

Edward Howard “Bear” Winant, Foreign Service officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development, died November 22, 2022, in Bangkok, Thailand, at the age of 54. Mr. Winant was born in South Burlington, Vermont, on Nov. 17, 1968. He earned bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D degrees from West Virginia University in 1989, 1992, and 1996, respectively. Mr. Winant began a career in environmental engineering in parallel with his lifelong work in public service, including with the Peace Corps in Cameroon, and several trips to Africa with Engineers Without Borders. He joined the Foreign Service in 2009. Overseas assignments for Mr. Winant included Liberia, Kazakhstan, South Africa, and Thailand. In Washington, Mr. Winant served in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Beginning in 2020, Mr. Winant supported USAID projects in Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and South Africa from Washington. Mr. Winant commissioned a train layout that could be broken into sections for shipping, and it accompanied him to all his postings. He enjoyed canoeing, reading, traveling, entertaining, making new friends, and watching West Virginia University football. Mr. Winant is survived by his wife Dinah, his mother Jean, his brother David (Sherry), and his daughter Freyja.