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# Communiqué

Office of Academic Affairs

## **Leon Lejeune Cummins Passed Away March 30, 2012**

Leon Lejeune Cummins, professor emeritus of history, passed away on March 30, 2012, in San Diego, California.

Professor Cummins was born in San Diego and during World War II joined the Marines while still in high school, serving as a radar technician in the Solomon and Marianas Islands. He earned his A.B. in 1950, his M.A. in 1951, and his Ph.D. in History in 1964 from the University of California, Berkeley and specialized in U.S.-Latin American relations. He began his career at CSU Hayward in 1963 and retired in 1986. Prof. Cummins was appointed Chair of the Department of History in the Fall of 1973 serving one 3-year term. He participated in the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) through academic year 1993-94 when he moved to his cabin and orchards in Guerneville and then to San Diego.

Richard Orsi, professor emeritus of history, says, "I'll always remember Lee's kindness to me, as well as other new faculty of the late 60's and early 70's, going out of his way to get to know us, helping us to learn the ropes of being a faculty member, encouraging us to participate in faculty governance and activities. He recruited me to teach California history and then encouraged me to take this new direction ... life and career-changing for me."

Dee Andrews, professor of history, adds, "Professor Cummins was always eager to incorporate junior faculty into the life of the department: very attentive and kind when I was first at CSUEB, and a great supporter of the Friends of History. I was truly saddened to hear the news of his death."

A private memorial service was held in San Diego in early April.

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