

Terance Anthony O'Neil

Died: November 28, 1991

Terry died of bone cancer on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28, 1991 when he was 52 years old.

He grew up in Omaha, attending Creighton Prep. An honors student, he was class secretary, on the yearbook and in dramatics, and played football and baseball.

At Dartmouth he majored in economics and joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He was on the undergraduate council for two years, serving on its academic committee for two years, and its judiciary committee and traffic committee, each for one year. He was Secretary of Green Key, and was in the Newman Club for all four years. He played football for two years and baseball for one. He became a member of Sphinx.

After Dartmouth ... well, Terry does a better job than anyone else could ever do summarizing his life after we graduated. Here is his unedited and complete "Reflection," just as it appeared in the 25th Reunion Yearbook in 1986:

"From Omaha, Nebraska to Hanover, N.H. to Jupiter, FL.

From rookie stockbroker to rookie business owner.

I knew on my first day in Hanover that it was a brand new ball game. One roommate asked, "You're from Omaha, aren't you?" When I said, "Yes" – He said, "What city in Omaha?" and he was serious!

Those four years in Hanover were among the best of my life and I will always remember them with fond memories especially those of Beattie, Chapman and Dayton.

Graduation marked the beginning of a career in the securities business which is still continuing. Eighteen years in Omaha, three years in Milwaukee, and now four years in Jupiter, Fla.

I decided to start my own business when I realized I was too old to take orders from all those young hot shots (like I used to be) climbing their way to the top (I wanted to be chairman of the board once, too).

Life's too short for all that. Now I am chairman of the board (of a two person company). My wife, Mary, and I started O'Neil Securities (clever name) two years ago. (Actually, I'm not chairman, she is.)

Office is one half mile from home – both 300 yards from the ocean.

No snow, no big organization, no crap.

Dead Solid Perfect."

Our classmate Tom Conger remembers him (of course). "I met Terry during freshman football before school opened in '57," Tom wrote in June 2010. "Learned all the Dartmouth songs from him, having never received a frosh handbook. We had some astounding double dates during our four years. When he

got pinned to a gal at Vermont Junior College, I was the first guy she told. We remained buddies for the rest of his too short life.”

Terry’s close friend and fraternity brother, and our classmate, Chuck Dayton, wrote his own recollection about Terry in September 2010 (a recollection that references Chuck’s marriage to his late wife, Kathy).

“Terry. Terry O'Neil. Terrance Anthony Peter O'Neil, the ebullient Irishman from Omaha. He was a roommate and the best man at our wedding in the middle of junior year. When we drove from Illinois back to campus in Beattie's station wagon with the "just married" sign on the back, Terry, in the passenger seat, donned a scarf and held a cigar, stunning the occupants of nearby vehicles. Humor was his stock in trade. He was charming, outgoing, and, on our all male campus, adroit at finding female companionship. I had the good fortune to be around Terry often — in the New Hamp dorm, on the football team, at the fraternity, and as one of his roommates — so had the frequent benefit of his sunny disposition and camaraderie. I recall a sweet spring night, when we celebrated our election to Green Key on the Inn Corner with ice cream cones, and dreamed of what the future would bring. The roommates (Beattie, Chapman and I) were in his wedding, although one of the dark moments of my life was painting his body with gentian violet (ala Beta initiation) at the reception, for which his bride never forgave us, I fear. He became an investment advisor, first in Omaha then in Jupiter Florida. After his death, his second wife sent out a beautiful note, which included this thought: ‘Think of me when you see the sun on the water.’ And I do.”

Terry gave back to Dartmouth. He was secretary, president, and district enrollment director of the Dartmouth Association of the Plains in Omaha from 1963 – 1978. He was a member of the Alumni Council from 1976-78. For the class, he was chairman of the Fifth Reunion, head agent beginning in 1977, and long-time member of the executive committee. He won the Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Performance for his work as class agent during the 1979 campaign. All of these contributions are charted in his Dartmouth Alumni Magazine obituary following his death.

The obituary notes Terry’s record of service in other arenas. He was a trustee of several hospitals, officer of civic clubs, and worked for the community chest. The obituary ended with the information that Terry was survived by his wife, Mary, and two children.