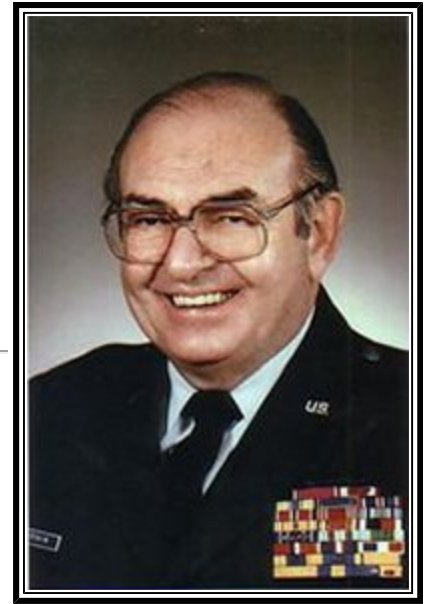


Florida Atlantic University Libraries

# Jewish Generals and Admirals in America's Military

A [Judaica Collection](#) Exhibit



*Courtesy of Brig. Gen. Fred Rosenbaum*

## Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum: Veteran of World War II and Retired in Oregon Air National Guard

by Seymour "Sy" Brody

Brigadier General Fred M. Rosenbaum is a veteran of World War II and a retired Brigadier General in the Oregon Air National Guard. He was born on June 30, 1926, in Vienna, Austria.

His parents were Elise and Leopold Rosenbaum. They realized that they had to leave Austria after the Nazis had taken power and had kristallnacht (They broke windows in homes and businesses and set some of them on fire.)

When Fred was 12, he and other Jewish children were herded into the basement of the school to await the arrival of the Gestapo. Fred crawled through the basement window and escaped. His parents put him on a train to go to England where the Anglican Church-sponsored children like him to flee the Nazis. His parents were able to join him eighteen months later. They immigrated to the United States and finally settled in Portland Oregon.

Rosenbaum joined the Army when the United States entered World War II. He hoped to go to Europe to fight the Nazis, instead, he was sent to the Pacific Theater of Operations.

He went to Reed College, in Portland, 1943-1944 and 1947-1950. Rosenbaum received his B.S. degree in political science from Portland State University. It was here that he completed his graduate work in Urban Studies. In 2006, he received the Doctor of Humane Letters (Honor Causa) from Portland State University.

His military education was a diploma from the Air War College, Air University, 1972; in 1974, he received a diploma from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; he received a diploma, in 1975, from the National Defense strategy Seminar, Washington, D.C.; in 1975, he received a diploma from the National Defense Strategy Seminar as an instructor, Washington, D.C.

In 1968, during a vacation on the Oregon coast, he took his family Camp Rilea to see the military post. Fred and his wife, Jane, were sitting on grass watching their children running around the parade grounds. It occurred to them that such a setting would be of help to underprivileged children during the summer months. This was the beginning of Camp Rosenbaum for underprivileged children. Today the camp is supported by donations from people, corporations and government. It was named to honor the people who had the foresight and perseverance to

make it a successful reality.

**Military Awards and Decorations (Federal):**

- **Legion of Merit**
- **Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters**
- **Air Force Commendation Medal**
- **Presidential Unit Citation**
- **American Campaign Medal**
- **Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal**
- **Philippine Independence Medal**
- **World War II Victory Medal**
- **Air Force Outstanding Organizational Excellence Award**
- **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award**
- **Expert Infantry Badge**

**Military Awards and Decorations (State of Oregon):**

- **A hangar at Portland Airbase Dedicated in Honor of Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum, 2007**
- **Distinguished Service Medal**
- **Exceptional Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters**
- **Meritorious Service Medal**
- **Commendation Medal**
- **Minuteman Award, Oregon National Guard Association, 1971, 1979, 1982, 1985**
- **“Hall of Honor” 41st Enhanced Infantry Brigade, 1996**

Fred Rosenbaum has received many awards and recognition for his service to the public, including the Grand Decoration of Honor in Silver for service to the Republic of Austria, 2006.

He is currently the Senior Partner, Rosenbaum Financial, LLC in Portland, Oregon.

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Return to [Table of Contents](#)

Return to [FAU Libraries Judaica Collections Home Page](#)

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*Last updated 23 May 2008*