



IN MEMORY

Philip Hall Coombs, 90, the first assistant secretary of State for educational and cultural affairs, died on Feb. 15 in Chester, Conn.

Mr. Coombs was born in Holyoke, Mass., and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Amherst College in 1937. He did graduate work in economics at the University of Chicago, and became an instructor in economics at Williams College.

In February 1961, shortly after taking office, President John F. Kennedy named Mr. Coombs to the new position promoting education and American culture as tools of diplomacy. At the time, he was program director for education at the Ford Foundation and had been an educational adviser to the governments of India and Turkey.

With his White House appointment to run the newly created Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Coombs sought to bring a new dimension to foreign policy by putting the State Department and its embassies in closer touch with leading cultural and educational figures and organizations overseas. While holding that post, he moved to Paris to organize the International Institute for Educational Planning; as its first director, he advised member-states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on steps to improve their educational systems.

"We praise education's virtues and count on it to help the new generation

solve great problems which the older generation has failed to solve," Mr. Coombs told an international meeting in Washington in 1961. "But when it comes to spending more money for education, our deeds often fail to match our words."

In mid-1962 Mr. Coombs resigned from the State Department. In a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, he stated that bureaucratic obstacles and a dearth of funds had hampered the department's educational mission. Still, he said, he had succeeded in making "initial progress." The bureau he organized survives today.

Mr. Coombs stayed on as director of the international institute in Paris through 1968. From 1970 until his retirement in 1992 he was vice chairman, and later chairman, of the International Council of Economic Development, where he focused on improving education in rural regions and developing countries.

He was the author of a number of books, including *The Fourth Dimension of Foreign Policy* (1964), *Education and Foreign Aid* (1965), *Attacking Rural Poverty: How Nonformal Education Can Help* (1974) and *The World Crisis in Education: The View From the Eighties* (1985).

Mr. Coombs is survived by his wife of 65 years, Helena Brooks Coombs of Chester, Conn.; a son, Peter B. Coombs of Essex, Conn.; a daughter, Helena H. Weeks of Salem, Conn.; three grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Jonathan W. Dublin, 53, a Foreign Service officer, died of a heart attack in Al-Hilla, Iraq, on Feb. 18.

Mr. Dublin graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in computer systems. He served for 20 years in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service as a nuclear engineer before joining the State Department in 1999 as an information management specialist. His first posting was to Rabat.

In 2001, Mr. Dublin became a Foreign Service officer, serving as a consular officer in Kingston and as a narcotics affairs officer in Bogota. While in Bogota, he volunteered for TDY in Iraq, and was serving as a political officer in Al-Hilla at the time of his death.

Mr. Dublin is survived by his wife, Diana; a son, Christian; and daughters, Veronica, Anna and Bettina. Donations in Mr. Dublin's name may be made to the American Heart Association (https://donate.americanheart.org/ecommerce/aha/aha_index.jsp).



David Elmo Foy, 51, a Foreign Service officer, was killed by a suicide bomber outside the U.S. consulate in Karachi on March 2.

Mr. Foy joined the Foreign Service in 2003, and was posted to Bishkek. Last September, he took over as facilities manager at the consulate in Karachi, an unaccompanied post. Foy

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was killed along with his driver, Iftikhar Ahmed, when a suicide bomber, who had been stopped by consulate security, rammed his car into Foy's vehicle in a car park adjacent to the consulate. The blast propelled the car over a wall and into the grounds of a nearby Marriott Hotel.

Born in Fort Smith, Ark., Mr. Foy served for 23 years in the U.S. Navy and spent another two years as a civilian employee at Fort Bragg near Fayetteville, N.C., before joining the Foreign Service. While in the Navy, Mr. Foy was awarded the Navy Medal of Honor.

At a memorial service in Goldsboro, N.C., on March 7, more than 200 friends, colleagues and family members remembered Mr. Foy fondly. "He was a good, ethical, hard working, dedicated guy," recalled Chief Warrant Officer Eric Redd, who worked with Foy in Kyrgyzstan. "You could always count on him." Jerry Reaves, a former colleague at Fort Bragg, recalled how he and Mr. Foy argued about politics. "He was a Clinton fan, and I was a Bush fan," Reaves said. "He always made you laugh."

The Rev. Jim Whitfield described Mr. Foy as a hero, a patriot and a warrior who served his country and adored his daughters. Mr. Foy had talked with his wife the weekend before he was killed, Whitfield said, and had been with the family for Christmas, when he met his granddaughter for the first time. Whitfield then read from a list of memories prepared by Mr. Foy's daughters: it included memories of a man who answered problems with food and long conversations, who addressed his elders as madam and sir, and who sang when a room got too quiet.

