



Great Things In This Easter Time Issue of Your Newsletter

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'53 Gathers at Harbour Ridge to Celebrate Spring

Every year at the end of the Snowbird season our Dick Fleming throws a celebration of life party at Harbour Ridge for all of the class in the area, or even passing through. This memorable activity was started by Bob Callendar years ago and Dick has continued the tradition masterfully, as is our custom in this great class. Here are a few pics of the celebrants and a roster of those merrymakers in attendance. As always, many thanks Dick for your great hospitality.



Patty and George Sarner



Al Collins and Ginger Schoder



Phil Beekman and Cute Leslie



Jack and Jodie Zimmerman and Jane Springer



El Troika—Beekman, Zimmerman, Fleming



Jody Zimmerman and Bob and Anne Simpson

In addition to our star studded pictorial celebrants, the '53 gathering also included John and Lore Dodge, Leo and Dolores Clancy, Bob and Gail Malin, Howie and Deborah Pitts, Joe and Jane Stevens, Sherm and Judy Tratten with the total attendance coming amazingly at 53. Cheers all, and thanks again Dick.

The Intrepids Hit the Slopes at Sunapee at '53 Ski Day

The amazing intrepids of 1953 hit the slopes at Mt. Sunapee on the 12th of March. Dave Donovan reports that on this the 15th annual Ski '53 Day the Class had six active skiers. The indefatigable Put Blodgett, Harlan Fair, Grantia Preston, Dick O'Connor, Alan Newton, and the Master of Ceremonies, Dave Donovan. The weather was '53 friendly on the prior day but turned super cold overnight leaving much of the upper mountain wind swept and hard packed. Wisdom overcame valor and we returned to the protected areas and had a wonderful afternoon of skiing. All joined at the Donovan New London home for après ski before dining at the Lake Sunapee Country Club where a private dining room with a ROARING FIRE made it a very special evening. In addition to our skiers, Marion Blodgett, Mitzi Carleton, Al Collins, Russ and Marge Cook, our hostess with the mostest Cynthia Donovan, Barbara Newton, and Dave and Bonnie Siegal joined in for the festivities. Another great '53 Ski Day for all. Here are some pics that Dick O'Connor picked up of the gang.





Collins Corner

Back in Boston after a welcome escape to Barbados, Grenada and the Windwards in February, and then a few weeks in Florida in March. In late March I enjoyed attending Dick Fleming's end of the Florida season party for many Dartmouth '53 types as shown previously. While at Harbour Ridge I enjoyed the hospitality of Bob and Anne Simpson at their lovely home. They have lived there since the beginning of Harbour Ridge and are now planning a move to Philadelphia. The wonderful Harbour Ridge community was a creation of our classmate John Dodge many years ago, and has a considerable number of '53s and other Dartmouth characters now and previously in residence.

Costs of College Today:

A Dartmouth education is a tad more expensive today than it was in 1949. The 2015 – 2016 costs are now out, and are as follows: Tuition: \$48,120, Fees: \$1,386, Housing: \$8,553, Food: \$5,685 Total initial cost today is \$67,044. Other indirect and additional expenses would include Books: \$1,260, Misc.: \$2,040, Health Insurance if needed: \$2,435, A computer: \$1,329 and travel costs getting to and from Hanover. Grand total to attend Dartmouth today is about \$75,000 per year.

And Now the Class of 2019: Although all early decision and regular acceptance letters are now out, the final figure will not be known until after May 1st. There were 2,120 offers of acceptance from a pool of 20,504 applicants with a projected final class size of about 1,120. The acceptance rate was 10.3 per cent of all applying students including the 483 who were accepted in the early decision process. About forty-six per cent of admitted students will qualify for need based financial aid. 94.9% rank in the top 10% of their class. The average SAT scores of admitted students rank in the 98th percentile. 49.8% of the class will be students of color, and 7.9% will be international students. The Class of 2019 will be known as the "Anniversary Class" as this class will celebrate the college's 250th year at their graduation. So think spring, enjoy your summer, and check out your calendars to make plans to join your classmates at one of our fall events in Hanover. And if you ever had any doubts, I am glad to report that yes, there really is an Easter Bunny!



