



## Warren Bruce Kinsey

December 31, 1940 - February 14, 2025

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service sends condolences to the family of Warren Bruce Kinsey.

Warren Bruce Kinsey, 84, of Maurertown, passed away February 14 at Winchester Hospital, the result of injuries from a fall. The son of the late Warren Kinsey and Elizabeth Trost Kinsey, Bruce was born in Peoria, Illinois, on December 31, 1940. A diplomat, writer, marketer, and carpenter, his life took many twists and turns.

In 1954, Bruce's family moved to Decatur, Illinois, where his father was manager of the Caterpillar Equipment plant there. After graduating from Eisenhower High School, he continued his education at Northwestern University, transferring to the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in his sophomore year. He graduated in 1962, joined the Foreign Service, and was posted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), followed by two years in Stuttgart, Germany.

Early in 1967, Bruce was recruited by Everet Bumgardner (a Shenandoah

County native) to be in the first class at the Vietnam Training Center. Those recruits from the State Department, military, and Agency for International Development spent a year in intense Vietnamese language and culture study. The graduates of the center were sent to Vietnam under the pacification program known as Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS). Bruce spent two years in Long An province working with Vietnamese people, providing support for health, infrastructure and education needs and helping them resist incursion attempts by the Viet Cong.

In 1970, he received the American Foreign Service Association's Averell Harriman Award for "courage, creativity and disciplined dissent." USAID also honored him with its meritorious service award.

After returning from Vietnam, he took leave from the State Department to obtain a Master of Business Administration from the University of Virginia. Following graduation, he left the State Department and joined Cresap, McCormick, and Paget, a management consultant firm. Subsequently, Bruce held writing/marketing positions at the Congressional Quarterly, Printing Industries of America, and United Communications Group, among others.

In 2001 he retired to Shenandoah County to an 1898 farmhouse on 25 acres where he never tired of the mountain and pond views. It was there that he turned to his love of woodworking and, for socializing's sake, founded a men's monthly lunch group called the ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out).

The Maurertown farm became a frequent unofficial assembly point for veterans of the Vietnam

pacification program, informally dubbed "The Good Guys." At the time of his death, Bruce was writing a detailed history and analysis of the pacification efforts.

He is survived by his wife Joan Anderson; sons Geoff Kinsey (Kathlynn), Bothell WA, and Scott Graves (Hazel), Salt Lake City, and daughter, Jacqueline Norris (Michael), Castle Rock, CO, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, He was predeceased by his son Matthew and his sister Betsy Alton.

A memorial gathering will be held at St. Paul's Heritage Center, 106 South High Street, Edinburg on Sunday, March 9, at 1 pm. For details on parking and accessibility, please see below. A second event will be held in Washington DC in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Humane Society of Shenandoah County, P.O. Box 173, Woodstock, Virginia 22664.

In Bruce's honor, you might read a book about or written by Winston Churchill or Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

MAR 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

St Paul's Heritage Center  
106 South High Street  
Edinburg, VA 22824

*There are three entrances to the building: a handicap ramp on the left side (as you face it), which involves no steps; an entrance in the front with several steps; and a ground-level entrance on the right that leads to a few interior steps.*

# Tribute Wall

A6

“ One of the highest accolades a State Department / USAID veteran of MACV / CORDS could receive for their service in the Vietnam War was to be dubbed a “Good Guy” by Bruce. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of that conflict this month, it is most fitting to recall Bruce’s contributions and those of all the other Good Guys (both male and female) in military and civilian organizations who served with great distinction and effectiveness. I miss him already

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Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, CORDS 6 - April 05, 2025 at 11:38 AM

JA

Thank you so much for your recognition of Bruce. He cared so much about Vietnam and those of you who served there in the pacification program.

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joan anderson - April 09, 2025 at 03:36 PM

DP

“ Hello,  
My name is not important. I worked at the Decatur Caterpillar Plant while Warren was plant manager.  
He was a friendly fella.  
While helping the Junior Achievement Group we met with Mr. Kinsey to explain what the JA team were producing. The Team won the honors that year for the best team. Mr. Kinsey asked many questions and "cheered" them in their success.  
He was of the "Old School" of associations and support. It was a great pleasure to have known him.  
It is clear the "chip" (Bruce) held those same values. Heaven is a better place with him on board.  
Daniel Pullum Decatur, IL

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Daniel Pullum - March 05, 2025 at 11:06 AM

FT

“ *RIP Warren. You are my hero.*



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**frank Titus** - March 03, 2025 at 02:15 PM

NC

“ *Dear Joan,  
I was sad to see in the Post that Bruce had passed. By savoring your life on Golden Pond, you two showed me that life goes on after National Geographic. I hope you find comfort in precious, empathic Rufus.*

*Love,  
Nancy Zanner Correll*

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**Nancy Zanner Correll** - March 03, 2025 at 02:07 PM

RR

“ *Bruce and I had a friendship lasting nearly sixty years. As young men we shared adventures. After losing touch for a few years we rekindled our friendship as old men, in Washington State first and then in Virginia. He worked so very hard to reconnect those of us who trained together for the Viet Nam pacification effort in the 60's. He kept that group together for more than twenty years and in the process earned the lasting gratitude of his colleagues. Bruce really was the best of us -- bright, caring, generous and someone who always saw the best in people. He was a great conversationalist and story teller, as well as being very funny. He worked hard to find new material to keep his many friends in stitches. It will be some time before I can fully accept that he is gone. My deepest condolences to Joan, Geoff and the rest of the Kinsey family.*

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**Richard J Redmond** - February 26, 2025 at 02:58 PM

DG

“ So sad to hear about Bruce. Sending our condolences and deepest sympathies. We will remember Bruce and the conversations we had. He was a fine person with a great personality. We really enjoyed the Vietnam get togethers at the farmhouse. May his soul rest in peace.

*Dave Garms and Barbara Carter-Garms.*

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**David John Garms** - February 23, 2025 at 10:21 PM

CL

“ Rest in peace, dear Bruce. Your friends, “the Good Guys” of CORDS,, direct marketers of DMAW, and lovers of Sri Lanka (the Serendipity Group) will sorely miss you... Your devoted, Catherine (Lincoln)

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**Catherine Lincoln** - February 23, 2025 at 12:43 PM

LR

“ Bruce was more than a dear friend of extraordinary wit and breadth.

*For those of us who served in the CORDS security and development program in Vietnam, Bruce, with Joan's key support, was the indispensable caring, coordinator keeping us informed and connected-- and rallying support for those of us encountering adversity.*

*So, a great many of us miss Bruce and owe him a deep debt of gratitude as leader of whom he dubbed the "Good Guys." For us, Bruce is irreplaceable.*

*He will be always remembered with great affection and regard as we also send heartfelt condolences to Joan, Geoff and the entire Kinsey family.*

*Lionel Rosenblatt*

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**Lionel Rosenblatt** - February 22, 2025 at 10:30 PM