"He spent his whole life serving our country. He always chose a path that took him down that way," David

Cushing, Mr. Foy's brother-in-law and good friend told the *Los Angeles Times*. "Obviously, it was a rough year in Pakistan. He wished it was a little less contentious. He was aware of the risks, but he enjoyed his work."

In his spare time, Mr. Foy enjoyed golf and landscape painting.

He is survived by his wife, Donna, of Goldsboro, N.C.; four grown daughters, Suzette Hartwell, Cherish Foy, Chandra Jackson and Tamar Foy; two grandchildren, Tyler James Elmo Jackson and Callie Hartwell; and three siblings.



George Knight, 74, a retired FSO, died of lung cancer on March 4 at his home in Reynolds Plantation, near Eatonton, Ga.

Mr. Knight was born in Pennsylvania. He worked as a comptroller from 1950 to 1952, and served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1954.

After a brief stint in the Veterans Administration, Mr. Knight joined the State Department in 1956. He was assigned to Bonn as a code clerk in 1957, and transferred to Moscow in 1958. He served as general services officer in Sydney from 1959 to 1962, and in Salisbury (now Lusaka) from 1962 to 1964. After two years at State, he was assigned to Kampala as administrative officer in 1966, and was transferred to Melbourne in 1970. He received his diplomatic commission in 1972.

After postings to Tegucigalpa and Wellington, Mr. Knight was assigned to Seoul in 1979 as counselor for administration — "the best admin officer I ever knew," recalls a colleague in Korea at that time. He was assigned as counselor for administration to Jakarta in 1982, and to Bangkok in 1985. From 1988 to 1992,

he was a personnel counselor at State. His last assignment before retiring in 1994 was as administrative counselor in Canberra.

Mr. Knight and his wife, Colleen, settled in Annandale, Va., for several years before moving to Georgia to be near their family. He traveled extensively and was active in church and community affairs.

Mr. Knight is survived by his wife, Colleen of Eatonton, Ga., a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.



Edward W. Mulcahy, 84, a retired FSO and former ambassador, died of complications from Alzheimer's disease on March 12 in Winchester, Va.

Ambassador Mulcahy graduated cum laude from Tufts University in 1943 with a degree in history, and thereafter joined the U.S. Marines. In June 1944 he saw his first action in Guam, where as a second lieutenant, he led a company of the 21st Marines of the 3rd Marine Division in repelling a series of Japanese banzai attacks. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his actions in the liberation of Guam.

After recovering from his wounds, Amb. Mulcahy was promoted to first lieutenant, and in February 1945 landed on Iwo Jima on the first day of the Marine assault on that island. Pinned down on the beach with his men by heavy Japanese bombardment, he was hit directly on his left shin by a mortar round. Fortunately, the shell did not explode, but his shinbone was shattered. He awoke to see his medical corpsman pouring blood out of his boot. He received a second Purple Heart for his wounds on Iwo Jima. After the war, he was promoted to captain and placed in charge of the Marine detachment at the U.S. Navy

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brig on Governor's Island in New York City.

Amb. Mulcahy received a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1947. Upon graduation, he joined the Foreign Service, serving for 33 years. His first assignment was as principal officer in Mombasa. This was his first introduction to Africa, which was to play an important part in his career. In 1949, he was posted to Munich as a visa officer. In 1950, he was assigned as political officer to Addis Ababa, and then as principal officer in Asmara. There, in 1951, he met Kathleen Lyon, a Foreign Service secretary; they married in 1953 in Globe, Ariz. They had six children, five of whom survive them.

In 1952, Amb. Mulcahy returned to Washington, D.C., where he worked on a variety of assignments, including a stint on the Trusteeship Council for Cameroon at the United Nations in New York. In 1956 he was assigned to Athens as a political officer. In 1959, he was posted to Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), as deputy principal officer, and participated in the protection and evacuation of Americans and other foreigners from the Congo when civil war broke out there. In 1963, he returned to Washington, to the Bureau of Near East and African Affairs, with responsibility for Southern Africa. He was selected for the Senior Seminar in 1966.

