

# Tanzi License Plate - A Class of 1961 Memento

June 11, 2007

*The following is an edited email string on the saga of the Tanzi license plate, which just moved from Mike Murphy's house to F.J. "Duck" Eicke's house. .*

Classmates and assorted other Dartmouth types -

The primary reason for this email is to confirm receipt of the Tanzi license plate from Mike Murphy - thus the only "send to" and the rest of you are tag-alongs. If I missed classmates, I'll rely on Harris to pass this on if appropriate. This license plate has special meaning to me since I had the distinct privilege of working at Tanzi's during our senior year and delivering kegs to the houses. After reading Chris Miller's last treatise, he notes a keg arriving at AD and that person may well have been me since the year would fit. I was raised above a grocery store my family ran for almost 100 years so working at Tanzi's was like being back home. After Kathy joined me on our return in January, I continued to work but must admit that she was the major breadwinner with her nursing work at Hitchcock. Now both Tanzi's and Hitchcock no longer exist but we stand reverently in front of that open space on Main Street on every return and pay our respects to the legacy that is Tanzi's. My guess is that many of you share my sentiment.

Just talked with Bob Fell (Dean of Students Holly Sateia's Brother) who works for the City of Biloxi and he tells me that a Dartmouth group is due down here soon and he is planning a shrimp boil. Assuming my schedule allows, I will proudly display the Tanzi memento with this fledgling group and tell them the story. Suspect we will also have an appropriate toast with an appropriate liquid even though this is the Tucker Foundation. .... Cannot imagine dining on fine wild Mississippi shrimp cooked to seasoned perfection without the proper liquid accompaniment.....

Hope all of you are having a great start to the summer. Fish are biting down here but the wind (days are beautiful) has not settled down in weeks. Take a look at the website for Coastal Conservation Association Mississippi ([www.ccamississippi.org](http://www.ccamississippi.org)), click *Kids Tournament Photos* and you'll find my mug shot in one.

F. J. (aka Duck)

Some of you did not attend the 45th Reunion and so may not know that once again at our Class dinner the Tanzi license plate was auctioned off to raise funds for Class activities. I was the bidder for Year One and was hoping that with the passage of time (or the effects from that evening's wine) Duck might forget that he won Year Two, but no such luck, he was all over me and even sent a "reminder" a month or so ago that he comes next. So now it's been a year, and there is a blank space on the wall in my house which nothing, really, can fill like this wonderful piece of Dartmouth nostalgia.

For the record, the successful bidders for the next three years are: Pete Bleyler, Gerry Kaminsky, and Vic Rich. Then the plate comes back to Hanover for our 50th Reunion and another auction. Take care of it, guys.

We'd be remiss to discuss the Tanzi license plate without another huge shout of appreciation to past President Oscar Arslanian, who received the plate from Mr. Tanzi before he died, had it mounted on a plaque and came up with the idea of these five-year auctions. Helene and I had dinner two weeks ago with Oscar and Nyla, and were very happy to see that he has recovered from his awful car crash. Luckily we were in southern California, where you can wear a baseball cap into a restaurant, but other than that slight

legacy of his surgery, Oscar's as good as ever. He's now restored in the running at that far-distant reunion when there will be one of us left to bid on the Tanzi plate -- for life!

Mike Murphy

Mike:

Duck & I were just exchanging views on how the Tanzi era is gone - ne'er to be replaced/emulated. Thank whomever that Harry fell in love with Nyla over dinner, and made so fine/unique a legacy for the class of '61... If memory serves, I was the first lucky bidder at the 30th reunion; and that plaque was displayed proudly in our family room atop Nob Hill, projecting its haunting message to all points of the Bay Area compass. I wonder if the '11s will be imbued with the same pervading sense of tradition/pride as were we beginning a half-century ago? ...Guess ours is to persevere, continue to serve, and keep a watch lest the old traditions fail. You may interpret that any way you wish. Naegs knows full well what it means.

Aloha-hoo-wah,

tc

As my sometimes faulty memory serves me, Fletcher was the younger guy who was not a Tanzi by birth but married into the family. When Kathy and I stayed in Hanover after graduation awaiting orders from the USAF, I was the assistant coach of a youth baseball team with Fletcher's son (as I recall) one of the mainstays. Might need some of you to reconstruct the Tanzi genealogy that would be an interesting task in itself. The Class might use this at the 50th. But Jim/Roach is incorrect - I did deliver kegs of beer and in those days could handle this task - not now.  
Duck