

Lawrence Chase Wilson

Died: October 17, 1983

Larry died Monday, October 17, 1983.

He came to Dartmouth from Morristown, New Jersey and went to Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, about 40 miles away. He was assistant editor of the newspaper there, and in dramatics and on the debate team.

At Dartmouth Larry majored in government and became a member of Delta Sigma Rho, the debating fraternity. He was in the Forensic Union all four years, becoming its president and its freshman coach his senior year. He was in Green Key as a junior. In his first two years at the college he was in the Young Republicans, and in his last two was in the pre-law club.

An obituary in the college archives reports that he won a best debater trophy at an eastern regional tournament in March 1958, and was on the four-member college team that beat 107 other teams at a tournament at Northwestern University in 1959.

Larry went to Harvard Law School, where he got his LL.B degree, after which he did a six-month tour of active duty with the U.S. Army, and then joined the New York law firm of Reid and Priest. That was where he spent most of his professional career. His practice emphasized tax law.

The obituary notes that Larry was from a distinguished line of lawyers. He was a descendent of Samuel Chase, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was also a descendent of Salmon Portland Chase, who was a U. S. Senator, governor of Ohio, secretary of the treasury under Abraham Lincoln, and chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Our classmate, Jack Fink, who left Dartmouth before graduating, remembers Larry from their freshman year, and wrote this remembrance in May 2010:

“I remember Larry well. He and I were going to be roommates our sophomore year, but I was unable to return to Dartmouth. I understand Larry lived in our room alone that year. Larry was bright, like me smoked far too much, and had a wonderful sense of humor. If I remember correctly from all those years ago, he was in the Honors Math program. Larry, Jerry Simmons, and I spend many an evening drinking beer, smoking, and solving all of the problems of the world. We also had a wonderful/horrible time with dates for Winter Carnival in my only year at Dartmouth. I invited a girl — from Smith, I think — and she had a roommate who needed a date. I fixed the roommate up with Larry. I am not sure that the girls appreciated either of us. I was not — and still am not — much of a social lion, and Larry was not the ‘he-man’ type that some girls would have wanted. Larry must have weighed about 110

pounds. If I remember correctly, the girls found other more attractive fellows to spend most of their time with, but it was still a wonderful weekend. The memories of the few people I knew at Dartmouth stay with me, and Larry was one of the best.

Larry had one son, Herbert.