<u>Home</u> | <u>Sources</u> | <u>How Do I?</u> | <u>Site Map</u> | <u>What's New</u> | <u>Help</u>

Search Terms: roger sperry, dies

FOCUSTM

Edit Search

Document List Expanded List KWIC

Full

Document 1 of 1.

Copyright 1994 The Washington Post The Washington Post

View Related Topics

April 20, 1994, Wednesday, Final Edition; Correction Appended

SECTION: METRO; PAGE B4; OBITUARIES

LENGTH: 1429 words

HEADLINE: Roger Sperry, Nobel Prize Winner, **Dies**

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Richard Pearson, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Roger W. Sperry, 80, an experimental neurobiologist who was a co-winner of the 1981 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, died April 17 in Pasadena, Calif., after a heart attack.

Dr. Sperry was a professor of psychobiology at the California Institute of Technology for 30 years before retiring as professor emeritus in 1984. He was cited by the Nobel committee for "his discoveries of the specialization of both cerebral hemispheres" and the development of an "entirely new dimension in our comprehension of the higher functions of the brain."

Dr. Sperry received half of the 1981 Nobel; the other half was shared by David H. Hubel and Torsten N. Wiesel. Dr. Sperry also was the recipient of a 1979 Albert Lasker Medical Research Award for his work on mental illness and psychosomatic disease. President Bush presented him with a National Medal of Science in 1989.

He gained attention during his Caltech years with a series of studies involving split-brain experiments. This involved using animals, and then humans, who had the fibers between their brain hemispheres surgically separated. His work demonstrated how the two hemispheres work both independently and in concert with regard to learning and memory.

He also began mapping portions of the brain and their specialized functions. His experiments showed that the left hemisphere, which controls speech, is more involved with abstract thought and logical reasoning; the right hemisphere focuses on intuitive thinking and other nonverbal processes.

His work had major implications for work now being done in the fields of anatomy, medicine, education and philosophy.

Dr. Sperry was a native of Hartford and a veteran of World War II. At Oberlin College, he received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in psychology. He received a doctorate in zoology from the University of Chicago.

Before joining the Caltech faculty, he held fellowships at Harvard University and at Yerkes Laboratories in Atlanta. He also had been an assistant anatomy professor and an associate psychology professor at Chicago and a National Institutes of Health section chief, dealing with neurological diseases and blindness.

In addition to his split-brain research, he had done pioneering work in the 1940s on brain cell function and vision, and in the 1960s on the growth and organization of neurons. He showed that neurons are guided by chemical codes rather than by specific genetic information.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Norma Deupree Sperry of Pasadena; two children; a brother; and two grandchildren.

HOWARD E. CAMP JR.

Red Cross Official

Howard E. Camp Jr., 68, a retired American Red Cross official who was active in church affairs, died April 15 at Arlington Hospital. He had pulmonary fibrosis.

A resident of Arlington, Mr. Camp was born into an Army family at Fort Sam Houston, Tex. During World War II, he served in the Army in Europe. He was a graduate of Louisiana State University.

Mr. Camp began his career with the Red Cross in 1949, when he joined the staff of the eastern regional office in Alexandria. He later was director of safety and disaster in Richmond.

In 1962, he returned to the Alexandria office. He held various positions in safety and disaster services and then became eastern regional manager for services to chapters. He held that post when he retired in 1983.

Mr. Camp was a former president of the Parent-Teacher Association at Maury Elementary School in Arlington