Al Collins 1953

Easter Bunny 0053

Aaron Epstein and the Murch Elementary School Paper

One of the most unique and certainly heartwarming tales of community service in retirement is Aaron's organization of a student newspaper for an elementary school close to Aaron's home. Our journalistic whiz has not only organized the paper and all of its production requirements, but his reporting staff and editors are all elementary school students and the paper "The Blue and Gold" is extraordinary in its organization, coverage, and interest. We wish we could do it justice by printing on these pages---we cannot---so go to the link that follows and enjoy the writing and subject selection of these Murch elementary school kids and what they have produced with Aaron's capable guidance.

<http://www.murchschool.org/website/wp-content/uploadzz/2015/02/TheBlueAndGoldFeb2015.pdf>=

The Musical Kennedy's add another great notch to their many achievements in the music field

We all can picture John playing his saxophone with the Dartmouth band along with other alumni that did the same in their undergraduate days. But there is more: now John and his lovely wife Barbara are principals in the Eastern Connecticut Choir that put on an historic performance of Mozart's famed

Requiem in the Cathedral of St. Patrick on Palm Sunday. The combination of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, the Norwich Diocesan Choir, and John and Barbara's Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus performed Mozart's masterpiece with elegance and the Bishop of the Diocese said it best that "Whenever we touch something of beauty such as this, we touch something of God." Here is a stunning picture of the cathedral and the combined orchestra and choirs and John and Barbara are located in the lower right. Get out your magnifying glasses!!!



The Commentary by Classmates on the Relative Success of President Obama when Compared to Prior Presidents –recall in our last newsletter Mayo Johnson suggested we poll the class to get their views on Obama's success in comparison to his predecessors. Mayo gave the president a good report, ranking him 4th in history behind Washington, Lincoln, and FDR. We had 31 responses or about 10% of those who receive our electronic newsletter. Some of the views were comprehensive, some quite short and terse, on both sides of the question, and some responses were simply marketing pitches for their position. We chose to summarize the different views and keep the sources anonymous because we do not want to become involved in a class debate via the newsletter. The bloggers

have that territory and they can have it. Here is a summary of 31 responses to the question “Where would you rate President Obama as compared to his predecessors.”

- Several [4] responded that it was a credit to the country that a racial minority member could be elected twice to the presidency, and that the accomplishment has heightened his priority to resolve his perception of racial inequality still existent in the culture of the U.S.
- Several plus [9] responded that he had to be rated highly because of his policies to try to disengage the US from its evolution into a policeman trying to resolve all the problems of the world.
- Roughly a quarter [8] of the responses were critical of his foreign policy strategies of perceived appeasement rather than attempting to leverage foreign decisions with the influence of US economic or military power. The Syria decision was cited several times.
- A third [11] of the responses felt his disengagement from economic policy and leaving that to the Federal Reserve, while helpful to the richest and to Wall Street, had injured the economic well-being of the Middle Class.
- More than half [17] of the class responses cited his oratory skills as a powerful influence on the middle class and less educated providing them hope for a better economic future.
- About a third [11] of our classmates expressed deep concerns about Obama’s commitment to our Judeo-Christian heritage and the moral values that it carried. Obama’s commitment to the provisions of the constitution were also cited with most of these comments.
- About half [16] expressed concern about the increased role of government and the strategy of the executive branch to circumnavigate the congress.
- And finally, there were several that considered the President with high ranks, as did Mayo, and one with a video to prove it!, and we had an equivalent number that had nothing positive to say about his term or the man.
- While this tabulation is not exactly what Mayo had in mind, the inputs to a very general question did not follow that strategy because of the nature of the question we posed. Regardless, it is interesting to note the diversity of the comments received and I have responded with thanks to those who made comments. My impression is that it represents the cross

section of views we hear from our family, friends, clients and colleagues from prior experiences, but it is hardly scientific measure of the issue.

