

James Cummiskey



James Robert Hannon Paul Cummiskey, 79, passed away on December 1, 2022 due to cardiac arrest. Jim grew up in Normandy, MO. He earned a BA in Zoology from the University of Missouri, and an MA in Public Health from the University of Michigan. Jim was also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Jim had a long and highly accomplished career of public service, from his work as a Supervisor of Mosquito Control for the City of St. Louis, MO in 1965-67, to his nearly 30 years as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)—a career that included postings in Vietnam, Costa Rica, Kenya and Washington, DC.

Following his retirement from USAID in 1996, Jim worked as a CPA in the private sector until 2009, when he returned to public service as a senior manager at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He retired from USDHS in 2014.

In retirement, as in his professional life, Jim was a large, invariably cheerful presence in the lives of his family and friends. A self-described “handy man” he honed—and freely shared—his skills in woodworking, masonry and crafting stained glass; worked as a community volunteer and occasional clown at fundraising events; and enriched the lives of countless friends with his talents as a storyteller and seemingly bottomless font of often outrageous jokes. A charter member of two long-running (since 1978)-but-friendly poker games, Jim enlivened those sessions with his talents as raconteur and humorist.

A devoted family man, Jim is survived by his wife of 49 years, Cathy Jo Cummiskey (Nee - Kiser); two sons: James Robert Jr. (Sriayuthaya Phungbun Na Ayduhya) and Christopher Patrick (Caitrin Reed); four grandchildren: Genevieve, Sebastian, Sofia, and Isabella; and his two sisters: Rosemarie L. Conroy and Mary Patricia Cuddihee.

His family will be celebrating his life at a time to be announced in the near future.