

Edward Paul "Ed" Flanders

Patrick Henry High School class of 1952

(December 29, 1934 – February 22, 1995) was an American actor best known for his role as Dr. Donald Westphall in the television series.

Ed played hockey and starred in the theater while a student at Patrick Henry. After graduation, he entered the army where he served as an x-ray technician.

After his service with the United States Army ended, Flanders began his acting career on

[Broadway](#) before moving on to guest parts in television series. From 1967 through 1975, Flanders appeared in more than a dozen American TV shows, including six appearances on [Hawaii Five-O](#) (as six different characters). During this time, he was also prolific in TV movies.

In the late 1970s, Flanders moved away from small TV roles to take major credits in both TV and feature films, while continuing his stage career. In 1974 Flanders won a [Tony Award](#) for Best Supporting or Featured Actor in a Dramatic Presentation for [A Moon for the Misbegotten](#) on [Broadway](#). He also won an [Emmy](#) award in 1976 for the [TV movie](#) adaptation of *A Moon for the Misbegotten*.

In 1982 he began his role in [St. Elsewhere](#) that was to earn him four [Emmy Award](#) nominations as Outstanding Lead Actor in a TV Series, winning the award in 1983. After a stormy departure from the series in 1987, he returned for two more episodes in 1988, including the series finale.

In addition to his six-year role as Dr. Donald Westphall, Flanders is noted as the actor who has played President [Harry Truman](#) more times, and in more separate productions, than any other. He portrayed Truman in *Truman at Potsdam*, *Harry S Truman: Plain Speaking*, and *MacArthur*.

One of Flanders's best-remembered TV guest roles was in the first season [M*A*S*H](#) episode "Yankee Doodle Doctor," playing film director Duane William Bricker.

Flanders also played nationally known journalist [William Allen White](#) in the 1977 made-for-TV movie [Mary White](#). He also appeared in the 1979 made-for-TV-horror-miniseries [Salem's Lot](#) as Dr. Bill Norton. He also played news anchor John Woodley in the 1983 made-for-TV suspense drama [Special Bulletin](#).

Ed acted in numerous television productions:

1967: [Cimarron Strip](#) (episode: "The Roarer") as Arliss Blynn

1969: [Daniel Boone](#) (episode: "The Traitor") as Lackland

1971: [The Name of the Game](#) (episode: "Beware of the Watchdog") as Lazlo Subich

1971: [Travis Logan D.A.](#) as Psychiatrist

1971: [Bearcats!](#) (episode: "The Hostage") as Ben Tillman

1971: [Goodbye, Raggedy Ann](#) (TV movie) as David Bevin

1971: [McMillan & Wife](#) (episode: "Husbands, Wives and Killers") as Tom Benton

1971: [Mission Impossible](#) (episode: "Blues") as Joe Belker

1972: [Mannix](#) (episode: "A Walk in the Shadows") as Tom Farnom

1972: [Nichols](#) a.k.a. James Garner as Nichols (episode: "Fight of the Century")

1972: [Cade's County](#) (episode: "The Fake") as Ben Crawford

1972: [Ironside](#) (episode: "Five days in the Death of Sgt. Brown: Part 1") as Phil McIver

1972: [The Bold Ones: The New Doctors](#) a.k.a. [The New Doctors](#) (episode: "Five Days in the Death of Sgt Brown: Part II") as Phil McIver