Amb. Mulcahy served as DCM in Tunis from 1967 to 1970, and then in Lagos from 1970 until his appointment as ambassador to Chad in 1972. In 1974, he returned to Washington as deputy assistant secretary of State for African affairs. In 1976, he was named ambassador to Tunisia. After he returned to the U.S. in 1979, Amb. Mulcahy spent a year as diplomat-in-residence at Atlanta University, where

he drew up plans for a graduate program in international relations. An excellent linguist, he spoke German, French, Italian and Latin, and was conversant in Swahili and modern Greek.

Amb. Mulcahy retired from the Foreign Service in 1980, taking up the position of vice president at "Project Hope" headquarters in Millwood, Va. Project Hope provides medical care and education throughout the developing world. After retiring from Project Hope in 1982, he continued his interest in local and international affairs, serving on the board of the Tunisian-American Association in Washington, D.C., and lecturing on U.S. foreign policy at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Va. He was also a devout member of Sacred Heart parish in Winchester. He was actively involved in his college and Marine Corps reunions, as well as in the American Foreign Service Association and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He and his wife traveled extensively in retirement, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Since 2000, Amb. and Mrs. Mulcahy had been residents at Winchester-Canterbury in Winchester, Va. Mrs. Mulcahy died in 2005.

Amb. Mulcahy was laid to rest, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by three brothers and two sisters; five children, Anne Dower of Glen Ellyn, Ill., John Mulcahy of Hong Kong, Eileen Mulcahy of Winchester, Va., Kevin Mulcahy of Charlotte, N.C., and Father Brian Mulcahy of Charlottesville, Va.; and nine grandchildren.



Kenneth Rabin, 81, a retired FSO with USAID, died Feb. 26 in Portland, Ore.

Born in Portland, Mr. Rabin was the son of Sonia Rothkowitz, a Russian immigrant, and Jacob Rabin, who had immigrated from England in 1912.

Mr. Rabin's attendance at Reed College was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army Air Force from April 1944 until June 1945. He flew 31 combat missions over Germany as a lead bombardier in the Second Division of the 8th Air Force, and was discharged as a first lieutenant in June 1945. He returned to Reed, graduating in September 1947, and received a master's degree from Columbia University in June 1948. He had further academic training at Columbia University and American University in Washington, D.C.

In 1955, Mr. Rabin joined the Foreign Service, serving in Canberra, Perth and Brussels, and at the exchange program office in Washington, D.C. In 1962 he joined USAID. He was posted to Manila and then, in 1965, to Conakry. Back in Washington, he served in the Vietnam Bureau and in the agency's Office of Programs.

In 1968 he was detailed as a fellow to the Harvard Center of International Affairs, a program of independent study with faculty status for 15 senior diplomats from 10 countries. Mr. Rabin also served from April through August 1969 as an adviser to Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and accompanied Gov. Rockefeller on four visits to Central and South America in support of the Alliance for Progress.

Mr. Rabin became USAID's director of East Asian regional development in 1969. His last overseas assignment was to Bangkok, where he served as director of the agency's Office of Regional Economic Development, counselor for regional economic development, and the U.S. representative to the United Nation's

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Economic and Social Council for East Asia and the Pacific. At various times he also served as chief or as a member of U.S. delegations to regional multinational meetings.

Mr. Rabin loved classical music, art and literature. He was a lifelong liberal.

Mr. Rabin's marriage to Margaret Spalding in 1946 ended in divorce. In 1976 he married Elaine Zweben. They lived in Maryland, Virginia and Oregon until her death in Portland in March 2003.

Mr. Rabin is survived by three daughters from his first marriage and his sons-in-law, Margaret Rabin and Ray Myers of Salem, Ore., Kathy and John Cramer of Portland, Ore., and Debby and Wally Haupt of Golden-dale, Wash.; the stepchildren of his

second marriage, Lisa Zweben of Lynchburg, Va., Marc Zweben of Washington, D.C., John Zweben of Portland, Ore., and Harry Zweben of Corvallis, Ore.; 12 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.



Claude Gordon Anthony Ross, 88, a retired FSO and former ambassador, died Jan. 18 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., of pneumonia complicated by an acute lymphoma. He was a resident of Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, Calif.

Ambassador Ross was born in Chicago, Ill., and moved to southern California in his infancy. He graduated from Huntington Park (California)

High School in 1933. After two years with the *Los Angeles Daily News*, he enrolled at Los Angeles Junior College, where he received an associate of liberal arts degree with highest honors in 1937. He continued his education at the University of Southern California. There he was one of the first recipients of its Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service, graduating summa cum laude with membership in Phi Beta Kappa in 1939. He was active in student government and extracurricular activities throughout his educational career. In 1937, he was a delegate to the Fourth Japan-America Student Conference.

