

## Sam Adams Canterbury, NH

Date of Death: May 5, 2006

Dear Classmates: It is with deep sorrow that I must inform you of the passing of Sam Adams on Friday, May 5th. As many of you know, Sam has been fighting a cancer of unknown origin for about 18 months. He and Nancy have tried all available protocols in an effort to arrest this dreadful disease. Although there were some small victories along the way, the final result became inevitable.

We are very grateful to Nancy for her open and frank email "updates" which enabled a number of us to travel this "journey" with them. One could not help but be impressed with their courage, determination and sense of humor along the way. We will all miss Sam very much.

Chris Cundey.

Article from the Concord Monitor at <http://www.concordmonitor.com>.

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May 7, 2006 - Samuel S. Adams: Our "Man for All Seasons," Samuel "Sam" Sherman Adams, died Wednesday, May 5, 2006, at his home. His wife-partner-best friend of 50 years, Nancy Morris Adams, was with him.

Born in Lincoln in 1937, he is the son of Sherman and Rachel Adams. Sam is the father of Melinda Adams McGregor of Del Ray Beach, Fla., Katrina Adams Moran of Empire, Nev., and Jonathan Sherman Adams of Thornton. He is the father-in-law of Daniel Moran and Angela Marie Adams, and the GrandDad of Megan McGregor, Adam and Molly Moran and MacKenzie and Leeson Adams. Sam is survived by his older sisters, Sarah Adams, Jean Adams Hallager and Tinker Adams Freese.

Sam graduated from Cardigan Mountain School in 1951 and St. Paul's School in 1955. He earned his B.S. from Dartmouth College in 1959 and his M.S. in 1961. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1968.

Samuel Adams was an economic geologist, active in the mining community as a geologist in industry, a consultant and the department head of Geology and Geologic Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. Sam was well-known in the geology field as a bridge between industry and academia, providing leadership in his professional career. In 1991, he became president of the Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, where he served until the area was sold in 2000.

Later on, he and his wife Nancy became very involved with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Sam was NAMI NH president from 2003-05. Throughout his life, Sam continued to provide leadership and soothed troubled waters when needed in the organizations in which he was involved. He was a problem solver, a people-person, a creative thinker and an empowerer, providing these skills in whatever project in which he participated.

Sam survived CUPS (cancer of unknown primary) in the same way. For 18 months, he researched his options as if it were a Ph.D. thesis. Through the Payson Center at Concord Hospital, alternate therapies and lastly, at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, he continued his treatments. Sam and Nancy left no stone unturned.

Throughout their 50 years, even during the cancer journey, Sam and Nancy traveled together. They explored, camped, fly fished and skied while driving the back roads in their beloved blue '89 Syncro VW camper, Blu-Ox. On one of their trips, they found Jonesport, Maine, a small lobster fishing village way "down east," fell in love with it and bought a small second home on the ocean.

A Sam Adams Memorial Salute (SAM'S) will take place June 17 at 2 p.m. at South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant St., Concord, followed by a tent celebration at the Adams's home in Canterbury. Everyone is welcome! For additional information, call 783-4335.

Contributions in Sam's honor may be made to NAMI NH, 15 Green St., Concord 03301; the Canterbury United Community Church, Canterbury Center, Canterbury 03224; Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association, Hospice Program, P.O. Box 1797, Concord 03302-1797; or to any organization in which Sam was involved.

We say: "Good-bye for now, our beloved 'Man of the Year,' from your wife, family and friends. We love you!"

(Forwarded by Marv Slezak)

### **Some postings about Sam from the last few years:**

**Sam Adams** received the Ian Campbell metal for service to the geologic community from the American Geological Institute. The award was given at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in October 2005 at Salt Lake City\*. There is a good profile of Sam published in the October, 2005 issue of *Geotimes*, a magazine for which he was editor in chief until recently (go to <http://www.geotimes.org/oct05/profiles.html> for the article).

