

2007 Hall of Fame Inductee

Col. Henry J. Ochs, Jr., USAF Ret.

Class of 1929

Ret. Col. Henry J. Ochs is greatly admired by his family. However, because of his modesty, many are unaware of the various national accomplishments and recognitions he has received throughout his life. He helped organize the United States Air Force as a separate military operating unit and was once the head comptroller for the American NATO military forces in Europe.

Ochs was born on August 17, 1909. He attended Bartmer and John J. Pershing grade schools (shaking Gen. Pershing's hand during the school's dedication) and Harvard Junior High prior to entering UCHS and graduating in 1929. In 1933, he graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Since the University of Missouri was a Land Grant School, Ochs was required to participate in the school's ROTC program. Two-year participation in the program was mandatory for all male students who attended the college; however, Ochs stayed with the program for four years. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in U.S. Army Reserve.

During his time as a reservist from 1933 to 1942, Ochs worked as a ROTC instructor at University of Missouri, Columbia, as a tobacco company salesman and as a builder of the now defunct University City Badminton Courts. He was called to active duty military service in the U.S. Army Air Corp four months following the start of World War II and during that time helped to train airmen for combat.

Ochs retired from the military as a 30-year career veteran. As a civilian, Ochs served as executive secretary for the State of Colorado Professional Engineers and Land Surveyor's Board and was vice president of Nelson Coulson Engineering Company in Denver. He has also been an active supporter and volunteer of the Boy Scouts.



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