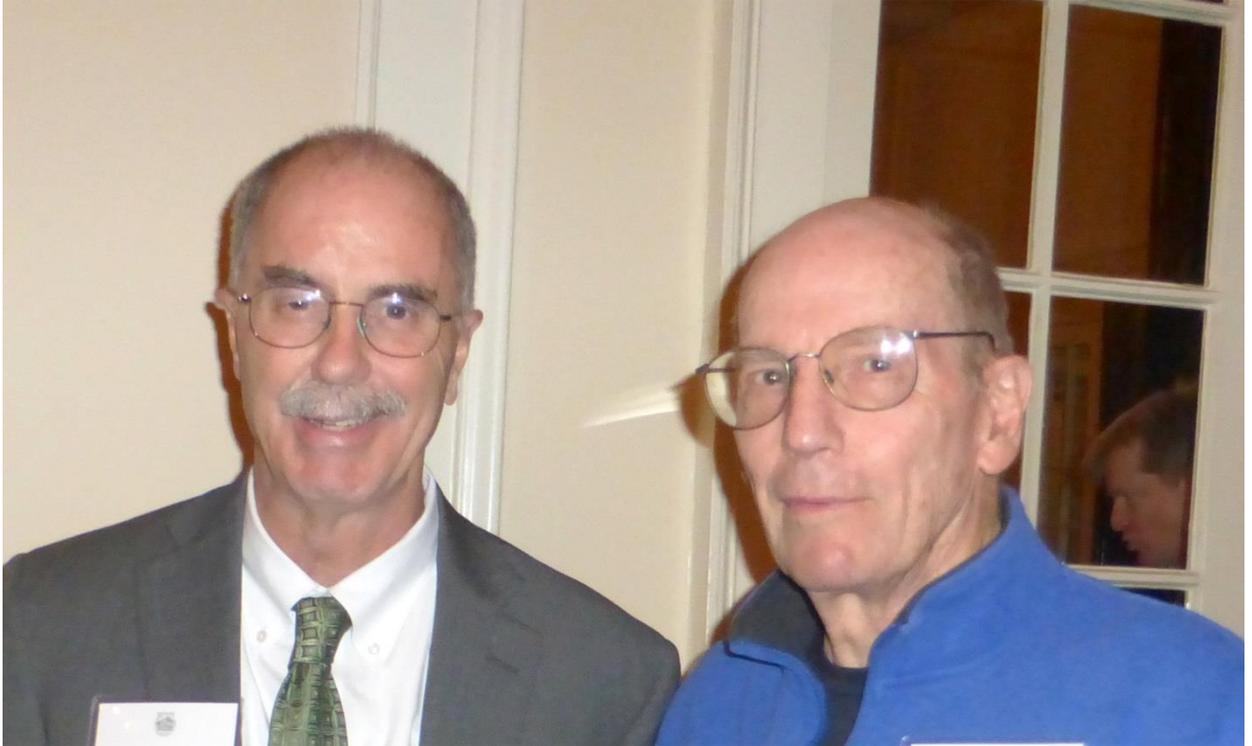
Saint Patrick's Day always brings out the best in Humor!!!



Continue the break---Remember the Chinese Olympic Ceremonies? Check another example of Chinese human feat displays!!!! Perhaps something we should try to do as a Class at the 65 th. Cheers.

[2014?????!!?????? 500????? \[??\] - YouTube](#)

Dr. Dave Godschalk's participation with President Scanlon at the visit to the Piedmont area Dartmouth Club. Dave is associated with the University of North Carolina where Carol Folt is now president.



President Hanlon's Pitch-- The good news is that a record-setting crowd of 164 from the Dartmouth Club of the Piedmont showed up to hear about the College's response to its ongoing crises. The bad news is that President Hanlon's March 18th presentation was neither totally clear nor very convincing. Trustee John Replogle '88, former CEO of Burt's Bees, asked some easy questions which Hanlon answered by reading from his tablet!

