

Kurt Keith Kunze obituary



Kurt Keith KUNZE, retired Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), died December 14, 2023, in Salem, Virginia, at the age of 80. Mr. Kunze was born March 6, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois. He earned a bachelor's degree from Elmhurst College in 1965, and a master's degree from Northern Illinois University in 1968. From 1967 to 1977, he was active duty in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserves before his honorable discharge in 1992.

In 1977, Mr. Kunze joined USAID and served as a regional inspector general in Panama City (1977-1981), Nairobi (1985-1989), and Cairo (1992-1995). He was USAID's special agent in charge of central offices, Eastern Europe, and the Near East when he retired in 1997.

After retirement, Mr. Kunze settled in Buchanan, Virginia. Over the next 26 years, he renovated his 19th century home with his wife, cultivating a welcoming space for hosting family and friends. Mr. Kunze's love of nature, classical music, culinary pursuits—including gardening, foraging, and canning—and the companionship of his dogs defined his retirement years.

Mr. Kunze is survived by his wife, Amparo; three children, Erik, Emily, and Katia; and his brother Donald (Eleanor Smith). He was predeceased by Bessie Church, Hattie Meyers, Otto Kunze, and Muriel Johnson.