

AREND René

(1928 - 2016) ¹

Niederwiltz

Biography

René AREND was born on 30 December 1928 in Niederwiltz. He was the son of Jean Pierre AREND (*Buchhalter*) and Maria (Margaretha) SCHWARTZ, both born in Niederwiltz.

Maria's father Jean Nicolas SCHWARTZ was a *Gastwirt* in Niederwiltz.

Jean Pierre and Maria married in 1913 in Wiltz. Jean Pierre's occupation at the time was *Schreiber* (*Büroangestellter*). The couple had four boys. René AREND was the benjamin of the family; he was born 10 years later than his youngest brother.

In 1937 the AREND-SCHWARTZ couple took over the Delia-Faber Café-Dancing in Niederwiltz - which they actually owned and had rented out. René thus grew up in this hospitality sector which might explain his choice to train to become a chef.

Wikipedia gives the following details of AREND's professional career: ²

Arend was born in Luxembourg and graduated at the top of his class from the Collège Technique de Strasbourg in 1952. He began his culinary career at the Continental Hotel in Luxembourg before emigrating to the United States in 1956. He subsequently worked at the luxury Drake Hotel in Chicago ... He later worked as the executive chef at Chicago's Whitehall Club for 14 years. ...

In 1976, Arend joined McDonald's as its first executive chef, recruited by founder Ray Kroc and CEO Fred L. Turner to expand the menu. Initially, Arend declined Kroc's offer, stating, "I'm a chef, I don't believe in hamburgers." Arend eventually relented and chose to work for McDonald's, stating he was influenced by Kroc's persistence, better hours and benefits, and the opportunity to reach a broader culinary audience.

One of Arend's significant contributions to McDonald's was the development of the Chicken McNugget ...

Arend retired from full-time work at McDonald's in 1990 ...

René AREND's creations of the characteristic shape of the novel meat product, marketed in the US as "Chicken McNugget", were protected in the USA by three "design patents" in 1982.

René AREND became a naturalised US citizen in 1963.

He died in the USA (Naperville, Illinois) in 2016.

¹ [FamilySearch database](#) (PSH8-TGW)

² [Wikipedia](#)