

Harry Lamont Ames

Died: April 28, 2000

Harry grew up in Cortland, (upstate) New York, came to Dartmouth, served in the Navy, and then lived in Vermont for many years before relocating to Florida, where he died on Friday, April 28, 2000, at the age of 60 at Hospice Center in Naples. He was buried in Cortland Rural Cemetery.

Cortland has a population of about 18,000, and Harry went to high school there, graduating cum laude. He was on the newspaper, worked on the yearbook, was in dramatics, and on the track team.

Little is recorded about his years at Dartmouth. He was in the Naval Science program (N.R.O.T.C.) and his friend, David Kehl, also in the program, remembers him fondly.

“Harry and I shared a lot of Dartmouth,” Dave writes. “Every Wednesday we would don our NROTC uniforms and march on the football field. We also shared the navy classes for four years as both of us were regular NROTC scholarship students and were commissioned as Ensigns upon graduation. Harry became a great friend during our time at Dartmouth and upon my marriage in September 1961 he was my best man. He was fun-loving, intelligent and is deeply missed.”

After Dartmouth, Harry did an obligatory stint in the Navy, as an admiral’s aide, and then moved to Vermont, living for many years in Pomfret, Barnard, and Woodstock. During his Vermont years he was active in civic and community affairs — the Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the schools, and the Boy Scouts. He founded the New England Real Estate Clearing House, a computer matching type service for buyers and sellers.

John White in our class (also in the Naval Science program with Harry) and his wife Barbara visited Harry and his wife while scouting real estate in Vermont, and got invited for a barbecue dinner, an occasion John remembers as enjoyable.

Harry was also an active Vermont Republican, serving on Republican town and state committees, and providing political consulting to candidates — from both parties he notes in a profile written about him in The Valley News on November 18, 1978.

His political alignments may have been somewhat eclectic. In The Valley News interview, he said he helped to elect Richard Nixon in 1968, telling the interviewer, “I worked for Nixon, backed McCarthy, and ended up voting for Hubert Humphrey.”

Harry stood for election as a write-in Republican candidate for the Vermont State Senate in 1982, but it is not known whether he won. He did, however, offer his

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opinions as a candidate on a number of subjects, among them: gun controls (he preferred none), nuclear waste shipments through Vermont (to which he said “No Way, Jose”), a state lottery (100% against it), constituent service (call anytime, he said), and something called “side judges” (“keep them,” he said).

After moving to Naples, Florida, Harry continued his involvement in civic and community affairs, among other things becoming a member of the Naples Press Club and the Dartmouth Club of Southwest Florida.

Harry had a daughter named Elise and a son, Ethan.