In 1940, Amb. Ross married the late Antigone Andrea Peterson (Lymberopoulos) of Los Angeles, making him the first non-Greek to marry into

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the Greek-American community of Southern California. Learning Greek was the condition imposed by his father-in-law-to-be; fortunately, it was one that Amb. Ross, with his aptitude for languages, could readily fulfill. In addition to Greek, he spoke French, German and Spanish.

Amb. Ross entered the Foreign Service in 1940, serving successively in Mexico City, Quito, Athens, Noumea, Beirut, Cairo and Conakry, as well as in Washington, D.C. He attended the National War College in 1956-57 and served as deputy director of the Office of West African and Malagasy Affairs in 1962-1963. He was appointed ambassador to the Central African Republic in 1963, ambassador to Haiti in 1967 and ambassador to Tanzania in 1969. In 1972 he was named deputy assistant secretary of State for African affairs.

During his service, Amb. Ross earned a reputation for professional excellence and sound judgment. Family members and colleagues recall him as a genuine patriot, one who understood that great power should be accompanied by great tact in America's relations with the world. His ambassadorial appointments required him to deal with two of the most notorious dictators of his time — President (later Emperor) Bokassa of the Central African Republic and President "Papa Doc" Duvalier of Haiti.

After Amb. Ross' retirement in 1974, the Department of State continued to rely on him; he was recalled as a senior inspector to conduct a number of sensitive investigations into the operations of overseas posts. In this capacity, he carried out missions to Iran (in 1974, the last inspection before the hostage crisis), Colombia (1974), Brazil (1975), Nicaragua (1976), Chad (1979), France (1980), Mexico (1982), Bolivia (1983 and

1986) and Guatemala (1984).

Eschewing a second career in business or consulting, Amb. Ross devoted himself to promoting international understanding, the well-being of retired diplomats and the education of students aspiring to careers in international affairs. He was a member of the Executive Board of Sister Cities International, participated in the programs of the Washington Institute for Foreign Affairs and, from 1983 to 1988, served as chairman of the committee on Education of the American Foreign Service Association. He was a dedicated life member of Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired, serving two terms as its president from 1989 to 1991 and thereafter as a member and honorary member of its Board of Governors. He was also an energetic member of DACOR's Education Committee.

For his many contributions after retirement, Amb. Ross received the Foreign Service Cup in 1986. In 2006, DACOR and the DACOR Bacon House Foundation honored him posthumously with a special Award for Exceptional Contributions.

In retirement, Amb. Ross and his wife of 64 years, the late Antigone Andrea Ross, traveled extensively to five of the six continents; in particular to Greece and Italy to renew special ties of family and friendship, as well as to the countries where his son Christopher was assigned in his own diplomatic career.

Amb. Ross' wife died in 2004. Two sisters, Grace Jurewitz and June Drummond, also predeceased him. Survivors include one sister, Shirley Hogan of South Gate, Calif.; two sons, retired Ambassador Christopher W.S. Ross of Washington, D.C., and Geoffrey Faulkner Ross of Honolulu, Hawaii; a grandson, Anthony Gordon Ross; a former daughter-in-law, Carol Canning Ross of Washington, D.C.; a

granddaughter, Margaret Schneider Ross of Washington, D.C.; and numerous nephews, nieces and grand-nephews and grandnieces on the West Coast.

Memorial contributions may be made in Amb. Ross' name to the DACOR Bacon House Foundation, 1801 F Street NW, Washington DC 20006.



Walter J. Sherwin, 74, a retired FSO with USAID, died in Bethesda, Md., on Jan. 18 of brain cancer.

Born in Paderborn, Germany, Mr. Sherwin came to the United States in October 1939, barely escaping Nazi persecution. He grew up in Sheboygan, Wis., and was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he obtained a master's degree in political science. He was a Fulbright scholar in Germany and, during a trip to Paris, met his wife-to-be, Kitty, at the Paris Museum of Modern Art.

After working as a magazine writer for Scholastic Inc. in New York, Mr. Sherwin joined the Foreign Service in 1959. From 1965 to 1971, he served with USAID in Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Senegal. After spending the following seven years in Washington, in 1978, he went back overseas for five years, working in Niger and Guinea.

After his retirement in 1986, Mr. Sherwin was a consultant for several years working on USAID projects. He also volunteered for reading to the blind and dyslexic. At the time of his death, he was trying to launch a project to provide textbooks on tape in local languages for the blind in Africa.

