

Edward Robert Thornton Jr.

Died: December 22, 2004

Ed died on Wednesday, December 22, 2004, at his home in Moultonborough, New Hampshire, about 65 miles northeast of Hanover. He was 65.

A New Englander through and through, Ed grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire. In high school there he was active in student government, and on the school newspaper and yearbook. His sports were cross-country, tennis, and track.

At Dartmouth, Ed majored in government and was a member of Alpha Chi Rho, serving it as pledge master one year and social chairman another. For all four years at the college Ed was active in the Newman Club, the film society, the outing club, and winter carnival. The Aegis notes he was also director of the slalom police for a year.

After Dartmouth he headed north, to earn his law degree in 1965 from the University of Maine.

An unattributed obituary in the college archives says that for the next 33 years, until 1998, Ed practiced law with the firm of Thornton & Thornton in Manchester. He became a part-time special justice with the Derry District Court (in New Hampshire) in 1987, serving until 2004, when he was appointed to a judgeship with the Franklin District Court, the same year that he passed away. According to a report in the Manchester Union Leader newspaper, Ed suffered from chest and lung cancer, but continued to work until a month before he died.

With 10 other lawyers, the obituary says, Ed founded the New Hampshire Trial Lawyers Association, serving at various times as its president, treasurer, and the editor-in-chief of its monthly statewide newspaper. He was the recipient of the New Hampshire Bar Association's president's award twice, for outstanding "pro-bono service" and for "distinguished service."

Ed said in his 1986 Reflection for our 25th Reunion that, "memories of 'what might have been' occasionally haunt or remind, but all-in-all I consider myself a most fortunate person."

Ed had five daughters, Kara, Tara, Meaghan, Maura, and Shaunna.