



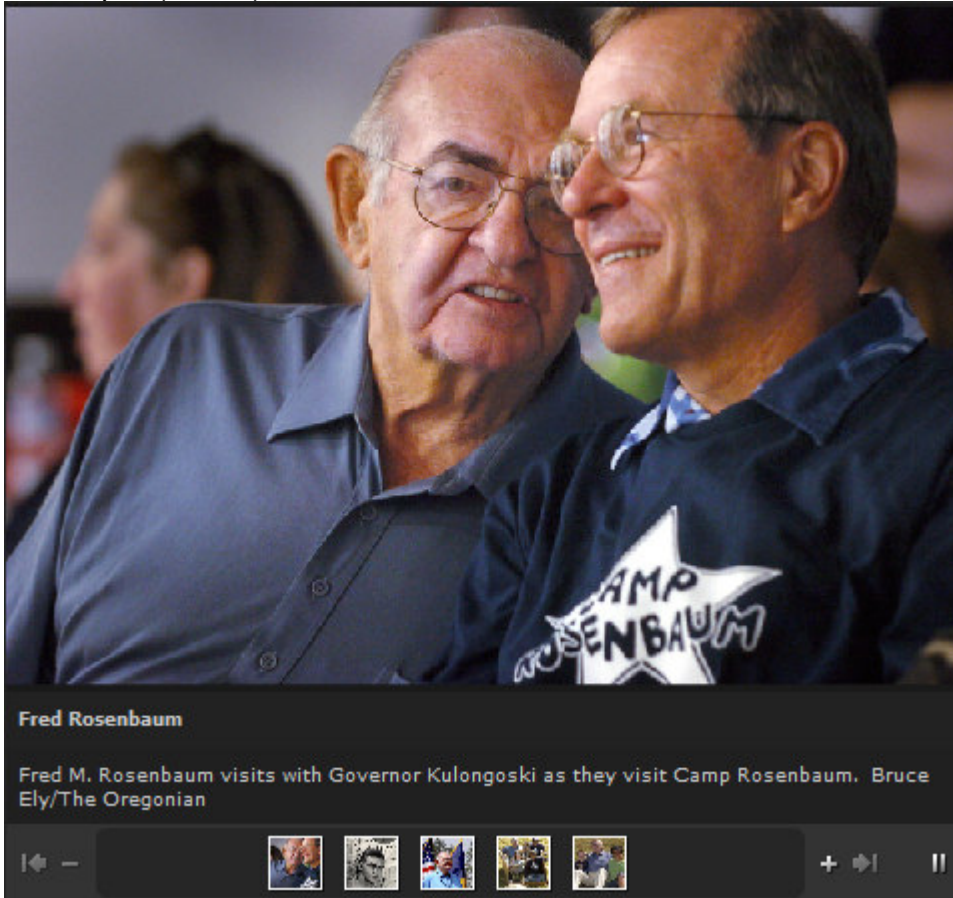
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Everything Oregon

Fred Rosenbaum, Oregon leader, philanthropist and Holocaust survivor, dies

By Amy Hsuan, The Oregonian

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With Nazi secret police approaching, 12-year-old Fred Rosenbaum escaped through a window of his Vienna schoolhouse.

One of thousands of Jewish children to later flee to England through an organized rescue movement, Rosenbaum never forgot the strangers who helped him escape the Holocaust.

In Oregon, the experience defined Rosenbaum's more than 60 years of service to dozens of causes. It earned him legions of fans, spanning the breadth of former governors, military elite and at-risk youths.

Rosenbaum, heralded as an "Oregon treasure," died early Tuesday of kidney cancer at the age of 83.

He was many things to many people: a brigadier general of the Oregon Air National Guard, the former chairman of the Housing Authority of Portland, an established businessman who founded an annual summer camp that has hosted thousands of Oregon children and is now known as Camp Rosenbaum.

"Oregon is less of a place because Fred has died," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who met Rosenbaum in the

early 1980s and developed a long relationship with him. "I wish there were more Fred Rosenbaums."



