

## **Robert Joseph McDonough**

Died: January 14, 2008

After a lengthy illness, Bob died on Monday, January 14, 2008 at the Kaplan Family Hospice in Danvers, Massachusetts. He was 68 years old.

Bob came to Dartmouth as a freshman from Kimball Union Academy (KUA) in Meriden, New Hampshire, from which he graduated cum laude in 1957, and where he played football and baseball. He had grown up in Woburn, Massachusetts, and graduated from high school there the year before, in 1956.

Bob enlisted in the Navy on November 19, 1958 and served aboard the U.S.S. Hank. He was honorably discharged on August 26, 1960 and returned to Dartmouth, graduating on October 12, 1963.

He then began his career as a teacher. For the next 36 years he taught social studies at the John F. Kennedy Middle School in Woburn, Massachusetts (both his parents had been teachers).

Bob's sport was tennis; he played for the Wakefield Tennis League for more than two decades, and played the game on Cape Cod for more than 30 summers. He enjoyed reading, and was a fan of all New England teams — the Red Sox, the Bruins, the Patriots, and the Celtics. He was fond of watching professional tennis, especially Wimbledon.

Bob's Reflection in 1986 for our 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Yearbook remarks upon how fast time has passed. He said he had taught approximately 2,500 junior high students since he began teaching in 1964. He said he'd taught some of his students' children, and on occasions all five or six children in an entire family.

Bob particularly noted how quickly his son Devin had grown, recalling how "a little while ago" the boy had scarcely been able to walk, but "is my tennis doubles partner now."

"I never have or will make much money from teaching but it has made me happy and optimistic," Bob wrote in his Reflection. "Nothing gives you a better perspective of the ills, evils, and hopes of American society than teaching in a junior high school," he said. The stresses children and adolescents face in contemporary society "cause complementary stresses for the teachers of these kids, and a liberal arts education from Dartmouth helps me to cope with, if not conquer, those stresses."