

Irvin Hershowitz W3HQG *1924-2005* To Abe (contractor painter) Yetta Hershowitz with two boys Bernard and Irvin Born in NYC. Irv due to complications at birth, was blind the remainder of his life. He used amateur radio as his main link to the outside world. Mr. Hershowitz was a long time civilian employee at Bolling Air Force Base, in the career field of aircraft radio and telephone systems. Irvin had invented a device which allows the blind to operate telephone switchboards. The gadget uses a photoelectric cell which sounds a buzzer when held next to a lighted bulb on the switchboard. The device appeared in Pop Mechanics June 1961. Irvin was named federal handicapped employee of the year and received his award from Julie Nixon Eisenhower, daughter of then President Richard Nixon.



In 1998 Irvin expressed an interest to get back on the air after his move into The Jefferson, a Marriott senior living condominium community in Arlington. With the cooperation of the local management and the building engineer at the Jefferson, Chapter 91 formed a team to help make Irv's dream come true. It was extensive work but well engineered by the QCWA Chapter and the dwelling was multi stories as Irv was on the 3rd floor.

Our subject was a regular participant in several HF and VHF nets, including the daily Before Breakfast Club (BBC) network on 3973 and Chapter 91's Sunday morning net on 146.79. Irv a noted net control operator, W4LBL said recently that when Irv was assisting the

Northern Virginia FM Association network, Irvin was one of the best control operators he had.

Over the years Irv would join a group of Christian ham radio enthusiasts for on the air discussions. Then in January 2000 with the help of that group of believers, Irv himself became a Christian. He was then baptized at the Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapel in Alexandria, Va.

Irv enjoyed services at WPC when his health permitted, he enjoyed the music and sitting in fellowship hall after service, sipping a cup of coffee and greeting members who stopped by to say hello. W3HQG gave careful consideration to his estate planning and when his life journey was complete, provided generously for Westminster.

Licensed for over 65 years Mr. Hershowitz passed away after a long illness at age 80, February 2005. Services were held at the Washington Hebrew Congregation Cemetery, SE Washington, D.C. A member of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge F & AM, a member of QCWA and Chapter 91 since 1995. In 2003 he was awarded a certificate from QCWA honoring the 65 years since he was first licensed as an amateur radio operator. With assistance from WPC Alexandria Dr. Larry Hayward June 2006, QCWA Chapter 91. K8CX Ham Gallery QSL card.