

Obituary **WILSON W. CROSS**

Wilson W. Cross died in Roslindale, Massachusetts on September 6, 2017. He was widely admired as an unusually thoughtful intellectual with an unquenchable curiosity about all things, people, and ideas.

Among his greatest interests, Wilson was an avid and accomplished sailor. At Dartmouth he was a member of the Corinthian Yacht Club and captain of the sailing team. He competed extensively in ocean racing, participating in numerous world championship regattas. He was also a master boat model craftsman, creating detailed models of many of the boats on which he sailed.

Wilson was a 15-year board member of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, the largest charity in the world supporting early childhood education, especially for disadvantaged youth. In this role he frequently volunteered to make site visits all over the world. His proposals for early interventions in Israel and Zimbabwe reflected his preference for first-hand information, his search for common ground, and his thoughtful, practical, measured action orientation.

Other strong interests included a love of history, geography, the English language, Formula One racing, and politics.

Wilson was born in London and came to the U.S. soon after the outbreak of World War II. After graduating from Dartmouth and the Tuck School he joined Keyes Fibre Company, ultimately becoming its president. He was later the owner of Essex Machine Works, which performed custom machining, especially for the marine industry.

Early in his career at Keyes, Wilson asked for a leave of absence to crew in the Bermuda Cup race. "You need to get your priorities straight," his boss responded. Wilson agreed; he quit to take part in the race. Later, as he prepared to re-enter the job market, he realized what a good job he had had. With great trepidation he applied to be re-hired at Keyes. "You're in

luck” the former boss responded. “I’ve just been promoted. How would you like my job?”

Wilson was predeceased by his wife Martha. He is survived by two sons, two step-children, and four grandchildren