1972: [M*A*S*H](#) (episode: "[Yankee Doodle Doctor](#)") as Lt Dwayne Bricker
1972: [Banyon](#) (episode: "Just Once") as Sergeant Randall
1973: [Kung Fu](#) (episode: "The Salamander") as Alonzo Davis
1973: [Marcus Welby, M.D.](#) a.k.a. [Robert Young, Family Doctor](#) (episode: "The Comeback") as Magruder
1974: [Barnaby Jones](#) (episode: "Death on Deposit") as "Doc" Fred Tucker
1969–1975: [Hawaii Five-O](#) (6 episodes):
1969 "Up Tight" as David Stone;
1970 "Three Dead Cows at Makapuu" (2-part episode) as Dr Alexander Kline
1970 "The Guarnerius Caper" as Dmitri Rostov
1972 "While You're at It, Bring in the Moon" as Byers
1974 "One Born Every Minute" as Joe Connors
1975 "And the Horse Jumped Over the Moon" as Bernie Ross
1975: [The Mary Tyler Moore Show](#) (episode: "Mary's Father") as Father Terrance Brian
1975: [The Legend of Lizzie Borden](#) ABC 2-part docudrama. Airdate: 2/10/57 as Hosea Knowlton
1975: [Attack on Terror: The FBI vs. the Ku Klux Klan](#) CBS 2-part docudrama. Airdate: 2/20/75 as Justice Department attorney Ralph Paine
1976: [Hallmark Hall of Fame](#) (episode: "Truman at Potsdam") as President [Harry S Truman](#)
1979: [Backstairs at the White House](#) (episodes 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4) as President [Calvin Coolidge](#)
1979: [Blind Ambition](#) (TV mini-series) as Charles Shaffer
1979: [Salem's Lot](#) a.k.a. *Blood Thirst* as Dr Bill Norton
1982–1988: [St. Elsewhere](#) in 120 episodes as Dr. Donald Westphall
1993: [Jack's Place](#) (episode: "Who Knew?") as Marcus Toback
1994: [The Road Home](#) (pilot episode) as William Babineaux

And films:

1970: [The Grasshopper](#) or [Passions](#) or The Passing of Evil as *Jack Benton*
1972: [The Trial of the Catonsville Nine](#) as Father Daniel Berrigan
1972: [The Snoop Sisters](#) or The Female Instinct (TV movie) as *Milo Perkins*
1973: [Hunter](#) (TV) as Dr Miles
1974: [Indict and Convict](#) (TV) as Timothy Fitzgerald
1974: [Things in Their Season](#) (TV) as Carl Gerlach
1975: [The Legend of Lizzie Borden](#) (TV) as Hosea Knowlton
1975: [Attack on Terror: The FBI vs. the Ku Klux Klan](#) (TV) as Ralph Paine
1975: [A Moon for the Misbegotten](#) (TV) as Phil Hogan
1976: [Eleanor and Franklin](#) (TV) as Louis Howe
1976: [The Sad and Lonely Sundays](#) (TV) as Dr Frankman
1976: [Harry S. Truman: Plain Speaking](#) (TV) as President [Harry S. Truman](#)
1977: [The Amazing Howard Hughes](#) (TV) as Noah Dietrich
1977: [MacArthur](#) as President [Harry S. Truman](#)
1977: [Mary White](#) (TV) as William Allen White
1979: [Salem's Lot](#) as Dr. Bill Norton
1980: [The Ninth Configuration](#) or *Twinkle, Twinkle, Killer Kane* as Col. Richard Fell
1981: [Inchon](#) as President [Harry S. Truman](#) (voice, uncredited)

1981: [True Confessions](#) as Dan T. Campion
1981: [The Pursuit of D.B. Cooper](#) or *Pursuit* as Brigadier
1981: [Skokie](#) or *Once They Marched Through a Thousand Towns* (UK title) (TV) as Mayor Albert J. Smith
1982: [Tomorrow's Child](#) (TV) as Anders Stenslund
1983: [Special Bulletin](#) (TV) as John Woodley
1989: [The Final Days](#) (TV) as [Leonard Garment](#)
1990: [The Exorcist III](#) as Father Dyer
1991: [The Perfect Tribute](#) (TV) as Warren
1992: [Citizen Cohn](#) (TV) as Joseph N. Welch
1993: [Message from Nam](#) as Ed Wilson
1995: [Bye Bye Love](#) as Walter Sims (final film role)

Won numerous awards:

1979 – Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or a Special, for: "Backstairs at the White House"

1985 – Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, for: "St. Elsewhere"

1986 – Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, for: "St. Elsewhere"

1987 – Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, for: "St. Elsewhere"

And Emmys:

1976 – Outstanding Single Performance by a Supporting Actor in Comedy or Drama Special, for: A Moon for the Misbegotten

1977 – Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama or Comedy Special, for: Harry S. Truman: Plain Speaking

1983 – Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, for: "St. Elsewhere"

Ed did not forget his high school, returning to Patrick Henry in 1965 while he was performing at the Guthrie to speak to the student body