

## An Insight into the Life & Legacy of John ("Jack") Loiello

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John Loiello was known to all as Jack (the product of a first generation Irish-American mother and an Italian-American father). Jack studied at SOAS in the 1970's where he completed his Ph.D. in African History. Since this was in pre-computer days, I typed at least five drafts of each chapter of his thesis. Remember typewriters!! SOAS provided Jack with an outstanding education, as well as the opportunity to make many international friends and indulge in the wonderful variety of cultural outlets in the city. Our flat at International Students House was special, as my office for the City of Westminster was just across Marylebone Road from the flat.

On our return to the US, we made our home for the next 30 years in downtown Washington, DC. Jack served in the Carter Administration at the National Endowment for Humanities. He went on to be a founder of the National Endowment for Democracy and the inaugural head of the National Democratic Institute for International

Affairs. Establishing his own international consulting firm occupied several years of our lives with clients in west Africa, Japan, Taiwan and Europe.

In the Clinton administration, Jack held the post of what is now known as the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department. While there, the Fulbright Scholars and Historical Black Universities and Colleges were part of his portfolio.

Jack was always politically active. While we were in London, President Ford signed the Overseas Voting Rights Act. As a result, we participated in the first delegation from Democrats Abroad to the 1976 and 1980 political conventions. Jack also chaired the foreign policy subcommittee for the 1980 Democratic platform.

In 2008, Jack started to work with Professor Paul Webley and the development staff at SOAS to form the tax-exempt entity, now known as AFSOAS. I was honored when the Board named this scholarship for Jack following his death in 2013 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. Each scholarship awarded represent for me an ongoing tribute to Jack's love of learning and commitment to the betterment of our global community.

My best wishes to each of our scholars in your continued success as you serve as ambassadors for SOAS around the world.