



Frank Cummins

August 26, 2023

Mr. Frank Cummins, a veteran of nearly 60 years in broadcast journalism and international relations passed away at age 91, Saturday, August 26, 2023, in his home surrounded by family.

Frank moved to Lancaster in 2006 from Northern Virginia where he spent 35 years with the Voice of America (VOA), the U.S. Government's international broadcasting agency.

Son of the late Dr. Frank Newton Cummins and Clara Yates Cummins of Erie, Pennsylvania, Frank was educated at the University of Chicago (which he entered at age 15), Allegheny College, Gannon College, and Columbia University. Frank began his radio/television career in Erie.

In 1963, he joined the Washington-based VOA where he served as a presenter, correspondent, editor and executive. His assignments included Deputy Chief of Middle East/South Asian Broadcasting, Deputy Program Manager, and Director of Program Evaluation. Overseas postings included tours in Lebanon, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Germany. At various times, Frank provided consulting services to the British Broadcasting Corporation, National Public Radio, and Radio Finland.

After retirement, from VOA, Frank spent five years as an international

consultant to the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, recruiting and working with European, Asian, and Latin chains.

An avid student of naval history, Frank belonged to the Nelson Society, the 1805 Cub, the Navy Records Society, and the US Naval Institute. His own navy service (1954-1958) included assignments as a gunnery officer on the USS Canberra (America's second guided missile cruiser), and on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic fleet.

Frank was a member of the Lamberton Lodge (F.&A.M.); the Shriner-Concord Cemetery board; Thaddeus Stevens Society; the ACLU, and a variety of liberal organizations.

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous since 1979, Frank credited the AA and an "attitude of gratitude" for his more than thirty years of sobriety.

Frank is survived by his beloved wife, Christine Renae Cummins (nee Weichel) of Lancaster; a son, Alexander Christian Cummins; a son-in-law, Hutch Chen- both of Taipei, Taiwan; two stepdaughters, Brandy Moye (Ray) and Lexi Smith (Jahan) both of Lancaster, PA; four grandchildren of Lancaster, PA; and a brother, James E. Cummins.

A memorial service will be held in the family home, date to be determined and personal invite to follow.

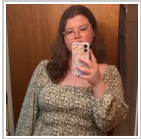
Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the Thaddeus Stevens Society or the ACLU.

Tribute Wall



“ *Frank Cummins*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *My condolences* 🌸



Josie Wiker - September 04, 2023 at 09:06 AM

ID

Frank and I go back about half a century as colleagues, book lovers, world analysts and above all as friends. I talked to Frank on the phone about a month before his passing. He was obviously struggling but still almost the same mind: thinking about world and domestic politics, the America he so passionately loved and cared about, and closer to home about my family and his. As Richard Dow summed it up so well in an earlier post, Frank was truly brilliant, creative and passionate. And very generous. I will never forget the evening he called me to offer a good sum of money during one of those government shut-downs and furloughs. He thought I needed help as I was paying for two of my children who were in college at the same time. It took quite some effort on my part to convince him that I was managing fine.

Rest in peace, my dear friend.

And my condolences to Tina, Alex and the entire family.

Ismail Dahiyat - September 04, 2023 at 11:45 AM

LS

“ A cherished memory from Frank and family, on Frank’s 90th birthday.



Lexi Smith - September 04, 2023 at 08:55 AM

RD

“ The VOA was a better place because of Frank. At the same time, he was just a little too brilliant, creative, and passionate to fit easily into the VOA’s atmosphere of conformity. He was a true champion of the VOA Charter, along with his dear friend Alan Heil. So rest in peace, Frank. Blessings on your journey. Richard Dow

Richard Dow - September 02, 2023 at 09:38 PM

BM

“ I’ll always remember Frank’s ready smile, his willingness to help others and all the other times we shared as VOA colleagues. He was a dear friend and I will miss him greatly. Our deepest condolences on the passing of a truly great communicator and human being.

Barry Maughan - September 02, 2023 at 02:14 PM

KS

“ MY CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY OF A BROTHER MASON. KARL F. SCHUBERT 32ND OXFORD LODGE #353

KARL F. SCHUBERT - September 01, 2023 at 09:35 AM

LF

“ *When Frank first became my neighbor, we soon discovered that we shared an admiration of an American historic hero, Thaddeus Stevens. Frank told me about the Thaddeus Stevens Society and I've been a member ever since. He was a very intelligent and interesting man. My condolences to Tina and the family.*

Linda Frank - September 01, 2023 at 12:57 AM