

On the Passing of Russ (“Rusty”) Turmail

7/29/1942 – 9/25/2010

by Jeff Swain

Russ (Rusty) Turmail passed away suddenly from a rare form of pneumonia last September. He was a multi-talented and caring individual, who gave much more than he received. After Dartmouth Russ served as a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Hull, which was stationed in San Diego and deployed to Vietnam. After his stint in the Navy Russ received his MBA from Boston University and joined the Bank of Boston. He started in the management training program and quickly rose to the position of Vice President, where he was called upon to troubleshoot banking issues throughout New England. Also, as a branch and project manager, he led transition teams as the bank went through mergers and acquisition phases. He retired in 1997.



Russ and I met when we joined the Chi Phi Fraternity eventually sharing a room in the house our senior year. We shared Navy ROTC and a love of sports, with Russ becoming a stalwart on the soccer team. Pete Carney, a classmate and fraternity brother, recalled that Russ, accomplished **soccer player, was more than willing to teach Pete the “tricks of the trade”.** Pete remembers Russ as a great fraternity brother and low key gentleman. Over the years, Russ found much love and happiness with Judy (they were truly meant for each other), his 3 daughters, his 3 stepsons and **eleven grandchildren. It’s fair to say he lived by an unwavering philosophy of life always being there to support, nurture, and provide guidance to family and friends alike.** He did it because it came so naturally to him and because he didn’t know any other way to live his life.

I was honored to be welcomed by Judy and family as a participant in the Service of ‘Celebration for Russ’ life. It became obvious that the “Rusty” we knew at Dartmouth was the same person his entire life. He perfected the fine art of grand parenting, passing along his deep love of sports, music, and nature to his eleven grandchildren rarely missing an event. He loved teaching them about a wide range of topics whether it was woodworking, sailing, math or even identifying planets on a clear night during Saturday night beach cookouts. Together with Judy, he became an activist and leader in the preservation of open land in Marshfield, MA and did great work on behalf of the **Framingham community and the environment. Russ’ friends and neighbors remarked to me how much he had contributed to the community, and how my description of him at Dartmouth was so much the same as the Russ they knew. In his personal story for our “Sports: A Generation’s**

Common Bond”, Russ gave us his philosophy of life: “Learn what you can, carry it forward, use it.....Follow the lessons through the years.....and pass them on to the next generation”.

Many of us who knew Russ from college, share the same sense of him. As our classmate and Russ’ fraternity brother, Bill Neukom, said: “Russ was smart, committed, always humble in his perspectives on a broad range of subjects. He had the gift of a twinkle in his eye that betrayed a wonderful sense of play and humor.”

We have lost a special friend much too early, but are richer for having known and loved Russ, and for having had him in our lives.

From The Marshfield Mariner

George Russell Turmail (Russ), a 31 year veteran of the Bank of Boston, devoted husband, father and grandfather, passed away suddenly from the recent onset of a rare form of pneumonia on September 25th.

Mr. Turmail, 68, of Marshfield was born in Indianapolis and raised in St. Louis. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1964 and later received his MBA from Boston University. Mr. Turmail served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy aboard the U.S.S. Hull which was stationed in San Diego and deployed to Vietnam.

Mr. Turmail was a high school sports stand-out at Horton Watkins H.S. (Ladue H.S.) in St. Louis, where he was All Conference in both Football and Soccer and was awarded a scholarship to play football at Dartmouth. Mr. Turmail's excellence in music, sports and student leadership led him to earn the Ladue High School's first Most Outstanding Student Award.

At the Bank of Boston, Mr. Turmail started in the management training program and quickly rose to the position of Vice President, where he was called upon to troubleshoot banking issues throughout New England. During his tenure at the Bank of Boston, Mr. Turmail was a branch and project manager who led transition teams as the bank went through mergers and acquisition phases.

Upon retirement in 1997, Mr. Turmail took to life by the ocean where he perfected the fine art of grand parenting passing along his deep love of sports, music and nature to his eleven grandchildren rarely missing an event. He deeply enjoyed teaching them about a wide range of topics whether it was woodworking, sailing, math or even identifying planets on a clear night during a regular Saturday night beach cook-out.

Together with his wife Judy, he became an activist and leader in the preservation of open land. He was involved with many volunteer groups where he worked extensively to keep others comfortable and was always eager to help anyone who asked for help. Russ was a passionate person who had love for nature, family and his community.

Mr. Turmail leaves his wife of 27 years, Judith (Parker) Turmail of Marshfield, MA, his mother, Virginia Turmail, 94 of Kirkwood, MO., and is also survived by three daughters, Karin Burgess, husband John and Kristin Freundlich both of Framingham, MA and Perrin Montalto of Holliston, MA, as well as three stepsons Mark Tedeschi of Hingham, Peter Tedeschi of Cohasset, MA and Paul Tedeschi of Cohasset, MA. He also leaves eleven grandchildren, Luke, Drea, Brittany, Trevor, Talia, Taylor, Justin, Brendan, Cameron, Jackson, and Owen. Mr. Turmail also leaves two younger brothers, James of Florissant, MO., and Douglas of Munster, IN.