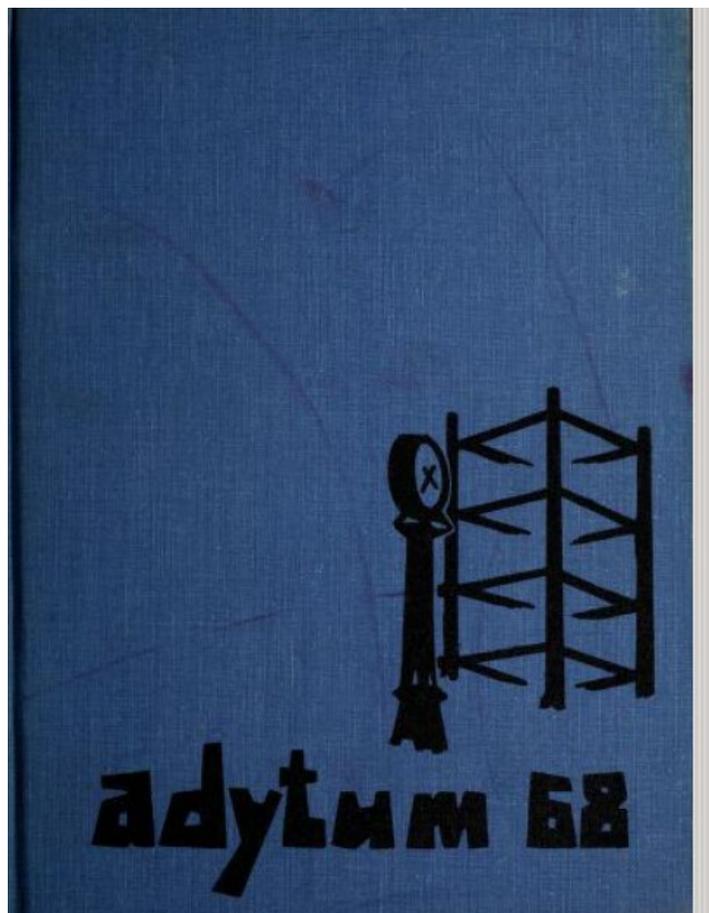


Memorials of Our
1968 Classmates
Who Have Died since our 50th Reunion
June 2018



By

Janice Shilcock Silcox, Ralph Rhodes and Karen Warkentien Robinson

for Our 55th Reunion

James Wallace Baird, Ph.D. (1946-March 9,2021)



Jim Wallace Baird, was known by all, as Wally and was a lifelong resident of Mt. Lebanon where he graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School in 1964.

At Denison Wally pledged the fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta and majored in psychology. His fraternity brothers found him a good friend with a great sense of humor. He also took his academic studies quite seriously, particularly those in his major.

After Denison he did graduate work at Duquesne University which culminated in a Ph.D. from University of Pittsburgh in 1985. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a military policeman, rated as a sharpshooter.

His professional career as a clinical psychologist included 35 years at Mayview State Hospital in Pittsburgh and 26 years at Associates in Clinical Psychiatry. Wally also served as a Gerontology-Neuropsychological consultant at St. Margaret Hospital. During his career he earned the gratitude of many patients for his compassion, understanding, and wise guidance. His work as a psychologist ended just two weeks before his death.

Wally had an encyclopedic knowledge of matters relating to health and fitness and was the go-to person on the topics of diet, medicine, and exercise. Beginning in 1974, he meditated daily, and his dedication to fitness was legendary. Wally loved to bicycle, logging up to 2,000 miles a year. No route was too difficult. He met each obstacle with strength and grace and relished the challenge and camaraderie that bicycling with friends offered.

During their 49 loving years together, Wally and Harriet enjoyed travel, both together and with friends. The common thread in Wally's life, which ran through his relationships with family, patients and friends, was his unique and genuine concern for others. His obituary ended with, "[Wally] sought to understand our lives, learn our problems as well as our hopes, and offer encouragement. He was rarely critical. The cancer which took him was swift and caught many unawares." He is missed.

Wally is survived by his wife Harriet (Jacobsen) Baird. *Source: Jim's Family Pittsburgh Obituary:* <https://obituaries.post-gazette.com/obituary/james-wallace-baird-ph-d-1081795045>

Charles Frederick "Charlie" Barnes (January 18, 1946 – July 29, 2021)



Charlie's Senior Photo



Varsity Baseball



Charlie Ca. 2021

Charles Barnes, known to all as Charlie, came to Denison from Cincinnati, Ohio. He became a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and played on the varsity baseball team. Charlie majored in economics.

