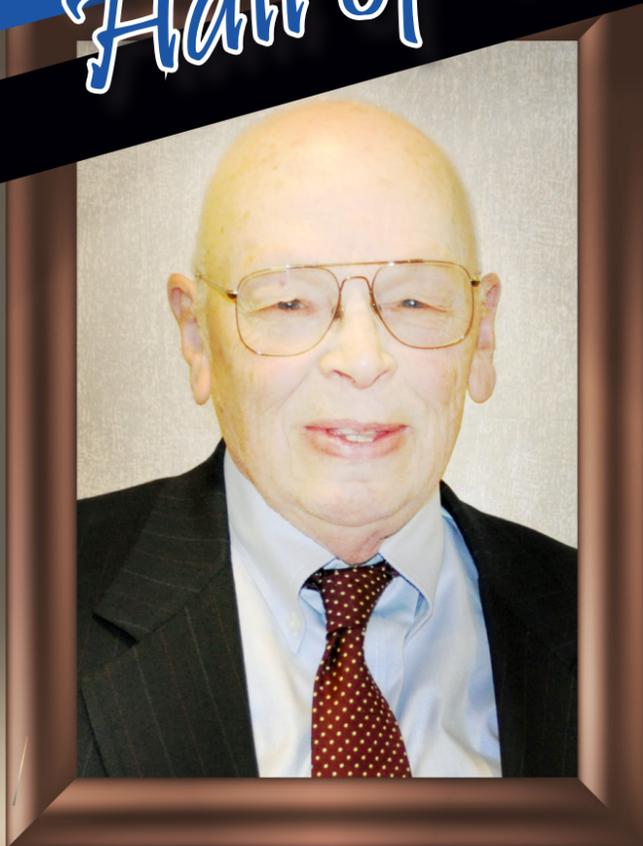


DON PESCHKA

Hall of Fame Inductee

“He made us want to be better at our jobs and work harder for the warfighter by instilling the sense of pride he had in his work.”



By Elizabeth Stoeckmann

Standing amongst his peers, colleagues and five other inductees, Donald Peschka, was recognized for his leadership and mentorship during the first Defense Logistics Agency Energy Hall of Fame ceremony, May 19.

Peschka, the first DLA Energy employee to receive the 2015 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Award, attended the morning ceremony with his wife, Claudine.

“Mr. Peschka empowered people, not just with confidence, but with the professional competency and capability to step up and take those challenges while he supported their superior performance,” said Claire Grady, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Technology & Logistics Policy director. “That’s a role model we all like to

become and that is why Mr. Peschka was selected for the AT&L Contracting Legends Award.”

Peschka’s award also included induction into the Contracting Legends Gallery at the Pentagon.

“He fueled the future,” Grady said. “There were tremendous challenges that he took on, overcame and found solutions for.”

Peschka served in a dual role as deputy director of Bulk Fuels and chief of the Contracting of Bulk Fuels from October 1983 to December 2004.

During his distinguished career, Peschka led DLA Energy acquisition operation efforts for services and supply of bulk petroleum products during the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm and the Global War on Terror. In addition, he played a significant role in the department’s humanitarian efforts providing bulk fuel acquisition support in Rwanda and Somalia, including Operation Provide Hope, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Provide Comfort and the Battle of Mogadishu.

DLA Energy employees who worked for Peschka shared their personal testimonies.

Kelly Dowd, DLA Energy Procurement Process Support Directorate procurement analyst, recalls during the Iraq war crisis

when Peschka called a staff meeting and said, “We are on ... we have a job to do for the warfighter.”

It was those words that Dowd said made her feel part of the mission, empowered and evoked, with a sense of comradeship of history in the making.

Peschka and his team played a key role in coordinating the fuel exchange agreements and the establishment of long term strategic and tactical fuel depot contracts in numerous foreign countries to further support these efforts and the warfighter.

“Today’s ceremony is a culmination of the evolution of history and the legacy these individuals leave behind,” she said.

Peschka’s citation notes his expertise and mentorship and is remembered for the confidence and empowerment he instilled in his employees which continues to be the foundation for successful mentoring to this day.

“During the years I worked for Don, I not only regarded him as just a manager, but an authority figure, a mentor, a contracting guru and a kind, fatherly figure who truly cared about his staff as much as the mission,” said Erin Ralph, DLA Energy Bulk Petroleum Supply Chain Services deputy director.



Don Peschka gives a speech during a ceremony where he was presented with the DLA Energy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in recognition for his years of dedicated service to the organization. Photos by Tanekwa Bournes

“He made us want to be better at our jobs and work harder for the warfighter, by instilling the sense of pride he had in his work, in us,” Ralph added.

Ralph said Peschka’s leadership skills are like no other and those of us who worked for him can only attempt to replicate.

Peschka was attributed for 16 years of service supporting the warfighter through his active participation in critical efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and DLA Energy’s economic price adjustment fuel case. His efforts have made a positive impact on DLA Energy to this day.

Using innovation and logistical foresight, Peschka also initiated and developed the Energy Supply Chain’s Natural Gas Program, the first division under the Installation Energy Business Unit, through coordination with internal DLA offices, federal agencies, military services and various local distribution companies.

“The DLA Energy Hall of Fame ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to recognize a life to service that has made DLA Energy the type of organization it is today,” said Gabriella Earhardt DLA Energy Supplier Operations director.

Through Peschka’s drive and energy he led the organization through some significant real-world events exceeding all nation-wide expectations, Earhardt said. Through his tireless service he was a leader and a mentor to Energy employees and the entire fuels community.

Earlier this spring, Peschka also received the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award in recognition for his years of dedicated service to DLA Energy.

Although he retired in January 2005, his legendary impact is still felt today throughout DLA Energy.

“He established a lasting legacy and lasting relationships,” Earhardt said. **ES**



Peschka shakes hands with DLA Energy Commander Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark McLeod during the hall of fame ceremony at the McNamara Headquarters Complex, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, May 19.



Peschka talks to a former coworker prior to the DLA Energy Hall of Fame ceremony.