



IN MEMORY

Elizabeth Ravdin Bergus, 80, wife of the late FSO and former ambassador Donald C. Bergus, died on Dec. 18, 2007, in Cape May Courthouse, N.J.

A resident of the island town of Strathmere, N.J., Mrs. Bergus was born in 1927 in Philadelphia. She attended Friends Central School, Sarah Lawrence College and the School of Nursing of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1950, she met and married FSO Donald C. Bergus. The couple began their married life in Beirut, eventually serving in Paris, Washington, D.C., Cairo, Ankara and Khartoum.

Despite the era's limits on a woman's role — in the Foreign Service at that time, a diplomat's wife was not permitted to hold an outside job — Elizabeth Bergus carved out a role as her husband's closest political confidant and a bridge to local civic leaders, especially women's groups. As her husband rose through the ranks, Mrs. Bergus' diplomatic duties grew until she was organizing and presiding over more than 500 official receptions, diplomatic dinners, committee meetings and other events annually. Her organizational skills carried her family — including daughters Elizabeth and Priscilla, and son George — through 12 major household relocations.

Upon her husband's retirement in 1980, the couple returned to Mrs. Bergus' summer childhood home in

Strathmere, where with her husband's support she continued her active public service. As president of the Strathmere Improvement Association, she led a vigorous, three-year campaign to get state and township authorities to replace the town's bankrupt water company and provide healthy water for the town's residents. In 1986, she and her husband led efforts to build a modern firehouse that could also serve as a disaster-response shelter and community meeting place.

As a member of the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company, Mrs. Bergus responded to emergency call-outs 24 hours a day and served as its secretary. She was elected a Strathmere Fire District commissioner and served as clerk of the Fire Commission. In her 60s, she became a certified emergency medical technician, later becoming one of the first EMTs in New Jersey to be qualified to administer cardiac defibrillation. Joining the Volunteer Ambulance Corps in the nearby city of Sea Isle, N.J. — and later named its president — she was among the top responders to emergency calls across the island.

An active citizen advocate in local township affairs, she was a member of the zoning board and also served as deputy emergency manager, monitoring storm and other disaster threats and helping to organize evacuations from this vulnerable area.

Despite her active public service,

Mrs. Bergus was, first and foremost, devoted to her family. Her home was a center not only for her children and grandchildren, but to nieces and nephews as well.

Mrs. Bergus' husband, Donald, died in 1998. She is survived by her daughter Elizabeth Grace Bergus, of Pitman, N.J.; son George Ravdin Bergus (and his wife, Rebecca), of Iowa City, Iowa; daughter Priscilla Bergus Laurence (and her husband, Andrew) of London; five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her honor may be sent to the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company to be used for medical equipment.



Elden Burt Erickson, 88, a retired Foreign Service officer, died on March 30 in Solomons, Md.

Mr. Erickson — Eric to his friends — was born in Norway, Kan. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Emporia State University, where he majored in education and languages.

In 1942, unable to pass the physical examination for officer candidate school, Mr. Erickson enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He spent more than a year with the Judge Advocate General's office in Florida, most of the time engaged in court reporting thanks to his facility at shorthand — a skill that was to prove invaluable in

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the Foreign Service. In February 1944 he arrived in England and was part of the landing force on Utah Beach. He fought during the battle for Normandy and was offered a battlefield commission to second lieutenant. After hostilities ended, he was transferred to the military government and sent to Schwabach, where his knowledge of German was fully employed.

In 1946, Mr. Erickson returned to Kansas to teach languages at a small college. Later that year, recalling a USO-sponsored trip to Rome, where the imposing U.S. embassy had made a great impression on him, he applied to the State Department for work and was readily accepted.

Following training in Washington as a code clerk, he was sent to the consulate general in Mukden, Manchuria, in February 1948. There the Chinese Nationalists were attempting to hold the line against the Chinese Communist military forces. On Nov. 1, however, the Communists marched into Mukden unopposed.

Within a month, the American transmitters were confiscated, guards were in place around the consulate general and the living compound two blocks away, and the 13 Americans were taken hostage. Ultimately, Consul General Angus Ward and four staffers were removed and put in solitary confinement. Within the compound, conditions during those winter months were horrendous. The electricity had been cut off, and it was so bitterly cold that the pump froze, and they could not bathe. Their baked bread had to be sliced to remove the cockroaches.

After a month, Ward and the others were returned. In June 1949, after a sham trial, Erickson was sentenced to three years in prison for "espionage." The sentence was later commuted to immediate deportation

and banishment. However, this saga did not end until December, when the Americans were suddenly informed they were to depart in 24 hours. After 40 hours aboard an ice-cold train with windows stuck wide open to the frigid air, they reached Tientsin, and were turned over to American diplomatic personnel.

From 1950 to 1954, Mr. Erickson served in Algiers in the economic section; from there, he was assigned to Paris. He was commissioned as an FSO in 1955, and in 1956 returned to Asia for a tour in Vientiane. There he met Foreign Service staff assistant Patricia Gordon, a Berkeley graduate and fluent French-speaker, whom he married upon completion of their tours in Laos.

The East Asia Bureau in Washington was next. A highlight of that tour was serving as escort officer for Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia on the latter's visits to the U.S. In 1962, the Erickson family, now including a son, Mark, arrived in Kobe, where Mr. Erickson served as economic officer and deputy principal officer. In 1964, he attended the Air War College in Alabama, before being posted to Beirut as economic counselor in 1965.

With its scores of banks and head offices of many foreign businesses, Beirut was considered an island of calm in a troubled region. That changed suddenly with the outbreak of the Six Days War in 1967, and the Erickson family joined hundreds of other evacuees leaving by air or by ship for Rome or other safe havens.

