

Leonard I. Robock
Foreign Service Officer

Leonard I. Robock, 83, a former Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Information Agency in Thailand, Australia and Egypt, died April 25 at his home in Springfield. He suffered from complications of dementia pugilistica.

Mr. Robock began his career with the USIA in 1960 as a radio-TV officer in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 1967, he moved to Washington and became chief of the Thai language service for Voice of America. Later, he was the USIA desk officer for Thailand and Burma.

In the early 1970s, he was cultural attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia. Later, in Washington, he was a career counselor for senior Foreign Service officers and a program specialist and program development officer. Mr. Robock's final USIA assignment was as a public affairs officer in Alexandria, Egypt, from 1978 to 1980.

He was a member of the State Department's Foreign Service Grievance Board from 1980 to 1984.

Mr. Robock, a native of St. Paul, Minn., graduated with a bachelor's degree in labor economics from the University of Wisconsin, where he was a boxing champion.

During World War II, he was a bombardier in the Army Air Forces in Europe. He flew 20 sorties as a gunner and radio operator and served in Normandy and elsewhere in Northern France, in Rhineland, in the Ardennes and in Central Europe. He was awarded the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

After the war, he received a master's degree in international relations from Columbia University in 1946. Over the next decade, he taught English at the Modern School of Languages in Prague, was an economic analyst at the U.S. Embassy in London and taught at Columbia University and Community College of New York. In 1960, Mr. Robock was an information officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

He was a member of the American Foreign Policy Association, Rotary Club, Save the Children Federation, American Federation of Government Employees and Women's Action Organization.

Mr. Robock volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Fairfax County and Youth for Understanding in Washington.

His marriage to Ann Komatz Robock ended in divorce.

Survivors include a brother, Stefan H. Robock of New York.