

BARRY LEN COBB, PhD.
1942 - 2009

Barry Len Cobb, Ph.D., 66 of Pensacola, Florida, passed away on July 26, 2009. He was born in Pensacola on December 22, 1942 to Len W. and Myrtle Earnest Cobb.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, William Thomas and Bessie Hall Earnest, and Wiley Martin and Alice Faulk Cobb; and numerous aunts and uncles. Barry is survived by his wife, Jeanie Dumestre; his parents; his aunts Irene Earnest and Mary Earnest; his uncle Marion Cobb; sister-in-law Mary Dumestre and her husband Guy Johnson and their son Dan; and by numerous cousins and many friends.

Barry was an Eagle Scout and received the God and Country award. He was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the US Army in military intelligence in Saigon from 1967 to 1969. Barry was an avid FSU Seminole football fan. He loved sailing and had a private pilot's license. Barry and his wife Jeanie traveled extensively in the US, Europe, and Asia. Barry was of the Baptist faith.

Barry graduated from Pensacola High School, class of 1960. At Florida State University he received a Bachelor's degree in 1964 and a Master's degree in Social Science Education in 1966. In 1976 he received a Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Cobb was a high school teacher and department head and was a staff and faculty member at FSU, Cal Berkeley, and California State University at Hayward. While in graduate school, he was inducted into Phi Delta Kappa, an international association for professional educators.

In 1974, Dr. Cobb joined the Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support (DANTES), an agency of the US Department of Defense (DoD) as College and University Programs Officer. He later became Head of the Professional Information Services Department, Head of Program Development, and then Special Assistant to the Director. In 1980, he became the Director of DANTES. As its Director, Dr. Cobb provided vision and leadership to DANTES for almost 25 years. His work enabled DANTES to provide education services to hundreds of thousands of military service men and women, assisting them in achieving personal and professional goals. Dr. Cobb established and oversaw overseas DANTES offices in Yongsan Army Garrison, South Korea, for military service members serving in the Far East, and in Heidelberg, Germany, for military service members located in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

His leadership established DANTES as the premier federal education support agency, widely recognized for its reliable support services within the DoD. DANTES has had a major impact on the entire field of adult and continuing education due to the credibility of its distance learning and other nontraditional programs administered for military personnel. He developed the DANTES Education Support, Assessment, and Training Department; the DANTES Education Programs Department; the DANTES Publications Distribution Center; and the DANTES Troops-to-Teachers Department. He oversaw the development and implementation of the Military Installation Voluntary Education Review process, a major force in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of education programs offered to military personnel. He retired from DANTES in June 2005.

During his tenure at DANTES and post retirement, Dr. Cobb served on advisory boards and panels, including the congressionally-mandated Department of Veteran Affairs Education Advisory Committee, Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, the Florida State Independent College and University Advisory Board, and the Board for the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. Dr. Cobb wrote several articles, educational directories, and guides on the social foundations of education and nontraditional education. He served as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Process for Accreditation of Joint Education.

Among his many awards are the Nickerson Medal of Merit for significant contributions to DoD Voluntary Education programs from the American Association of State Colleges and

Universities; the 1997 Tilton Davis, Jr., Outstanding Educator Award, given by the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education; the 1997 Outstanding Military Educator award of the Council on Military Education and Training; the 1998 Equal Employment Opportunity Honorary Award; the National Guard Golden Eagle Award; the 1990 Council of College and Military Educators President's Award; and the 2005 Continuing Education Lifetime Achievement Award from Grantham University. He also was selected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing, and Commerce, based in London. In June 2001, Dr. Cobb was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. He received an honorary Doctorate of Law from Excelsior College in 2002. In 2009 the Council of College and Military Educators established the annual Barry Cobb Governmental Organization Award for the government organization that best represents support to military education.

Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, July 31, 2009, with the service at 2:00 p.m., at Harper-Morris Memorial Chapel, 2276 Airport Boulevard, Pensacola. Reverend Rick Spencer, assisted by the Reverend Jim Burkhardt, will officiate. Interment will follow at Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery on Scenic Highway.

Honorary pallbearers are Dr. Golan Buck, Dr. Bill Driscoll, Larry Williamson, Guy Johnson, Dan Johnson, Allison Cobb, William Cobb, Lamar Cobb, Thomas Earnest, Tyrus Cobb, Don Cobb, Tom Carter.

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