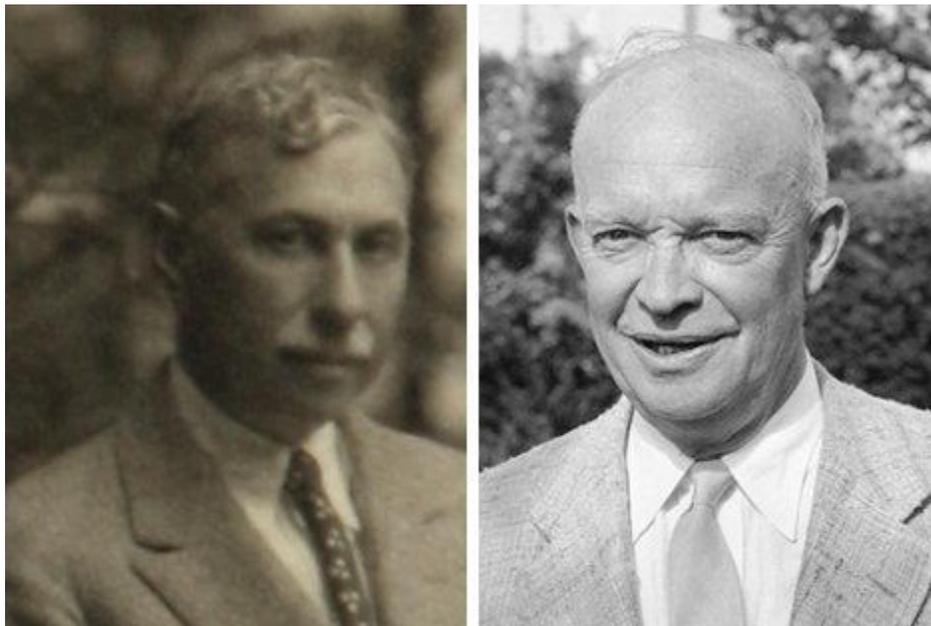
My recollections about Hanlon's Moving Dartmouth Forward plan include four main points :

- Transforming Residential Life by creating six "house communities," clusters of dorms with their own gathering spaces and house professors, an effort to emulate the residential houses of Harvard but using cobbled together sets of existing dormitories,
- Promoting a Safer Campus Environment by a sexual violence education program and prohibition of hard alcohol on campus, though no curbs on out-of-control beer pongs,
- Clarifying Accountability by requiring students to sign a code of conduct and fraternities to eliminate pledging and face (undescribed) harsh measures if annual reviews do not show progress in cleaning up their acts,
- Increasing Academic Rigor and Outside-Classroom Learning by curbing grade inflation and expanding experiential learning, which Hanlon optimistically believes will re-channel student energies during their free time from risky behavior into intellectual pursuits.

A current Dartmouth student at the event characterized the plan as "public relations." I think it's more than that and I'm glad to see an action-based plan, but I wonder if it's powerful

enough to turn around the entrenched culture. In my one-on-one with Hanlon I asked him about going further and beginning to phase out the Greek system, whose rampant drinking strikes me as the root of the sexual abuse and ongoing addiction issues. He equivocated, saying that this is a complex problem and that he hopes the new residential model and related efforts will be a solution. While I hope he's right, I remain skeptical. Meanwhile he's an ineffective speaker who tries to sell the plan with academic clichés. Makes me realize how fortunate we were to have had John Sloan Dickey at the helm!