Mr. Sherwin is survived by his wife of 49 years, Kitty Sherwin; his children, Jennifer Sherwin of Durham, N.C., and Mark Sherwin of Santa

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Barbara, Calif.; four grandchildren; and a sister, Sue Byrd of Anchorage, Alaska. The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to Oxfam.



Eric Edward Svendsen, 61, a retired FSO, died of sudden cardiac arrest at his home in Alexandria, Va., on Jan. 28.

Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., Mr. Svendsen spent his childhood in South Bend, Ind. He graduated from Carleton College in 1966 with a major in history, and completed an MBA at Columbia University in 1968. He and his wife, Nancy, then joined the Peace Corps and served in Iran, teaching at Jundi Shapur University from 1968 to 1970. Mr. Svendsen helped found a bank in Waterbury, Conn., in 1971, but soon joined the Foreign Service to pursue his interest in international affairs.

Mr. Svendsen's postings included Liberia, Bulgaria, Senegal, Yugoslavia, Ghana and Austria, in addition to Washington, D.C. He was a political officer who also served with the U.S. mission to the United Nations in later years, visiting Palestine and Jordan with the U.N. High Commission for Refugees. In 1982, he was elected to chair the State Department's Open Forum, an ongoing series of lectures and seminars encouraging discussion of a wide range of points of view on foreign policy. Mr. Svendsen retired in 1997, having served for 26 years.

In retirement, he worked part-time as a tax preparer. Other interests included service as a chief election officer for Fairfax County, genealogical research at the Library of Congress and extended travel within the U.S. and abroad, particularly in Scandinavia.

Mr. Svendsen is survived by his

wife, Nancy Carter Svendsen of Alexandria, Va.; his children, Andrew Svendsen of Royersford, Pa., and Christina Svendsen of Paris, France; his sister, Elinor Svendsen Stein of Cypress, Calif.; and his granddaughter, Rebecca Katherine Svendsen of Royersford, Pa.



Guadalupe Yameogo, 70, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died on Jan. 18 at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Va., following a long illness.

Mrs. Yameogo was born in Woodlake, Calif. The eldest of nine children of farm workers, she was a great help to her mother and an inspiration to her brothers and sisters, whom she encouraged to get as much education as possible and helped financially. She attended schools in Visalia, Calif., and graduated from the College of Sequoias in 1955. After graduation, she worked for the Tulare County School System.

In 1963, Mrs. Yameogo entered the Foreign Service. She served in secretarial positions of increasing responsibility in 10 different countries, many of them under difficult circumstances, as well as in several offices at the State Department. She advanced to the highest rank of the office management specialist field, serving as executive assistant to the American ambassadors to Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Honduras and Peru.

Affectionately known as "Lupe" by her family and a wide circle of friends both here and abroad, Mrs. Yameogo took a special interest in single people at the posts where she served. She was also active in women's organizations abroad; in Peru she founded an association of social secretaries.

Family and friends recall Mrs. Yameogo's infectious laugh — which

ranged from a soft chortle to a hearty chuckle to a tender lilt — her devotion to her family, and her invariably positive approach to life.

In 1992, Mrs. Yameogo was honored as the State Department Secretary of the Year because of her outstanding work in Sierra Leone in supporting U.S. diplomatic efforts during the early and violent stages of the war there. Mrs. Yameogo was especially known throughout the Foreign Service for being calm under pressure and sincerely interested in others. On the day of the coup d'état in Freetown, in the face of flying bullets and worrying about the safety of others, Mrs. Yameogo picked up the phone and calmly made calls to the residence of the chief of mission and to Washington from under her desk.

A gifted linguist, Mrs. Yameogo spoke four foreign languages: French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Mrs. Yameogo retired from the Foreign Service in 1998, after 35 years of government service. In 2000, she accompanied her husband, Joanny Yameogo, a GSO specialist, on assignments to Indonesia and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mrs. Yameogo is survived by her husband of 31 years, Joanny; her son, Timothy of Edinburg, Texas; her mother, Mrs. Mary G. Magana of Visalia, Calif.; two sisters, Esther Gotto of Reno, Nev., and Mary Lou Magana of Mount Vernon, Wash.; five brothers, Antonio Magana of Clovis, Calif., Leonard Magana of Berwickshire, Scotland, Jesse Magana of Lockhart, Texas, David Magana of Visalia, Calif., and Ramon Magana of Sanger, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews. ■

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