In Memoriam

John Dale Blacken

John Dale Blacken, 84, a retired FSO and former ambassador, died Aug. 3 near Washington, D.C., undergoing treatment for melanoma. Beginning with his first posting to Dar es Salaam in 1961, he enjoyed a long and often colorful career in Africa and Latin America. He retired after his ambassadorship to Guinea-Bissau (1986–89) and eventually returned to live there with his wife and daughters. Until his death, he was active in the removal of the land mines left by the independence and civil wars, heading a humanitarian demining NGO called Humanitarian Aid and becoming the trusted face of America for Bissau-Guineans.

Return