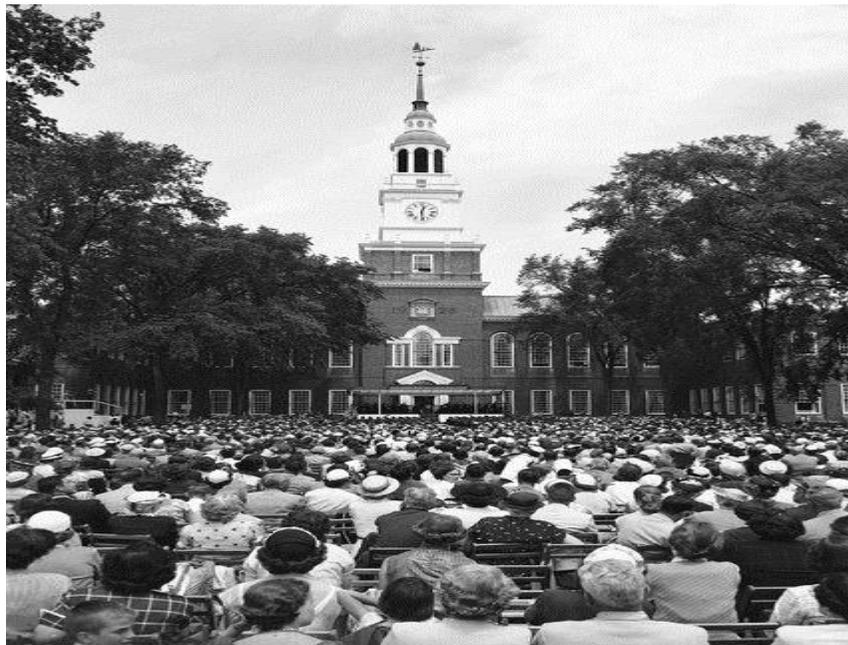
Here comes Ike at Dartmouth again, appearing in the New York Times in March.



Joseph Proskauer, left, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower received honorary degrees from Dartmouth College on the same day. On a June afternoon in 1953, Tony Smith, 17, was at Dartmouth College to see his grandfather, Joseph Proskauer, receive an honorary degree. President Eisenhower, who had taken office six months earlier, was also being honored. At first, Mr. Eisenhower did not let him down, urging the graduates to have fun every day. “Very prosaic and boring,” Mr. Smith said. Yet in the next few minutes, the words Mr. Eisenhower would utter — off the cuff, with unrehearsed passion — touched on issues that would be entirely familiar today: the tension, real or perceived, between the free exchange of ideas and security; the power of fringe forces to shape or control a political party; the duty of patriots to be critical of their country. Just when it seemed that Mr. Eisenhower was shifting to a new round of platitudes, exhorting the graduates to have “courage,” the tone changed. Yes, the president said, they were all proud of their country, but they had to look at it with clear eyes. “We have the disgrace of racial discrimination, or we have prejudice against people because of their religion,” he said. “We have not had the courage to uproot these things,

although we know they are wrong.” The work of preserving freedom, Mr. Eisenhower said, “is not yet done.”

Mr. Eisenhower then turned to a highly delicate matter. “Don’t join the book burners!” he said. An unremarkable sentiment, perhaps, but Mr. Eisenhower’s Republican allies held a one-vote majority in the Senate, including Joseph R. McCarthy. A few days earlier, The New York Times’ Sullivan revealed that a book purge had occurred in libraries run by the United States Information Service in postwar Europe. It included works by authors like Langston Hughes, Dashiell Hammett, Theodore H. White, Howard Fast and Jean-Paul Sartre. They were removed after an inspection of the libraries by two investigators for Mr. McCarthy, who had publicly estimated there were 30,000 books by Communists or sympathizers on library shelves. Today, the power to surveil people’s reading habits is so vast that, in a lawsuit filed on Tuesday, the Wikimedia Foundation and other groups argued that the National Security Agency should be stopped from tapping into the electronic backbone of the Internet. The government has said that its bulk collection of data does not infringe on individual liberties. In 1953, Mr. Eisenhower did not mention Mr. McCarthy by name, but he could not have been blunter.



The crowd, assembled in front of the Dartmouth library, listened as Mr. Eisenhower spoke to graduates on June 14, 1953. “Don’t be afraid to go in your library and read every book, as long as that document does not offend our own ideas of decency,” he said. For those who admired Communism, he said, “We have got to fight it with something better, not try to conceal the thinking of our own people. They are part of America.