After Denison, Charlie earned a Masters in Business degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and then went on to work eight years for the Detroit Bank & Trust Company. He was the loan officer in the bank's equipment leasing division, and when he left in 1978, he was president of both of the parent company's leasing operations.

In 1970, Charlie married Christine Hulbert (DU Class of '69) and subsequently had two children. In 1985, Charlie went on to marry his present wife of 32 years, Bunny. In the process he acquired a step-son.

Charlie eventually left the bank and joined forces with a used IBM dealer and led its equity placement area where he developed tax incentive programs for used IBM mainframe computers.

In 1980, Charlie started his own business in equipment leasing and thoroughly enjoyed being on his own, leasing everything from mainframe computers to airplanes and railroad cars.

Around 2010, Charlie decided to retire, but he quickly got bored and began a second career as a consultant in leasing and financial reporting. As of our 50th in 2018, he was still enjoying his job.

Those who kept in touch with him are aware of his hobby of writing gum-shoe noir detective novels which he self-published.

Charlie died suddenly on Thursday, July 29, 2021. He was 75 years old. He is survived by his beloved wife Bunny and his three children and grandchildren. His last residence was Commerce Twp., Michigan. Charlie's warm open smile, upbeat cheerfulness and dry wit will be missed by all who knew him

Source: Charlie's written profile in the 50th Celebration book and a brief two paragraph family obituary from Milford, MI. <https://www.lynchandsonsmilford.cm/obituaries/Charles--Frederick-Charlie-Barnes?obId=21851407>

Dr. Tom Charles Black (2/21/1946-7/31/2020)



1964 Baby Book Photo

Thomas Charles Black was born February 21, 1946 in Toledo, Ohio. He came to Denison from Perrysburg, Ohio and became a member of SAE fraternity. In 1973 he graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in veterinary medicine.

He first practiced veterinary medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana and Middleburg, Virginia. He was also an avid horseman. He showed jumpers throughout the Midwest in the 1960's. Tom moved to the Tryon, North Carolina area in the late 70's where he had an equine practice until retirement.

After retiring from his veterinary practice, he continued his leather work business, Three Springs Tack Repair, offering tack repair and custom leather work specializing in custom hunt whips and other hunt appointments.

He is remembered as a kind man who was especially proud that his son followed in his footsteps by becoming a veterinarian as well. - Tom passed away at 74 on July 31, 2020 at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Janet Howard Black and four children.

Source: Family Obituary: Columbus, N.C.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/spartanburg/name/thomas-black-obituary?id=8542185>

Melody C .Carpenter (Warner) (1946- 2018)



Melody Carpenter
History
Tampa, Florida



Melody Carpenter was born in Toledo, Ohio. At Denison, she became a history major and a member of Alpha Phi.

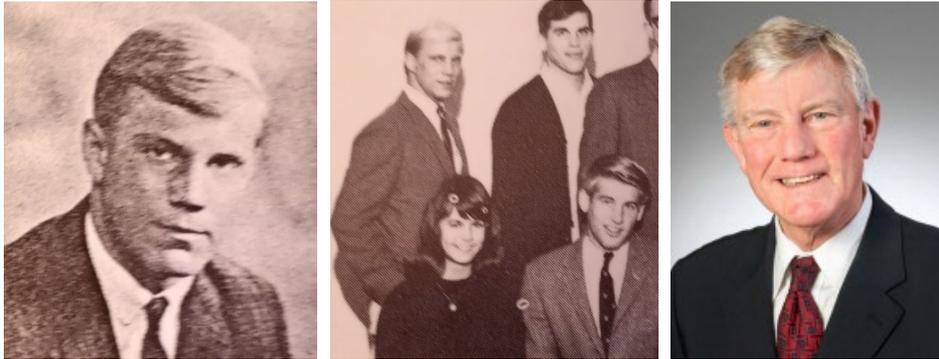
After Denison, Melody moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and worked for the railroad Retirement Board and later the Veteran's Administration where she met her husband, Dean Warner. According to her own profile in our 50th Celebration book, she became a Claims Examiner, adjudicating veteran's applications for education, disability and death benefits. After their marriage, they moved to Washington D.C. and Melody, over time, worked her way up in the Veterans Administration. She served as the staff assistant to the Director of the Compensation and Pension Service. Here she wrote technical manuals and regulations, formulated budgets, helped develop content for computer programs, and worked with Congressional staffers on proposed legislation for veterans. She said she had the satisfaction of doing something for veterans and their families. Many of these were veterans of Vietnam and the early Middle East wars.

