

William Franklin Murphy Jr.

Died: January 7, 2000

Murph died suddenly on Friday, January 7, 2000 at the age of 61.

Shortly after he died, his wife Ann wrote a note to our classmate, Tom Conger, informing us of the news, which scribe Tom dutifully spread to us in WWW. Ann said they had been married 33 years, and had two daughters (and at the time had two grandsons).

“Murph” (as he identified himself in our 35th Reunion Directory) grew up in Westfield, New Jersey, but went to Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, Maryland. According to the Green Book, he called himself “Bill” back then, was class treasurer, an honors student, and participated in the glee club, dramatics and debating. His sport was football.

At Dartmouth, he majored in English and was a member of Tabard/Sigma Chi. His freshman year he sampled much of campus life — he rowed crew, was in the outing club, sang with the glee club, sailed with the yacht club, and was a member of the Newman Club. For all four years he was in the N.R.O.T.C., and was on the drill team for the first three of those years. Scribe Conger, who did some drill team time himself, remembers Murph as “a solid part of our Dartmouth experience.”

As sometimes seems to happen, a random unattributed and undated document has found its way into Murph’s Dartmouth records. In it, Murph is recorded as having more than 25 years of experience as a fund raising professional and consultant, with an international client list whose achieved funding totals more than \$500 million.

In 1986, the document says, Murph was called to the U.S. State Department to help with funding for the Anglo-Irish Agreement and with international development associated with it. Almost a decade later, President Clinton chose him to be one of 200 delegates to the 1995 White House Conference on trade and investment in Ireland, work that continued on into 1999. By that time Murph had founded The Murphy Company, a fund-raising firm based in Houston.

Although he was probably not introduced as “Murph” on such occasions, he is credited in the archival document in college records as having “given numerous speeches and presentations to conferences, meetings and colloquia in the U. S. and overseas. He is a published author on military history subjects.”