And even if they think ideas that are contrary to ours, their right to say them, their right to record them, and their right to have them at places where they are accessible to others is unquestioned, or it isn't America."

That declaration startled his aides, The Times reported: "President Eisenhower had no material before him." At a lunch afterward, Mr. Smith said, he asked his grandfather: "Where the hell did that speech come from?" Mr. Proskauer, a prominent figure in New York politics, replied: "I'll tell you exactly where that speech comes from." In the robing area before the ceremony, Mr. Proskauer told him, he had approached the president with a clipping of an editorial about the book purges. Mr. Eisenhower said he might be able to address the issue in a week or so. "Grandpa said, 'I took the president by the elbow and walked him over to the window,'" Mr. Smith said. They looked at the seats set up in front of the Dartmouth library. Mr. Proskauer told his grandson that he asked the president, "Will you be in a better place in the next week?" With that, the president tossed some of his prepared remarks in a wastebasket, Mr. Smith said. "As far as I know," he said, "that was the end of the conversation." And, apparently, the beginning of the speech that is remembered.

Other days are very near us, as we sing here soft and low, We can almost hear the voices of the boys of long ago. They are scattered now, these brothers, up and down the world they roam.

Some have gone to lands far distant, from the dear old college home; Some have crossed the silent river, they are looking down tonight; And the thought of these old brothers, makes our love now burn so bright

Abdul [Al] S. Bahrani – a nice note was received from Al's daughter Linda telling of his passing and wanting to be remembered in the Class Newsletter. Here is Linda's letter: Abdul (Al) Bahrani lived a happy and long life. He lived every day to the fullest, with many friends and family that loved him. He was born in 1932 and died in December 2014. He was born in Baghdad, Iraq, where he attended a Jesuit school. He learned English and was able to get a scholarship to Dartmouth. He graduated with a degree in Engineering and was always proud of the time in New Hampshire and the many lifelong friends he made there. From there, he went to the University of Michigan where he attained an MBA. While there, he met his wife, with whom he had three children. He worked briefly in Michigan, before settling in on his lifetime career at Proctor and Gamble. He was quickly able to improve their pulp and paper manufacturing. He was an integral part of the new Pulp and Paper division, which went international, helping to establish P&G as a strong corporate entity. He either developed or was an integral part of eleven different patents. He commonly told a story that while working in Michigan, he developed a valve that is in every washing machine today. As a senior manager at P&G, he continued to develop new ideas and trouble shoot the manufacturing process of all products by introducing Quality Production techniques. Al taught these new techniques as a private consultant during retirement. He enjoyed the enthusiasm and challenge of improvement and learning new processes. Al spent half of his retirement in Cancun, Mexico, where he windsurfed and learned to speak Spanish. He was also a farmer and businessman in Ohio. He leaves behind two daughters, a son, and grandchildren and thanks all of his friends at Dartmouth for their friendship.



Who can ever forget the contagious smile of our dear friend Dick Giesser? On March 12 our classmate Richard Giesser, of Newton, MA, returned to his Creator. Dick is survived by his wife, Connie, his sons James, Eric (and his wife Janet), and John (and his wife Erin). He is the grandfather of Ella, Hadley, Benjamin, Aidan and Neil Giesser. Services for Dick were conducted at Temple Shalom in West Newton, MA, on March 16th and interment was at Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery in East Boston.

Please reach out to Connie at this time of sadness at 250 Hammond Pond Parkway, Apt 1508, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-1533 or email her at rconnie@rcn.com

Fred and Thelma Stephens and Bernie and Joanie Sudikoff from the class attended the funeral for Dick. Here are their comments about him, the family, and the service at the Temple. Dick was a very special person to which those in the class who kept in touch with Dick can attest. With his extraordinary intellect and corresponding omnipresent smile, shown his capacity for real time solutions! Dick accomplished much in his career, from being in charge of Michael Dukakis' presidential bid to being the head of Massport, basically overseeing everything which had to do with Logan Airport which is an exemplary airport in the US.

