



## Darrell Allan Jenks Ph.D.

May 9, 1958 - May 14, 2012

On May 14, 2012 Darrell A. Jenks died at his residence in Baltimore, MD. Darrell Jenks, diplomat, retired last autumn after a thirty-year career that included two tours in Japan, most recently as Director of the FSI Japanese Language and Area Training Center in Yokohama. His colleagues admired him for his warm, lively and outgoing personality, as well as his conscientious leadership in the workplace. Darrell, a brilliant linguist, served the American people well. He spoke nine languages including Japanese, Korean and Chinese. In 2007, Darrell volunteered to serve in Maysan, Iraq, where – largely self-taught – he picked up the basics of his fourth super-hard language, Arabic. Darrell was fascinated by people and cultures, and formed lasting friendships everywhere he went. Even after retiring, and while fighting a terrible illness, Darrell continued working with his friends in Japan and the United States to organize celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Japan's donation of cherry trees to Washington, DC. Darrell is survived by his wife Thelma, daughter Desiree, son Christopher, parents George, & Zoya Jenks, and siblings Mark and Andrew.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor may be made to Alvin & Lois Lapidus Cancer Institute, (c/o The Darrell Jenks Memorial), Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, 2401 W. Belvedere Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 19. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.  
6500 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
(410) 377-8300  
general@mwfuneralhome.com

## Memorial Service

MAY 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.  
6500 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
(410) 377-8300  
general@mwfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Olá meu nome é Anderson Tomio Maeda, moro no Brasil. Eu tive a imensa alegria de conhecer Darrel e Christopher quando fomos participar do Campeonato Sulamericano Categoria Infantil em Buenos Aires na Argentina, em 2002.*

*Christopher foi convocado a participar deste Campeonato como atleta, e que rendo só elogios a ele e seu pai, Darrel.*

*Christopher, disciplinadíssimo, um excelente atleta que jogava no Brasil pelo time de Brasilia, um ótimo arremessador e ótimo defensor interno na época.*

*Darrel um ótimo parceiro, inteligentíssimo, nos ajudou e muito a comandar a seleção na Época, juntamente com o senhor Ito. Foi uma honra e uma alegria imensa conquistarmos juntos o Campeonato Sulamericano Infantil de 2002, onde ganhamos de virada a final contra a Argentina, em Buenos Aires.*

*Sinto muito ao saber só agora do Darrel, mas tenho a certeza absoluta que uma pessoa como ele sempre será muito lembrada e amada, e o Céu é o lugar que pessoas boas como ele estão, após uma vida intensa e marcante promovendo sempre o bem.*

*Um exemplo para todos nós!*

*Christopher, um forte abraço a você e sua mãe. Estejam bem! Que Deus sempre os abençoe muito!*

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**Anderson Tomio Maeda** - April 12, 2022 at 05:34 PM

DB

“*Thelma, I was shocked and saddened to hear about Darrell when I found his obituary in the Foreign Service Journal. I am so terribly sorry for your loss. We had not been in the same place at the same time for some 25 years, but in the intervening years I had not forgotten Darrell, and hoped to see him again at one post or another. With the recent 30 year anniversary of our joint 1980 graduation from Reed College and my retirement, I was planning to see how to get back in touch.*

*Darrell was remarkably effective and flexible. When he entered the Service a year after college, I invited him to stay at my run down group house in downtown DC. I can remember his drums cluttering up his room, and I wondered how he would be able to match drumming with working for the government. Apparently he did that very well, as he did so many things.*

*I joined a year later, and I still remember visiting you and Darrell for your wedding in Belize, and your surprise when Darrell appeared at the wedding ceremony in my secretly loaned formal evening jacket and pants, despite the tropical heat, when you knew he barely owned a presentable suit. He did it for you of course. On my first tour myself, I was impressed by how completely he had integrated himself into Belizean society in a year and a half, and considered him my model for what I needed to do to fully enjoy and understand Honduran society, a model I still followed many years later from country to country. We both shared the love of being overseas in the Foreign Service, rather than in DC in the Foreign Service.*

*I truly regret not having the opportunity to see Darrell again, and wish I had pursued the opportunity to get in touch more quickly.*

*David C. Becker  
beckerdc@gmail.com*

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David C Becker - August 29, 2012 at 11:19 AM