

Francis X. McKeone

Died: March 19, 2003

Francis was much older than all of us, entered Dartmouth after we did, graduated before we did, and did better academically than most of us. After a long illness, he died at age 70 on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, at Windsor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center near Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, the town where he had lived for many years, since 1969.

Francis is a member of the Class of 1961 by virtue of having been matriculated into our class when he first arrived, following a route that was circuitous, to say the least, and that would appear to have been logical given the level of his academic achievement when he arrived in Hanover.

He was born in Queens on May 24, 1932, roughly seven years before most of us, and was raised in Brooklyn. After graduating from high school, he served during the Korean War in the Navy from 1951 to 1953, and then in the Coast Guard.

After his return from the war, he enrolled in Fordham University's evening school program for four years, studying accounting in its school of business. With four years of evening studies under his belt, he made the switch to Dartmouth. As part of the ritual of making the transfer, administration officials at the college (e.g. in admissions and/or the registrar's office) evaluated Francis' transcript, and gave him Dartmouth credit for some of his coursework at Fordham and for some of the military service experience that had educational value.

The total credits thus allowed determined where in the academic spectrum at Dartmouth he could most appropriately be assigned. As it turned out, the credit math work (roughly a year's worth) called for Francis to be matriculated into the Class of 1961, which he was, in September 1958.

Francis' academic career at Dartmouth was luminous. He took extra course work in order to graduate sooner, and thus completed his degree requirements in the spring of 1960, and was graduated Magna Cum Laude with an A.B. degree in economics on June 12, less than two years after he started at the college. Along the way he was a Rufus Choate Scholar in the school year 1959-1960, his final year at the college (at a time when we were still juniors). He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and achieved High Distinction in his major field of economics.

After Dartmouth, Francis earned a masters degree in economics from Northeastern University in Boston.

Our class publications contain sparse information about Francis. There are no entries for him in The Green Book or the Aegis, and he of course is not listed in our

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commencement program for June 1961. All of our reunion publications — for the 25th, the 35th, and the 40th — carry only a Mattapoisett address, and nothing else.

An obituary in the New Bedford newspaper after his death — New Bedford is seven miles from Mattapoisett on the Massachusetts south coast — says that Francis was a trust officer with Merchants Bank and with South Shore National Bank for a number of years before entering the field of financial consulting.

Francis had two sons, Francis and Myles.