The Temple service was very uplifting and provided a strong sense of a very loving family, warm friendships, and unparalleled respect from his colleagues. Dick had not been well for about five years, and Connie has been a wonderful caregiver for him. Two of his sons, John and Eric, spoke at the funeral, and confirmed the wonders of their father as one offering insights into their lives. It was so beautiful; like the gentle Dick we all love. In attendance from our Class were Thelma and Fred Stephens, Joan and Bernie Sudikoff, as well as Sheldon Wolff and Dick Gorse, both '54.'s and their spouses.

As we entered the synagogue we were surrounded by the sound of Dartmouth Undying. That brought on the unmistakable aura of the '53 fellowship which Dick just loved. Dick's two Dartmouth sons, James and John were among the main speakers. Al Collins sent a lovely letter citing the love of the Class of '53 for Dick that was read by Dick and Connie's Rabbi.

In the days where my job had me travelling in and out of Logan airport, both domestically and abroad, I had a chance meeting on the plane with Dick with whom I

had spent a lot of time during one of our reunions when he offered to give me a tour of “his baby.” That he did and the revelation of the efficiencies of that great airport was awesome, and this was over 25 years ago. One could sense immediately why things moved as they did when one sensed not only the respect, but the dedication to Dick of all of the employees we met during the tour. That afternoon and evening are the memory of a lifetime. Dick Giesser, the extraordinary leader with a gracious and gentle sense of humor, captured the love of all he touched. What a privilege to have known him. Shalom Dick, until we meet again.

Bill Chamberlin, ardent supporter of the Class of 1953, and driver of the longest ball at our Hilton Head outings, has crossed to the river’s other side. Bill passed away on March 16th, from complications from a stroke in January. Bill was born in Lynn, MA, but spent much of his life in New Hampshire. He came to Dartmouth from Governor Dummer Academy (now Governor’s Academy) in Byfield, Massachusetts. Bill was especially proud of being a member of our Great Class of 1953 which he supported in many activities. Bill was a history major, and a member of Sigma Nu. Following graduation, Bill spent two years in the Army, stationed in Japan and working for the JAG Corps as a court reporter. When he and his family returned to the States, he worked in manufacturing and sales for an overhead door company until 1970. He then organized WLC Associates, a sales agency representing fourteen corporations producing specialty items for the construction industry. As the years passed, Bill moved from his WLC Agency to co-owner and operator of Granddad’s Toy Shop in Franklin, NH, to professional fund raising, working as a consultant for many private schools, colleges and hospitals. He then became Director of Development for new Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center from the beginning of construction through completion of the main hospital buildings. In 1994, Bill and his family moved to Osage Beach, MO, where he became Director of Development for Lake of the Ozarks General Hospital. When this job ended in 1997, Bill became a broker for AG Edwards and Sons, before retiring in 1998.

Throughout his life, Bill was a major fundraiser as a class agent and assistant head agent for our class Alumni Fund, now the Dartmouth College Fund. In retirement, Bill enjoyed fishing, golfing, and playing cribbage. For the past 10 years, Bill’s health has been failing. He had significant arthritic problems, with hip replacements, and also major heart problems, and at least one previous serious stroke that left him with major limitations. In spite of all these problems, Bill was able to run our monthly class luncheons at the Norwich Inn until just recently. Bill leaves his four children, Chip (William, Jr.), Jeffrey Scott, Suzanne and Steven Mark. He is also survived by his close friend, Peggy, his daughter in-law, Heather, his five grandchildren Craig, Heather, Kasey, Chase, and Jessica, and one great grandchild, Jordan. Bill’s funeral was held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hanover on Friday, April 10th/ Please reach out to Bill’s family at this difficult time, Steven Chamberlin schamberlin@hopkintonschools.org

*“If you want a good friend,
you have to be one”*



Donald Carpenter Goss,
The Dartmouth Class of 1953



The Forever Bond of the Class of 1953