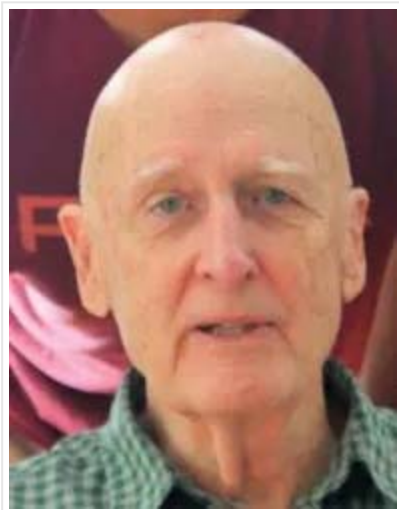


Frank Leo Gillespie



Frank Gillespie passed away peacefully on January 29, 2022, surrounded by family in Los Angeles, California. Francis Leo Gillespie was born on May 19, 1935, in Cleveland, the son of Francis and Nora Gillespie. Frank was a 1953 graduate of Shaw High School in East Cleveland. In 1957, he received his Bachelor of Arts at Ohio University, where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity and served as its President.

After graduation, he worked as a teacher in the Cleveland area, then joined the Peace Corps as a member of their 2nd cohort in 1962. The Peace Corps took him to Thailand, where he met and fell in love with Urai Santitrakul, a fellow social studies teacher. Frank and Urai married in 1965 and began their 56 years together with an around-the-world honeymoon that included stops at the Taj Mahal, Rome, and Donegal, Ireland, to visit the extended Gillespie clan.

In 1964, Frank left the Peace Corps to work for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Vietnam, where he was stationed in Binh Long province along the Cambodian border north of Saigon. Frank's career of public service in the field of international development took his family to Laos, where they narrowly escaped an attack by the Pathet Lao at their home in Kengkok. Frank's further postings took the family to Thailand, Indonesia, and Egypt, and he took assignments on his own in Vietnam, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Among his proudest accomplishments were the community projects he spearheaded such as the playground built in war-torn Sarajevo and the lifelong friendships he created with the people he met in the countries where he worked.

Frank's Cleveland roots brought him joy throughout his lifetime, and he took great pleasure in belting out the glee club songbooks of his younger days as he kept himself busy with the upkeep of the home he and Urai built in Arlington, Virginia. His family and friends will miss his sense of humor and wise counsel. Frank is survived by his brothers and sisters, Kathleen (Colacarro), Gerald, Nonie (Oriti), and James. He leaves behind his wife, Urai, and three children: Lisa (Dan Hodgdon), Russell (Ruth), and Roslyn (Ed Easton). He was also a proud grandfather to Alexander, Aydin, Maya, and Summer. Please visit the family's website to share memories

[<https://www.myfarewelling.com/memorial/frank-gillespie#obituary>]. A memorial will be held in Arlington, Virginia at a later date. In lieu of flowers please send a donation to the Mechai Viravaidya Foundation [<http://www.mechaifoundation.org>].