

George Vanwyck Alles

Died: November 25, 2013

George died at his home in Media, Pennsylvania, on Monday, November 25, 2013 of complications from lymphoma. He was 74.

He spent his entire life in the East Coast. He was born in Rahway, New Jersey, then moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia, then to Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1949. He graduated from The Haverford School nearby, where he was in the Glee Club and dramatics, and was on the wrestling and track teams.

At Dartmouth, George majored in math, and was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon (later Storrs House), where he served as historian as a junior and as treasurer in his senior year. He was in both the Glee Club and Band his freshman and sophomore years, and was a member of the Dartmouth Outing Club all four years.

After Dartmouth, he went to The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with an M.B.A. in marketing. Writing a reflection in 1986 for the 25th reunion of our class, George said that after leaving Wharton he “was denied the opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces, and so went to work for the DuPont Company, where I have been ever since.”

“My parting promise to the Dartmouth Math Department,” George wrote then, “was never to sully its reputation by further dabbling in the field, and I have faithfully kept my word.”

George was sometimes known by the nickname “Van” (see The Greenbook), and by his fraternity brothers as something else. As our classmate, Tom Goodridge, writes (in a January 9, 2014 remembrance), “George and I were fraternity brothers at DKE, and there his nickname was Double L, a play on his last name and the fact that he loved Ballantine beer ‘Light Lager’. I was always amazed he got good grades while keeping up with the partying of Jerry LeVeen, et al. He was a fixture at the DKE house our junior and senior years, and a friend to all.”

George remained with DuPont many years until retiring. A December 8, 2013 online obituary in Delaware’s The News Journal, says that George “held a variety of marketing and financial positions in the fibers, chemicals, and elastomers businesses. From 1983 until 1999, he managed the global financial and strategic planning activities for the fluorochemicals and later the elastomers units of DuPont.”

George remained single over the years. The News Journal obituary says a niece, Meredith Beever McGuire, and a nephew, D. Morgan Beever, survived him. In the obituary, Mr. Beever remembers George “as a very smart guy, who lived modestly in comparison with his title. He was very meticulous and organized.”

Class reunion publications after 1986 contain no reflections from George, noting only that his home was at 205 Cherrywood Lane, in Media, Pennsylvania. That is where he lived during most of his DuPont years, from 1982 until his death. It was the place where The News Journal obituary says he pursued his love of “growing tomatoes, woodworking, maintaining his home and rooting for the Flyers, Eagles, Phillies, and Sixers.”