



DAVID OZIAS SAXTON

“Spirit of ’51” Award

Dave, on the occasion of our 50th Reunion you looked back at Dartmouth and observed that as undergraduates, “We felt the spirit and the camaraderie which have been so lasting to this day, but it took time to realize the vast wealth of knowledge that the College presented to us.” As we approach our venerable 60th gathering, we turn that profound thought around, for it has also taken time for us to appropriately honor the exemplary life and career of an illustrious classmate.

In hindsight it comes as no surprise that at the George School in Pennsylvania you were junior and senior class president, and, even more predictably, captained the soccer team. At Dartmouth there was much more in the campus life of this handsome blonde guy from Short Hills, NJ, to be sure. You majored in psychology, were active in Theta Delta Chi and Dragon, well-known and popular. But most of all you were visible as a fine varsity soccer goalie, charismatic leader and senior year captain.

When you were still a junior, a friend dragged you to a fashion show to watch one of the models, gorgeous Susan Darrah of Smith College. You began to date her, and lo and behold she was chosen Winter Carnival Queen. That often spoiled the big weekend for the royal escort, but somehow, thank goodness, your mutual affections survived and flourished.

Upon graduation, the Korean War was raging. You went straightaway to Marine OCS at Quantico and soon thereafter into the thick of battle at the head of your platoon, dug in on the line near Panmunjon. You cared fiercely for your men, took their casualties hard and remember those Leathernecks always.

The war behind, you married Susan and plunged into Harvard Business School. Their famed “case study” approach apparently really took hold, for revamping existing companies and organizing new ones would increasingly be the focus of your career. After stints at Scott Paper, Du Pont, and Booz-Allen, you played a principal role in steering R.J. Reynolds into the food business. As president of the start-up firm Fluorotex, you were a player in getting Du Pont’s *teflon* onto the market. Top-flight assignments to pioneer “new ventures” at American Standard, Howmet and Harvey Hubbell Corp. followed. And in 1981 you moved to the lovely environs of York, ME and hung out your own shingle as president of MCG Corporation, offering planning for small firms unable to do it in house, until eventually slipping into retirement in 1992.

It was a most impressive career, but you made dead sure that it always came second to the family — Susan and your fine children, Susan Irene, David Jr., Jonas and Heather — that you found to be “the key to my happiness and the fundamental sustenance to my life.”

And then there is the Dartmouth family, which you have embraced so fully. Over the past 50 years you were president of the Dartmouth Clubs of Wilmington, DE, Greenwich and Fairfield County, CT, and head of the Dartmouth Club Officers’ Association. You and Susan have been a fixture at our ’51 major and mini reunions. You were an Alumni Fund class agent back in 1985 and now have answered the urgent call to be Head Agent, recruiting and directing teams which brought in \$40,000 beyond our targeted Dartmouth College Fund goals in these two years, with classmate participation an impressive 66 per cent despite difficult economic times.

All these things you have done ably and efficiently, yet with the most winning personal touch. As our classmate Mo Monahan says, “Dave is a grand person of the old school in manners and gentility,” a description familiar to all who know you.

And so Dave, for your most admirable family life, fine career, your unfailing goodwill to your fellow men and your undying devotion to Dartmouth, it is our honor and privilege to present to you the 2009 “Spirit of ’51” Award.