for Friday, June 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6201 Washington Blvd., in Arlington. Light refreshments will follow. Those who wish may then join the family for the interment at National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Hwy., Falls Church, Va.

In lieu of flowers, contribution may be made to the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD), 1901 North Fort Myers Dr., Suite 405, Arlington, VA 22209, or to the charity of your choice.

*CH-R 5-27-20 2019*

In 1983 Mr. McDonald joined the newly created Center for the Study of Foreign Affairs at the Foreign Service Institute. There he helped pioneer the emerging academic field of conflict resolution.

Mr. McDonald was accorded the personal rank of ambassador twice by President Jimmy Carter and twice by President Ronald Reagan. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1989.

Mr. McDonald then briefly taught law at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and was the first president of the Iowa Peace Institute in Grinnell, Iowa, from 1989 to 1991.

In 1992, he returned to Washington to cofound, with Dr. Louise Diamond, the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, an organization that sought to develop and promote a systems approach to peacebuilding around the world. After 25 years as its chairman and CEO, Mr. McDonald retired in 2017 at age 95.

Mr. McDonald was nominated in 1994 for the Nobel Peace Prize, obtained several honorary degrees from universities, was a member of the Cosmos Club and was an avid fencer throughout his diplomatic career.

Family members and friends recall Mr. McDonald's lifelong motto: The only way to solve a problem at any level of society is to sit down face-to-face and talk about it.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Kathleen in 1988 and his son James in 2002.

Mr. McDonald is survived by his wife of 48 years, Christel G. McDonald; two daughters, Dr. Marilyn McDonald (and her husband, Dr. Michael Edwards) of Madison, Wis., and Laura Schneider (and her husband, Bernie Schneider) of Battle Ground, Wash.; four grandchildren and their spouses; and six great-grandchildren.



John and Christel on their wedding day, October 24, 1970, in Hamburg, Germany

Mr. McDonald's papers will be deposited in a special collection of the Pioneers of Conflict Resolution at George Mason University's Fenwick Library. His work in bilateral, multilateral and multitrack diplomacy is outlined in his memoir, "The Shifting Grounds of Conflict and Peacebuilding: Stories and Lessons (Lexington Books, 2009)."

*"The only way to solve a conflict at any level  
Of society is to sit down face to face to solve it."*

*John W. McDonald U.S. Ambassador, ret.  
President of the Iowa Peace Institute (1989-91)*