

In Memoriam: Mary C. FitzGerald, 1949-2009

Hudson Research Fellow Mary FitzGerald died after a valiant battle with cancer on April 5, 2009. FitzGerald, who was Hudson's longest serving employee, was a devoted analyst, first, of the Soviet Union, and then of post-Soviet Russian military affairs. She was a fellow with Hudson since 1989. A fluent Russian speaker in part because she grew up the daughter of a U.S. military attaché in Moscow, Mary pioneered understanding of critical Soviet and Russian defense doctrines. Drawing on Soviet-era writings, she was the first to teach the Office of Net Assessment at the Pentagon about the revolution in military affairs – a concept which later held great sway in U.S. defense thinking. Hudson Institute CEO Ken Weinstein noted that “Mary’s pioneering work on Russian views of future warfare, information warfare, and Chinese concepts of space warfare have been a resource for policymakers, scholars, and journalists in the U.S. and around the world. She will be sorely missed.”

FitzGerald was proud of her work for Hudson and diligent, as always, until the end. Less than three weeks ago, despite her advanced cancer, she completed an interim report on her final project on Russian/Chinese views of space dominance. A Hudson Institute Board of Trustees resolution in her honor paid tribute to her outstanding analytic work over the course of more than two decades.

Mary is survived by siblings, nieces and nephews, and her longtime partner, Rob Arnett. The funeral service is set for this Saturday, April 11th at 1 p.m. at Murphy's Funeral Home, 1102 West Broad Street in Falls Church, Virginia.



Mary FitzGerald receiving an award in 1993 from Lieutenant General Ira C. Owens for briefings to senior Army leadership.