

Jim Rex
Paradise, CA

Date of Death: 1/20/2006

"Jim died in his home of heart attack, emphysema and contributory causes. He and his wife Shelly having divorced many years ago. Jim lived alone with two cats in the house left by his parents in Paradise, California, "an unsung victim of Watergate," according to his brother, Richard Rex.

Following naval officer service and several years in the paper industry, Jim became an advancement man for John Mitchell and Richard Nixon during the 1972 presidential campaign. He joined Nixon's administration in the U.S. Postal Service, helping to plan transportation and logistics that addressed the new competition of FedEx and UPS. Jim also spent time in the Office of Management and Budget studying gasoline rationing. As the Watergate scandal and trial unfolded, according to Richard Rex, Jim spent long hours watching television. He became more and more despondent about the events, and fell into deep depression, suffering mental illness which lasted the rest of his life. Sadly, he retired in 1974 and was in and out of a number of mental hospitals over the years, needing medical attention until his death.

His brother also mentioned that Jim's memories of our Dartmouth years were a special source of happiness for him, as he was an economics graduate with distinction and member of Alpha Chi Rho. Classical music, reading and photography were hobbies Jim enjoyed. He collected a personal library of over 300 books as well as many, many CDs, spending hours each day listening to music and reading.

As submitted to the class by Jim's family