Mr. Erickson served as chief of personnel for the Far East Bureau in Washington from 1967 to 1970, not a happy sinecure during the time of forced assignments to Vietnam. He then became consul general in Rotterdam, an assignment that ended in 1974. A posting to Tokyo as economic/commercial counselor followed.

Pollution-related health problems of his family forced a curtailment of that assignment, and Mr. Erickson next went to Ottawa as economic/commercial counselor from 1975 to 1978. His final assignment was to the consulate general in Frankfurt, ironically the place where he had first sat for the Foreign Service examination three decades earlier.

Following retirement in 1980, Mr. Erickson worked on Freedom of Information Act issues and as a fact-checker for *U.S. News & World Report*.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Patricia Erickson, of Solomons, Md., and their son, Mark, of Tampa, Fla.



Sharyn Roberta Moss, 62, a former cultural affairs officer and wife of the late FSO Stanley Moss, died on Aug. 29 at her home in Novato, Calif.

Born in New York City on Oct. 15, 1945, Sharyn Moss graduated from Sheepshead Bay High School in Brooklyn and received her bachelor's and master's of science degrees from Brooklyn College. She then taught physical education at Sayville High School, Long Island, N.Y., for five years. During a vacation, she planned to meet her girlfriends in Greece after first visiting Israel. In Greece, however, she decided to cut her visit short to go back and spend more time in Israel. Falling in love with the country, she returned to New York, learned Hebrew, left her promising teaching position and lived in Israel for the next 10 years.

In Israel, Ms. Moss served as a cultural attaché at the embassy in Tel Aviv, where she met her husband, FSO Stanley David Moss. The couple returned to the U.S., married and settled in Marin County. Living in Tiburon, Calif., for a year, they then

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discovered Pacheco Valley and moved to Novato in 1986. Ms. Moss worked for the U.S. District Court in San Francisco for 12 years.

After her husband's death in 1999, Ms. Moss worked as a legal assistant at three prestigious San Francisco law firms and was active in the Novato community. As president of Indian Valley Artists, she helped establish an art gallery and studios for the group. She served as chair of the Novato Arts Commission and as a board member of the Novato Arts Foundation. She also served on the city's Strategic Plan Oversight Committee, the Sustainable Novato organization and as a board member of Foreign Service Retirees of Northern California.

In mid-2006, Ms. Moss suffered a stroke, and was diagnosed a year later with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. She approached ALS with the same positive strength and humor with which she had lived her entire life. Despite her medical condition, in 2006 she hosted many Novato Architecture Selection Committee public meetings in her home to complete her service as vice chairperson. Ms. Moss cherished her roots in Novato as well as her loving cats, TomTom and Maggie.

She is survived by her father and mother, Dr. Harold and Selma Carl of Florida, and an aunt, Charlotte Russell of New York.



David Brighton Timmins, 78, a retired Foreign Service officer, died on July 16 at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Born in Salt Lake City on May 21, 1930, the son of William Montana and Mary Brighton Timmins, he attended the University of Utah, where he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees. He

later attended Harvard University as a Littauer Fellow, earning a master's degree in public administration and a Ph.D. in economics. Mr. Timmins' dissertation on the newly created Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the first analytical treatment of this organization, was published in book form (*The International Policy Coordinator Instrument — the OECD*) on the OECD's silver anniversary in 1986.

In 1952, Mr. Timmins married Laurel Mae Nelson of Morgan, Utah. They had four children and were later divorced. In 1978, he married Lola Ann Gygi of Salt Lake City.

Mr. Timmins joined the Foreign Service in 1955. His overseas postings included the U.K., France (twice) and Iceland. He served as executive assistant and secretary of delegation to the NATO ambassador and, later, as chief of the economic section in Spain, Morocco and Guatemala. He also had several assignments at the State Department in Washington, D.C., including a tour as a member of the Board of Examiners.

As deputy director of the Bureau of Economic Research, Mr. Timmins briefed the under secretary of State for economic affairs, predicting the OPEC oil embargo and organizing an international seminar on the emerging problem of multinational corporations. He also served as senior economist in the State Department's Office of International Monetary Affairs and as deputy director of the Office of European Political-Economic Affairs.

Following his retirement in 1982, he accompanied his wife Lola on her Foreign Service assignments to France, Mexico, China, Romania and Switzerland.

Mr. Timmins particularly enjoyed teaching international economics and finance at some of the foremost universities in the countries where he

and his wife served, as well as in the Washington, D.C., area. On assignment in Guatemala, he was also executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Guatemala-America Society and professor of finance and economics at Francisco Marroquin University. During tours in Paris, he was also professor of comparative economics at the American University of Paris, business manager of the American Cathedral and consultant to the International Energy Agency.

While an accompanying spouse in Mexico, Mr. Timmins assisted with establishment of the temporary worker visa program centered in Hermosillo, while simultaneously teaching economics at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. In China, he was business manager of the International School of Beijing, and also worked at the embassy. In Switzerland, he taught at the Geneva Campus of Webster University.

During Washington assignments, Mr. Timmins was a visiting lecturer at The George Washington University, the University of Maryland and the University of Northern Virginia. Upon the couple's return to Utah, he taught at Brigham Young University-Salt Lake City for several years. In 1996, he ran (unsuccessfully) for Congress from Utah's second district. During his active career, he was listed in *Who's Who* and *American Men and Women of Science*.

Mr. Timmins is survived by his wife Lola, of Salt Lake City, Utah; sons Mark David of Provo, Utah, and Robert William (and his wife, Karen) of Eagle River, Ark.; daughters Karen Marie Brown (and her husband, Blaine) of Provo, Utah, and Catherine Margaret McGreevy (and her husband, Patrick) of Folsom, Calif.; and 16 grandchildren. ■