

New York's Influential Actuary

Stanley A. Dorf (FCAS 1965)

1931-2020

Stanley A. Dorf, the former head of the New York State Insurance Department's policy and planning bureau, died July 7, 2020. Born in 1931 on Manhattan's Lower East Side to Irving and Sally Dorf, he suffered permanent damage on his right arm during birth and "mild" polio, but he accepted his limitations without complaint. While in a school for gifted children, he skipped two grades and was later offered a full-tuition scholarship at Columbia University. Since his parents could not afford room and board, he lived at home in Brooklyn, trekking back and forth to Manhattan's Upper West Side. He enrolled at Cornell University to pursue a master's degree in philosophy. In 1956 he married Annette Kaplan, the love of his life of 57 years. After briefly working at the Royal Insurance Company, he joined New York's insurance department. There he served as chief of the casualty actuarial bureau and later at the policy and planning bureau. He was instrumental in enacting New York's no-fault auto insurance law and contributing to medical malpractice insurance reform. At home he enjoyed spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He also pursued a doctorate in history. A lover of the arts and music, Dorf accumulated and categorized more than 10,000 LP records and often played them at high volume. As an early technology adopter, he proudly owned one of the very first calculators and used it until his iPhone app rendered it obsolete. He is survived by his brother, William Dorf; daughter Laura Dorf Queller; son Michael C. Dorf; and grandchildren Sarah, Philip and Julia Queller, and Meena and Amelia Colbdorf.