

Career Foreign Service officer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ONEONTA, N.Y. — **George McMurtie Godley**, who served as U.S. ambassador to Laos and Lebanon during the Vietnam war, died Sunday of heart failure. He was 82.

After graduating from Yale University in 1939, he later served in the Navy during World War II.

He joined the Foreign Service in 1941 and attended the San Francisco conference in 1945 where the United Nations charter was signed and the organization was founded.

His first appointment as a U.S. ambassador came in 1962 when he became ambassador to the Belgian Congo, now Zaire. He served in that post until 1967.

He was ambassador to Laos from 1969-73 and then ambassador to Lebanon from 1973 to 1976.

He retired in 1977 when he became ill with throat cancer.

During his retirement in the central New York town of Morris, Godley joined the Hartwick College board of trustees and served as the president and chairman of the board of the Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown.