

## **William Prehn Hansen Jr.**

Died: August 6, 2007

Bill was a banker and 68 years old when he retired in late June 2007 from JPMorgan Chase, after working for the organization for 44 years. He died of cancer at his home in Connecticut less than two months later on Monday, August 6.

Bill grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, and went to the Choate School, where he graduated cum laude. He was on the school newspaper and magazine, sang in the glee club, and was a member of the baseball and soccer teams.

Little is known about his life at Dartmouth; there is no entry for him in The Aegis. An unattributed obituary filed in the alumni records office says he was a member of Sigma Chi.

After Dartmouth, Bill spent six months with the U. S. Army National Guard at Fort Dix during the Cuban missile crisis.

A June 2007 profile article about Bill in "The Bond Buyer" (a trade publication), on the occasion of his retirement, says Bill began his career in February 1963 with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company in New York on the corporate side. Moving up in the ranks, he became a vice-president in 1974, then joined the municipal credit group in 1977. He moved to Los Angeles in 1984 to open a public finance office, and then moved to San Francisco.

In 1986 he wrote for the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Yearbook about what these moves meant to him. "The process of becoming happy with who I am has been long and sometimes very difficult," he said. "A lot of energy has been consumed on this over the years, which may account for my looking back in disbelief over where the time has gone. If I have a regret, it is that Dartmouth couldn't have somehow helped more in the search for who I am, so that I could have sooner directed my energies outwardly."

Several years later he moved back to New York while continuing to serve his West Coast municipal clients, and by 1996 he was listing Greenwich, Connecticut, as his home address.

Bill's accomplishments over the years were noted in the profile about him in "The Bond Buyer." Bill was "a municipal market pioneer who was a long-time credit provider arranging loans, letters of credit, and other liquidity facilities predominantly for tax-exempt issuers in California," the article says.

The unattributed obituary explains how important these developments were. Bill "was instrumental in groundbreaking transactions that helped keep the State of California solvent during fiscal crises in the early 1980's, in 1994, and in 2001," it says.

Bill evidently enjoyed his work. "I take a lot of pride in having my fingerprints on some pretty important and interesting deals in the past," he is quoted in The Bond Buyer as saying. "It was an opportunity to feel like you were doing something for the public sector."

Bill was planning to spend his retirement living in an 1841 farmhouse in Chester, Connecticut, that he had purchased and named Six Brothers Farms in tribute to his six sons. Their names are Matthew, Geoffrey, Michael, William, Richard, and Joseph. He also had plans to restore the house, spend time with all his children and grandchildren, do some trout fishing, brush up on his tennis game, and travel to Hong Kong and Australia.