



James F. Collins

Class of 1957

JAMES F. (JIM) COLLINS, is a recognized authority on the former Soviet Union, including Russia and its successor states, and on the Middle East. Collins had a distinguished diplomatic career spanning more than three decades. He was centrally involved in American diplomacy and policy toward the former Soviet region and Europe from 1969 through the end of the Cold War and throughout the 1990s. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Russia (1997-2001), as Ambassador-at-large and special adviser to the secretary of state for the new independent states (1993-1997) and as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Moscow (1990-1993). He also held positions at the U.S. embassy in Amman, Jordan and the consulate general in Izmir, Turkey as well as the White House. For the past eight years, he has been director and senior associate in the Russia Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Collins is the recipient of the Secretary of State's Award for Distinguished Service; the Department of State's Distinguished Honor Award; the Secretary of State's Award for Career Achievement; the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service; and the NASA Medal for Distinguished Service. Following New Trier he attended Harvard College and Indiana University.

Ambassador Collins has been active on the boards of nonprofit organizations concerned with U.S. foreign policy and U.S. relations with Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. He has served as a member of the board of the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the American Academy of Diplomacy, the Open World Leadership Center, and American Councils for International Education, and as co-chair of the U.S.-Russia Foundation

Collins' wife of 51 years, the former Naomi Feldman, is a humanities scholar, writer and non-profit leader. She has chronicled the Russian experience shared with Jim over four decades in her book *Through Dark Days and White Nights*. They have two sons, Robert and Jonathan, and four grandchildren.

