

Daniel A. Paradis

1939 – May 7, 2022



Daniel A. Paradis, 81, of Bristol, NH formerly of New Bedford died May 7, 2022 at Golden View Assisted Living in Meredith, NH after a long illness.

He was born in New Bedford, the son of the late Rodolphe and Claire (Fontaine) Paradis.

A graduate of Holy Family High School he received both his B.A. degree and his B.Sc. degree in a five year program at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH with a major in Electrical Engineering and was awarded his

Master's Degree from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. He next served in the United States Public Health Service in Washington, DC and received his discharge from that branch of service with the rank of Admiral. Following his service he established his residence in NH and taught at The New Hampton School and Plymouth State University.

As a resident of Bristol he was active in town government as both a member and chairperson of the Bristol Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as serving in other capacities. He was the Secretary of the Spectacle Pond Resident Association for Many years and also for many years was responsible for testing the water quality of the Pemigewasset River.

In his leisure he was an active cyclist leading cycling tours in both Florida and several European Countries. He enjoyed rowing at Dartmouth College and kayaking on the lakes of New Hampshire as well as organizing weeklong camping and kayaking trips yearly in New Hampshire. He also enjoyed playing the guitar and attending Bluegrass festivals in various locations in Maine and New Hampshire.

Mr. Paradis was a communicant of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Bristol. He was the brother of the late Atty. Pierre Paradis and is survived by numerous cousins and friends. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, May 19th at 10 AM in St. Julie Billiard Church. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Home for Funerals, 495 Park St., New Bedford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to

Dartmouth College, c/o Thayer School of Engineering, Hanover, NH 03755.
For online condolence book, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

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(Editor's Note: No obituary was available when class notice was distributed. The posting below is Dan's contribution to our 50th reunion memorial book. This entry will be replaced when an obit is available.)



Career: Science and Math Teacher Following my time in the Public Health Service, I spent 28 years as a teacher/dorm master/coach at the New Hampton School, about 50 miles from Hanover. My career was rounded out by stints at Water Valley Academy, Kimball Union Academy, and Plymouth State College from 1992-99.

Extra-Career Activities: CYO Leader, Garrett Park, MD Bristol, N.H., Planning Board; Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee; Dartmouth College Fund Volunteer

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to return to Dartmouth to meet with members of the 2011 as part of the "Connections" program. Members of our Class were there to discuss careers *with* small groups of undergraduates who had an interest in the careers we had followed.

I was impressed **with** quality and diversity of today's Dartmouth students but could hardly believe the specificity of the plans they described. Most of them seemed to know exactly what they wanted to teach and the type of school they wanted to work for. I urged that they retain some flexibility, as it strikes me that in the real world, random events shape our fates far more than we might wish to acknowledge.

For most of our class, the very real threat of the military draft (and possible service in Vietnam) hung over us as we embarked on a career. The BEE I was working on at Thayer School in 1961-2 would probably have landed me a deferment through a critical-skills job, but I chanced to hear a talk by a Public Health Service officer who explained: that two years in the PHS would satisfy the military service requirements. That sounded like a good idea to me, and within a few months I was serving as PHS officer working on instrumentation used to monitor nuclear radiation in things such as milk.

When my two required years were up, the PHS proposed to assign me to a mosquito control project Louisiana. Meanwhile I had been volunteering to work with a church youth group and found I really enjoyed working with kids. I thought teaching might be more fun than fighting mosquitoes and accepted an opportunity to teach science at the New Hampton School. No sooner had I made the commitment -than the PHS offered me a job in computers at the National Institutes of Health. Had they proposed -his earlier I probably would have taken it and my career would have been entirely different.

I spent the next 28 years at New Hampton School and for the most part enjoyed my stay there. I can't think of another career that would have offered me the opportunity to do such diverse things as rock climbing, leading student bike tours in Florida, and taking sabbaticals in Europe. I never married, but the faculty and students formed kind of an extended family, and I remain in contact with a number of them.

In 1992, another random event in the form of a new headmaster resulted in an abrupt end to my New Hampton career. In retrospect, the time had come for a change, and I enjoyed the diversity of teaching at Waterville Valley Academy, Kimball Union Academy, and Plymouth State College until my retirement in 1999.

I keep busy now with various volunteer positions and look back on the last 50 years with no regrets. If the members of the Class of 2011 I had the privilege of speaking with derive as much satisfaction from their experiences as I have, they will be fortunate indeed.

