

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ISHAM ANCESTRY ASSOCIATION

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

Obituaries - June 25, 2009

Heyward Isham, U.S. Ambassador

Heyward Isham, a former United States ambassador and noted Russian scholar who played an important role in negotiations that ended the Vietnam War, died last Thursday in Southampton of a heart attack. He was 82.

A memorial service will take place at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Bridgehampton tomorrow, starting at noon. A private burial will take place after the service at Oakland Cemetery in Sag Harbor.



As a Foreign Service officer, Mr. Isham served as ambassador to Haiti from 1974 to 1977 and as assistant secretary of state and director of the Office for Combating Terrorism from 1977 to 1978. In addition, he was chief of the U.S. Delegation to the Paris Peace Talks on Vietnam from 1971 to 1973.

He was born in New York City on Nov. 4, 1926, a son of Ralph Heyward Isham and the former Margaret Hurt of Southampton. Mr. Isham served as a colonel with the British Army in World War II and later obtained the papers of James Boswell. He brought the papers to America, where 18 volumes were published. They were acquired by Yale University in 1949.

Heyward Isham was raised in New York City and Newport, R.I., attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from Yale University in 1947. He later studied at Columbia University's Russian Institute in New York City. He continued his Russian language studies at the U.S. Army Russian Institute in Garmisch, Germany.

His career in the foreign service began at the U.S. mission in Berlin in 1950. Four years later he became chief of consular section and political office at the U.S.