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Friend remembers Ambassador Stevens fondly

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In 2002, Chris Stevens, second from left, was an envoy in Damascus, where he met Sean Foley, second from right, and Foley's fiancée, Kerry.

Written by **Sean Foley**

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J. Christopher Stevens, U.S. ambassador to Libya, died this week after an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi.

In May 2002, I was a Fulbright scholar in Damascus, Syria, and I loved to walk through the city's medina adima (or old city) neighborhood on Friday afternoons. On one of these trips, I ran into Chris, an American diplomat then serving at the U.S. Embassy in Damascus. I met him through the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Office. It was a decade before his picture was splashed across the front pages of newspapers around the world.

Although he was a generation older than I, Stevens and I had an easy rapport and several important things in common. We were both from the San Francisco Bay area; had studied history and languages at the University of California, Berkeley; and were committed to understanding the modern Middle East.

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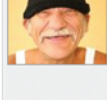
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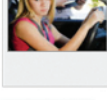
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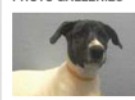
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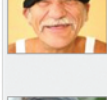
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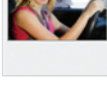
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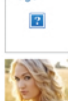
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