Daniel Gordon Amstutz - Ambassador, Consultant

Daniel Gordon Amstutz, 73, a private consultant and former Reagan administration trade official who in 2003 headed the U.S. government's agriculture reconstruction efforts in Iraq, died of cancer March 20 at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington.

Mr. Amstutz, a former partner at Goldman, Sachs & Co., spent six months in Iraq as a senior ministry adviser for agriculture. His appointment was made in April 2003, a few days before President Bush announced an end to major combat operations in Iraq.

Over the next seven months, Mr. Amstutz coordinated food distribution efforts and other initiatives among coalition partners to restart the agricultural sector of Iraq's economy.

At the end of 2003, Mr. Amstutz returned to his private consulting practice in the Washington area, specializing in agribusiness and international trade. He was a resident of Arlington

Mr. Amstutz was born in Cleveland and raised in Beaver Falls, Pa., and Columbus, Ohio.

He graduated from Ohio State University, where he was a member of the student court and president of the student senate and Chi Phi social fraternity.

Beginning his career in wheat and feed grain merchandising, Mr. Amstutz eventually joined Cargill, the country's largest agricultural company. At Cargill, he founded and headed a Chicago-based investment services firm.

Mr. Amstutz was overseeing commodities work for Goldman, Sachs in New York in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan nominated him as the Agriculture Department's undersecretary of international affairs and commodity programs. He traveled extensively. During 10 months, he visited Japan nine times to negotiate agreements on forest products.

In 1987, Mr. Amstutz was named ambassador and chief negotiator for agriculture during the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a position he held for two years.

Mr. Amstutz, who was known as a strong advocate for the role of development in creating markets for exports, left the civil service. After a few years as executive director of what is now the International Grains Council in London, he served as president and chief executive of the North American Export Grain Association in Washington from 1995 to 2000.

Survivors include his mother, Elizabeth Amstutz of West Melbourne, Fla., and a sister.