

ANTON CISTARO OBITUARY



Anton "Tony" Cistaro, who served in the Vietnam pacification program, passed away in Stafford, Virginia on October 7, 2022. He was 92 years old. Born in Chicago, he joined the Marines, serving as a bandsman and sniper-scout. In 1962, after language training, he joined an interrogation and translation team in Vietnam. During his 13 years of service, he received many medals, including the bronze star for valor. He left the Corps but returned to Vietnam with USAID, moving about the provinces by motorbike and antique Jeep, helping villagers implement improvement projects. He and his Vietnamese counterpart traveled the province meeting local notables and improving schools, maternities, dispensaries, roads, and bridges.

In late 1965, while driving through a contested area he struck a pressure mine. Badly wounded unable to move, he feigned death. He spent the next year at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and was given the Secretary of State's Award for Heroism.

In 1966 he joined original staff of the Vietnam Training Center to train men from AID, State, USIA, CIA, and the military to work in the pacification program. Cistaro was course chairman for the first group of trainees, CORDS I.

In 1968 he returned to Vietnam to advise the Vietnamese on interrogation, indoctrination and vocational training of enemy defectors. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, he returned Southeast Asia to help refugees fleeing Vietnam's new regime. In 1994 Cistaro served as interpreter for Admiral Elmo Zumwalt on his reconciliation visit to Hanoi.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine and son Mark of Stafford, Virginia, and daughter Suzanne Lwin of Las Vegas. Contributions in Mr. Cistaro's memory may be made to Saint Veronica Catholic Church, Chantilly, VA 20151.

A Memorial service will be held on December 13 at DACOR in Washington. For more details on the service contact brucekinsey@hotmail.com.

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