

Roy A. Stacy obituary

Roy A. Stacy died on March 11, 2025, in Brittany, France. He grew up on Oahu, one of eight Hawaiian Islands, a paradise on earth until Dec. 7, 1941, when he witnessed the horrors of war. As he finished washing the family car with his father, several hundred fighter aircraft came over the Pali Mountain on their way to the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor. For a four-year-old boy, the explosions were terribly impressive. In this memoir, he recalls growing up on the island, the years after the war, and the struggles his family endured – especially after moving to California in 1949.

Life in Southern California was not easy for a Hawaiian kid, and Stacy's mother placed him in a religious boarding school where discipline was the norm. But he began running with the wrong crowd anyway, becoming a juvenile delinquent. To avoid going to jail, he enlisted in the military, joining the U.S. Air Force in 1955. Serving his country ended up being the rewind, erase, and reprogram opportunity that he needed – and he went on to serve in key positions with the United States Foreign Service and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Roy Stacy's USAID career began in Somalia from 1966-69 followed by 2 years at the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He was then assigned to be the Regional Program Officer for Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland from 1971-73, followed by Regional Planning Officer in Ivory Coast., 1976-78.

This led to the start-up position at the Club du Sahel in Paris at the OECD, then USAID Director of Zimbabwe 81-86 and at State, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa 87-89. Following retirement Roy worked full time at the World Bank and with FAO and WFP and FEWS NET on food security early warning systems from 92-99. He continued working part time until age 80, leading evaluations, convinced that retirement is a primary cause of old age.