Courtesy Camp Rosenbaum Retired Brigadier General Fred Rosenbaum, founder of Camp Rosenbaum on the Oregon coast, clowns around with two of the camp's participants in 2005.

An unwavering patriot and tireless philanthropist, Rosenbaum forged an extraordinary life. Landmarks bear his name. In downtown Portland, there is the Rosenbaum Plaza apartment building with housing for senior citizens. At the Portland Air Base, there's the Fred Rosenbaum Hangar, where soldiers returning from Iraq are welcomed home.

Behind the namesakes, there was the man who never stopped wanting to make the world a more humane place -- a man with a gift for getting things done.

"Anybody who got to know Dad understood his experience in Nazi Germany impacted his entire life," said Mark Rosenbaum, who partnered with his father in their insurance firm and is a former chairman of the Portland Development Commission. "All of his work stemmed from an extreme appreciation for the freedom and opportunity presented by this country and his understanding of what it was like to be discriminated against based on religion and the impact of economic deprivation."

Born in 1926, Rosenbaum came of age in Austria as the Nazis rose to power. His grandparents perished in the concentration camps. Rosenbaum lived in England for almost two years before being reunited with his parents, Leopold and Elise Rosenbaum. Together, the family arrived in the United States in 1941 and moved to Aberdeen, Wash., where Rosenbaum graduated from high school.

In 1943, the family moved to Portland so Rosenbaum could attend Reed College. But as soon as he turned 18, Rosenbaum enlisted in the U.S. Army to fight the Germans. Instead, he was deployed to the Philippines.

After World War II ended, Rosenbaum returned to Portland, receiving a bachelor's degree in political science from Portland State University and embarking on a long, distinguished career as an insurance businessman. In 1995, at age 69, he was named to Standard Insurance's Hall of Fame.

Fred Rosenbaum

Born: June 30, 1926

Birthplace: Vienna, Austria

Family: Wife Jane Rosenbaum, son Mark Rosenbaum, daughter Lori Krasnowsky, and three grandchildren, David, Sara and Hanna.

Past titles: Brigadier general of the Oregon Air National Guard; chairman of the Housing

But he was an even greater advocate for children and the poor and an ardent supporter of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Authority of Portland;
director of the Institute of
Metropolitan Studies at
Portland State University.

"Everyone knew that he didn't do everything he did for any other reason than he cared," said his wife of 54 years, Jane Rosenbaum, 79. "He saw things that never were and said, 'Why not?'"

As chairman of the Housing Authority of Portland for 15 years, Rosenbaum championed housing for seniors and minorities. He helped to build high-rises in neighborhoods across the city, allowing seniors to remain near their own neighborhoods.

In 1970, he founded a camp for children at Camp Rilea, where soldiers train on the Oregon coast. Rosenbaum envisioned a place where underprivileged children could have a chance to enjoy being kids. He pitched the idea to the commander of the National Guard at the time, who tried to quash the idea.

So Rosenbaum, who had never before run a kids camp, went straight to then-Governor Tom McCall. Today, the summer camp has hosted more than 6,500 disadvantaged children. In July, the Oregon National Guard added another landmark at the camp, dedicating a garden of gratitude to Rosenbaum.

"Fred could get things done," Kulongoski said. "He could get up close to you, and he had a calm and soothing voice, and you would just believe this was the right thing to do."

Rosenbaum entered the Oregon National Guard as a private and worked his way up to general in the Air Guard. His military awards and dedications stretch pages long over the course of decades. He retired in 1986.

"Here's a man who came to America and turned out to be one of the most patriotic Americans," said Vic Atiyeh, Oregon's governor from 1979 to 1987, when Rosenbaum was with the Oregon Air National Guard. "We've lost a great member of this state."

Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, senior rabbi of Northwest Portland's Congregation Beth Israel where Rosenbaum was a member for more than 15 years, said even as Rosenbaum grew weak from cancer, he wanted to do more.

"Every time I walked into the hospital room, he would say, 'Okay, Rabbi, I want to talk to you about how we're going to fix the problems of the synagogue,'" Cahana said. "He just never stopped."

A public memorial service is planned for noon Tuesday at the Portland Air Base.

-- **Amy Hsuan**

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