

## WALTER WIESMAN

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### **Biographical Sketch**

Walter Wiesman is a consultant, lecturer and writer with a challenging career spanning nearly six decades. Born in Germany, he came to the United States in 1945 as the youngest member of the "German rocket team". He has been a resident of Huntsville since 1950 and became a U.S. citizen in 1954.

He retired the first time in 1970 at age 50 after 25 years of U.S. government service in missile and space projects. His work for the U.S. Army and NASA included hundreds of assignments as speaker and in public affairs tasks. He was widely recognized as a pioneer in organizational communication.

Wiesman was active for the next 15 years in economic development for Huntsville and as international relations consultant for the Alabama Development Office. He is a former member of the Economic Development Association of Alabama and the Southern Industrial Development Council. He was nominated as 1989 Alabama Economic Development Volunteer of the Year and is now Honorary Representative for the Partnership for Economic Development of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

He has worked as volunteer with the University of Alabama in Huntsville for more than a decade and was the 1990-92 executive-in-residence at the UAH College of Administrative Science.

Beginning with the 1952 presidency of the Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce, Wiesman has held leadership positions in local, state and national organizations. He is a Senator of Junior Chamber International, past president of the Huntsville Rotary Club and past governor of Rotary International District 6860 (North Alabama). He was the 1962 national president of the Industrial Communication Council and served four years on the board of directors of the National Council for International Visitors.

Wiesman was the recipient of the 1976 Huntsville Distinguished Service Award. He was decorated by the Federal Republic of Germany with the Cross of Merit in 1978 for his contributions to German American relations. In 1980, the National Management Association presented him its Medallion for his efforts to promote the private enterprise system. He was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge in 1981 and was one of the 1984 recipients of the Brotherhood Award presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In 1993, Wiesman was presented the honorary degree of Doctor of Management by the Southeastern Institute of Technology.

Walt and Erica Wiesman have been married since 1943 and their two children live in Huntsville.