

William John Flanigan

Died: May 9, 2009

Bill died Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, following a long illness. He was 70 years old.

Growing up in Oneonta, New York, Bill graduated from Oneonta High School, where he was named to the National Honor Society, sang in the Glee Club (in which he was a soloist), played on the tennis team, and managed the basketball team.

At Dartmouth, Bill double-majored in sociology and anthropology, and became a member of Alpha Chi Rho. He was in the Glee Club his first two years, and in all four years was active in the Newman Club. In his junior year he was a member of the Film Society.

After Dartmouth he served in the Navy from 1962 to 1965, service that took him on tours through both the Arctic and Antarctic. After that, he developed an expertise in architecture and planning and worked for many years in the New York State Insurance Department, from which he retired in 1995 as its Director of Planning.

Bill wrote a reflection for the 25th Reunion Yearbook in 1986 that notes how quickly the first 25 years have gone by, so fast, he said, “that I better start the 50th questionnaire soon.”

With model brevity, Bill summarized his life to that date: “Let’s see,” he wrote, “since Dartmouth there has been law school, Navy, first job, second job, third job, marriage, child, first home, family deaths, certainly pretty standard milestones, but all significant to me.”

He continued: “I have had a chance to pause and climb a few mountains, run some road races, travel and write a little. Looking forward to the rest of my life and watching another prospective son of Dartmouth grow up.”

We lost touch with Bill, who did not check in for our 35th or 40th reunion, and we learned what we have about him since 1986, and his work with the State of New York, from an obituary published on the occasion of his death.

Bill had one son, Peter, who survived him, as did Bill’s wife Mary Jane.