

Allen Richard Taft

Died: June 6, 2008

After a long battle with cancer, Rick died when he was 68 years old on Friday, June 6, 2008, in Winnetka, Illinois.

Rick had two sons, Alex, the older, and Erick, younger by three years. Exactly one week before Rick died, the younger of his two sons, Alex, was killed (on May 29) in an automobile accident in Colorado. The younger son, Erick, was not involved in the accident and survived his father's death, as did Anne Corwin Taft, Rick's wife of many years.

Rick was born and raised in Rutland, Vermont, and came to Dartmouth after graduating from Rutland High School. He was on the newspaper and yearbook there, and participated in the glee club, band, orchestra, and dramatics. He was on the high school ski team.

At Dartmouth, Rick majored in psychology, and was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. He served on the undergraduate council his senior year, and in the Council on Student Organizations (COSO) for the last two years. During all four years he was in the outing club. He was on the ski team his freshman year.

After Dartmouth, Rick went to the University of Chicago Law School, where he received his J.D. degree in 1965. Of his legal career, per se, little is known, as he went into investment banking in New York City, then moved back to Chicago, where he spent the majority of his career, until 2001, in asset management with The Chicago Corporation.

That's where he was in 1986 at the time of our 25th Reunion in 1986, when he wrote in his Reflection that, "my work as a portfolio manager is personally and professionally rewarding."

"I work hard and many hours," he recalled then, "but the feeling of achievement when I have completed a successful portfolio review with a client is worth the effort, the hours, the inevitable frustration and the difficulty of doing any job well."

Rick appreciated his years at the college. "I am fortunate to have chosen Dartmouth," he wrote. "The college's broad educational scope has been and is a tremendous background for coping with the diverse and dynamic elements of life."

Rick left The Chicago Corporation in 2001 to co-found his own investment advisory firm, a venture which he described in our 40th Reunion Yearbook in 2001 as "both thrilling and challenging — the fulfillment of a lifelong dream." After just two months, he said, the firm was managing \$360 million in assets.