*\*As a geologist, I was at the GSA meeting and was surprised to see a large photo of Sam on a poster announcing the award in the convention center. I missed the award ceremony because because I thought it had taken place during the award presentations that took place just before I arrived. Days later I ran into Sam and Nancy at a hotel lobby. When I got back home I noticed that the award took place at the hotel close to the time I met them. - Carlos Plummer*

*Classmates:*

*I know that a number of you had been informed that classmate **Sam Adams** was diagnosed with cancer last fall. Many of you may not be aware of this development. The doctors have never been able to determine the primary site, although the disease was discovered in various parts of his body. Sam has been receiving chemotherapy for a couple of months now and the preliminary result is encouraging. I've attached below an email from Sam's wife, Nancy, which she sent on Feb. 3rd to a number of friends, which provides an update on his treatment. Their positive attitude, and even sense of humor, come through which I believe is an inspiration for all. This is being sent to you with the permission of Sam and Nancy.*

*The second part of this story is that the Adams' have been extremely active in a mental health organization called NAMI. They were introduced to this organization due to a daughter being afflicted with mental illness for some time. Sam has now served for several years as President of the NH chapter of NAMI. With the onset of his illness, Sam has resigned from this position to concentrate on his cancer treatment. The folks at NAMI have been so appreciative of Sam's service to the organization that they are honoring him with a dinner/dance gala on April 16th at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, NH. They are using this as a fundraising opportunity for NAMI and all attendees will pay \$75 per person.*

*I encourage all of you to consider a contribution to this organization, which will help support NAMI as well as showing our personal support of Sam for his work there, as well as in our support of him in his own current battle with cancer. Nothing would please him more. Contributions can be sent to: NAMI NH, 15 Green St., Concord, NH 03301. Make a note "Sam Adams" in the memo section of your check. Thanks for your consideration of this contribution.*

*I know you join me in wishing Sam a speedy and complete recovery from his illness.*

*Chris*

NAMI is the nation's prime organization fighting mental illness. For information go to <http://www.nami.org/>

From: **Nancy Adams** [mailto:nancyadams@together.net] Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2005 4:15 PM

*Dear folks,*

*Imagine, if you will, Sam Adams with white flowing hair half-way down his back, tied back in a pony tail. Looks as if he just stepped off a beer bottle, or out of a Continental Congress session. The nurses on the Cancer Unit call him 'The Patriot!'.... "Where's the Patriot's chart?" Best comment was from a man at the Dartmouth Bookstore, who gingerly approached Sam one day and said "Pardon me, I don't want you to take this the wrong way, but I LOVE your hair!" And so, Sam's 'SHOW-GIRL WHITE' WIG has joined our family, and Sam has 'bad hair days' as well as good. (His comment to me this morning was "It always looks so nice when I first fix it!" DUH!!! What woman doesn't know that!). He also has a very short buzz cut, a motorcycle bandanna head piece and an earring! Who's to say we're not making the best of a bad situation!*

*And, as bad situations go, we have been very fortunate! The CAT scan at the end of the second chemo treatment showed a 15-20% reduction in the size of the tumors! Excellent, considering his is a widely spread, undifferentiated cancer of unknown origin, not known to react particularly well to chemo! Also, he has been feeling VERY good! I would have to say that he has more energy and seemingly good health than he has had for over a year. In retrospect, probably something has been going on in his body for that long. He has certainly been feeling run-down for that long, but not 'bad' enough to do anything about it. Scary! He does have four 'bad chemo days', during his three week chemo rotation, when he stares into space and sleeps. But, that's minor!*

*We go to our Fitness Center, socialize, and most of the time he is researching complementary cancer medications. He is working with a Naturopathic Doctor in Norwich Vt. as well as his traditional oncology team in Concord, NH. The two treatment concepts do work well together, although traditional medicine does not exactly recognize this. Anyway, he is 'doing' mistletoe, mushrooms, multi vitamins, and numerous extracts! These build up his immune system, which is so compromised by chemo, and is the key fighter of cancer! He is also doing acupuncture and MAGNETS, which are prescribed by a woman in Bordeaux, France (via Jennifer Hayen, niece, married to Dom Bombadier, a Frenchman who has a medical condition). Chemo will continue until mid- April; then we sit back and assess the results! The naturopathic supplements have begun and will continue indefinitely.*

*But lest I give the 'ALL CLEAR' message, we realize just how fragile the situation is! A good example is this morning! We are at the hospital for the third chemo session. His white blood count is down, for no other reason than that chemo attacks white blood cells, as well as cancer cells (and hair cells etc). If w.b.c goes low enough, chemo will not be administered on schedule, we'd have to wait a week and everything would be thrown off. More seriously, he is more prone to infection! And of course, worst case scenario is that the treatments will stop doing their magic or that new areas will develop. So it is a 'day at a time'!*

