

The Brazilian military history is in mourning

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It is with regret that we begin this editorial informing of the death of an illustrious member of the Scientific Council of the Meira Mattos Collection, Dr. Francis (Frank) Daniel McCann Junior (1938-2021), who died on March 2, 2021.

Frank McCann, as he was popularly known in Brazil, was born in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, on December 15, 1938, died on March 2, 2021. He graduated in History from Niagara University (1960), completed his master's degree at Kent University (1962) and a PhD at Indiana University (1967).

In the United States, he taught at the University of Wisconsin, at the University of River Falls and at the United States Military Academy at West Point, before arriving at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), where he stayed from 1972 to 2007, the safe haven from which he wrote several of his best known works. In Brazil, he served as a visiting professor at the University of Brasilia and at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

His relationship with the country began in 1965, when he obtained a Fulbright scholarship to study Brazil-United States relations. He came to live in the country with his family (his wife Diane and daughters Teresa Bernadette and Katherine Diane) and returned several times to research and socialize with friends that he made over the decades. Frank McCann formally and informally received several Brazilian researchers in the USA, who assisted him in his research. For his studies, the Foreign Relations Ministry awarded him the title of Commander of the Order of Rio Branco (1987) and the Brazilian Army awarded the Peacemaker Medal (1995).

The 82-year-old Brazilianist left an extensive body of work that includes books, chapters, articles, reviews and other publications. His research dedicated to the study of the Brazilian Armed Forces yielded books such as: *Brazilian American Alliance (The Aliança Brasileira Americana)*, 1937-1945; *Soldiers of the Fatherland: a History of the Brazilian Army, 1889-1937*; and *Brazil and the United States during World War II*. When this last book was released, Dr. McCann held a lecture at ECEME. Taking advantage of this opportunity he also taught a short course on research methods and techniques for civilian and military students of the Posgraduate Program in Military Sciences. Easy demeanor, availability and kindness captivated the students at the time.

The writing of history is done by people with a deep commitment to their themes and research objects. People who dedicate their lives to understanding other individuals, their institutions and dynamics. Frank McCann was one of such people who left a huge legacy that will still be read by generations of American, Brazilian and other scholars. The Meira Mattos Collection recognizes the great researcher that Dr. McCann was, providing relevant contributions to the field of Military Sciences, and is grateful for the privilege of having had him as a member of the Scientific Council of the Collection.