

Remembering EPS Founder Robert J. Schwartz

[Back to Previous Page](#)

As this issue of the newsletter was being composed, EPS lost two of its guiding lights. While John Kenneth Galbraith, ECAAR's first Trustee, may have been more well known to the world, Robert J. Schwartz was the driving energy behind our very existence. Instead of my regular letter, I cede this space to other members, to share their remembrances of our founder with you. I am profoundly inspired by the lives of these two great men, and honored to carry on their vision.

Thea Harvey, Executive Director, EPS

At the end of the Cold War period, Bob decided to devote his attention, insight, and tireless efforts to furthering progress toward his goals instead of leading a more relaxing life of professional retirement. He devoted the remaining decades of his life to the search for worldwide peace and broad-based social improvement. His contributions will be remembered and used as the basis for moving along a path for lofty goals on a world scale.

The founding of ECAAR and promotion of dynamic and widespread interest toward peace and security was not his first effort towards social advancement. I recall our interactions when I discussed with him the program for a meeting on socially responsible investing to be held at the Wharton School. I learned from discussions with Bob that he had engaged in early, pioneering efforts in bringing socially responsible investment instruments to New York financial centers. His contribution to the struggle for world peace came naturally from his early efforts as a financial entrepreneur.

I am confident that EPS, earlier known as ECAAR, will continue its fine work, as Bob would have liked.

Lawrence Klein, first ECAAR co-chair

Bob Schwartz was an extraordinary man, a marine (he never liked being called an ex-marine) dedicated to peace, a Wall Street-savvy socialist, an idealist who had his feet on the ground.

Bob helped begin many things, but the credit for the beginning of EPS (or ECAAR as it was) is uniquely his. He announced the idea at an afternoon event in East Hampton and I believe that by writing the first check I was his first member. But it was Bob's show completely, although he always had the sense to keep himself in the background as Treasurer, while giving the limelight to a constellation of Nobel Laureates whom he recruited one by one.

When Bob anointed me his successor as Treasurer, I knew I would not be able to fill his shoes. If there really is something that corresponds to an eternal reward, Bob deserves it.

John Tepper Marlin, EPS/ECAAR member

On behalf of our group we express our feelings of solidarity with the loss of such a founder, well known and dear to several of our board members. He was like John Kenneth Galbraith and Jan Tinbergen, of an earlier generation, and they are leaving us now. May the strong commitment to political responsibility of professional economists which he tried to express in such active enterprising way be remembered always. We are thankful for what Bob directly and indirectly contributed to our own Dutch Flemish organization.

Piet Terhal, Chair Economen voor Vrede (Dutch/Flemish EPS Affiliate)

It is always a pleasure for me to meet someone who likes life as much as Bob Schwartz did. I liked his activism,

but even more I liked his character, his wonderful and slow smile, his manner of speaking, his eyes directly on yours when he wanted to convince and on the universe when he spoke about the principles of life. Our group is very sad about this news. We are sure that his idea of a more peaceful world will be pursued and shared by all of his friends.

Jacques Fontanel, Chair, EPS-France

Economists for Peace and Security

<http://www.epsusa.org>