*There is a wonderful positive side to having such an earth-shaking experience come into one's life! That is a growing awareness of the blessings of day-to-day living; friends, support, each other, sunny days, snow storms, e mails, a soy powder milkshake, funny jokes.....and on and on. As Sam says, "EVERYONE should have the opportunity to experience so many people's loving concern, and to take stock of one's own life." Well, maybe there are easier ways, but it does seem to take some sort of a 'wake-up call' !*

*On that note, I am inviting ALL of you to a SAM ADAMS CELEBRATION, which will be sponsored by NAMI NH on April 16 at LOON Mt.!. Actually, it is an excuse for a party, because our WALK has been postponed until October 2. NAMI NH has decided to do this as a way to recognize Sam for his contributions to mental illness. It will be a dinner, a fund-raiser and a FUN raiser! You are all on the invitation list!!! I am NOT to become involved, so call Win Saltmarsh at NAMI if you can possibly come, because we love ALL our friends!!! (1-603-225-5359)!*

*Thank you so very, very much for all your care. Your support makes a huge difference in this journey!*

*Love, Nancy and Sam*

## **Sam Adams Receives Geological Society of America's Distinguished Service Award Oct. 2002**

I was pleased to be in the large audience at Geological Society of America's award ceremony at GSA's annual meeting in Denver, October, 2002. Here is a transcript of the citation and Sam's acceptance remarks. *Carlos Plummer*

Anthony J Naldrett, President of Geological Society of America, presents the GSA Service Award to Samuel S. Adams.

Samuel S. Adams, Sam to his friends, has had and continues to have a long and distinguished career within the Earth Sciences. His roots are set firmly in New England, with degrees from Dartmouth and Harvard, and from there he entered the mining industry, first working in industrial minerals, and then in metal mining for 10 years with the former Anaconda Company. After another 10 years as a consultant, he joined the Colorado School of Mines where he headed the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, before returning to the private sector. Sam has been President of the Society of Economic Geologists, and continues to play a major role in that organization. He has served as President of AGI and is currently Editor in Chief of Geotimes. His services in Earth Sciences have been recognized by many awards, too many to mention today. He has also volunteered his time in support of numerous organizations in New

Hampshire; most recently the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Sam has served on no fewer than 12 GSA committees, becoming chair of the majority of them. He has served on Council, and for one year was the council member at large on the Executive Committee. There can be very few GSA members who have contributed so much of themselves to our Society, and I am delighted that Sam has been chosen to receive one of this year's Distinguished Service Awards, and that I have the honor of making the presentation.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF GSA's DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Thank you, President Naldrett, for your kind introduction. I am flattered and appreciative that this organization would choose to honor me in this manner. Lord knows, there are numerous members among you here today who have volunteered for GSA through the years in a variety of ways and on a variety of occasions. It is precisely for that reason that I prefer to think of this award as a celebration of GSA volunteerism, especially the many among us who have pitched in as the opportunities have occurred. Since my name begins with "A" it seems I got chosen for some of the "pomp and circumstance" this time.

Robert Putnam of the Harvard Business School, in his thought-provoking book, Bowling Alone; The Collapse and Revival of American Community, identified a disturbing trend that started in the mid 1960's in our country and which relates to volunteerism in GSA. Simply put, even though membership, and in some cases philanthropic giving, may have risen for an organization, attendance at meetings and voluntary service for most are decidedly down. We are tending to invest less of our time and ourselves in organizations and activities, preferring a more limited interpretation of *paying our dues* than we used to. Increasingly our activities are more solitary. What does this mean for GSA?

Without volunteers GSA is an anachronism. Perhaps the most important single benefit a scientific and professional organization provides to its members is the opportunity to learn how to serve selflessly in pursuit of a common vision. This exposure and training is critical to GSA achieving its mission and to earth scientists learning how to define and achieve theirs. The GSA staff is there as much to facilitate members' growth into service and volunteerism as it is to provide professional services to us. Membership is first a contract for services, but more deeply it must be a covenant rooted in shared values and ideals that guide our life and work together. With the hope of yet contributing in some way to strengthening this covenant I gratefully accept this honor.

Samuel S. Adams  
October, 2002