In retirement Melody conducted extensive research in genealogy. She loved history, reading, and traveling. More than anything, she enjoyed spending time with family and friends, all of whom greatly miss her. She passed away in Land O'Lakes, Florida on November 15, 2018.

Melody's husband, Dean Warner passed away before her in 2005. She is survived by her mother, Mary E. Carpenter and two brothers.

Source: Family Obituary: <https://loylessfuneralhomes.com/tribute/details/116876/Melody-Warner/obituary.html>

Henry K. Coerdt (September 10, 1946 - June 13, 2022)



Henry's 1964 Baby Book photo 1968 photo American Chemical Society Recent photo of Henry

Henry Coerdt was born September 10, 1946 and came to Denison from Shaker Heights, Ohio where he attended Hawken School, a day prep school in Cleveland. At Denison he majored in Chemistry and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and the American Chemical Society.

According to Henry's 50th profile, he came back to the Sig house after graduating to find a letter tapped to the front hall mirror. It was a draft notice from LBJ. He spent all night commiserating with his Hawken buddies on the phone who were going to Denver to join the Army Reserves. Henry later found out he was out of luck because the Reserves had a two-year waiting list. So, in Denver he joined the U.S. Army and ended up at Fort Ord in California. He soon became a drill instructor. Henry stated that many of his recruits came from California jails, and one of them even shot him at a firing range. After two-years of active duty, he returned to Denver for reserve and summer camps. While in Denver, he attended the University of Denver where he graduated with MBA and CFA degrees.

Henry began his working career in Family Wealth and Portfolio Management with McDonald & Company and the Ameritrust Bank in Cleveland, Ohio. While at Ameritrust he met the love of his life, Barbara (Suni) Bartholomew, and they married in May of 1977 in Chagrin Falls. Henry continued his career and was fast tracked to a Senior Portfolio Management position at Key Bank where he had a successful 50-year career. He retired in 2017, but never stopped offering his knowledge and assistance to his friends and former clients as a consultant.

Henry was an avid outdoorsman. He was always found outside fishing, hiking or simply walking his dog. He enjoyed working in his yard, gardening and making maple syrup. He was a loving husband, loyal friend and co-worker, always able to make any situation positive.

Henry's greatest sense of pride came from his family. He treasured his marriage of 45 years to Suni as well as his son, daughter, and his one grandchild. Henry and Suni took family vacations to the Adirondacks and to their son's ranch in Aspen. They also visited exotic beaches to scuba dive and spend quality time together.

Henry passed away with his wife Barbara (Suni) Coerdt on June 13, 2022. He is survived by his two sons and his brother. **Source: Henry's own profile in our 50th Celebration Book and the Chagrin Falls Obituary:** <https://www.murphyfamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Ssgt-Henry-Krekeler-Coerdt--Ret?obId=25337450>

Thomas D. Cook (1946- 2020)



Thomas Cook
History
Pittsford, New York



Tom came to Denison from Pittsford Sutherland High School in the suburban town of Pittsford, eight miles southeast of Rochester, New York. At Denison he majored in history and became a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity where he was known as “Cooker.” Tom also played forward on the Denison Varsity Soccer team. In his own profile in our 50th Celebration Book, he said, “Often I could be found playing bridge in the student Union.” Classmate Jeff Gordon recalls joining Tom in bridge along with Jeff Whitman, Jake Jacobs, and Joe Owens.

After Denison, Tom wanted to go to law school but when he was drafted into the Army, he opted for the Marine Corps. He spent a year in Vietnam. Discharged in 1970, he attended Syracuse Law School and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1974. He practiced law in his hometown of Pittsford for 43 years. In those years, he served four years as an assistant District Attorney and the rest as a lawyer a three-member private law firm.

In 1979, Tom was elected chairman of the Monroe County Conservative Party¹, a position he still held during our 50th. Politics was his passion and hobby. He published his party’s bi-annual newsletter and held its annual dinner. His efforts as chairman for 40 years had an incredible impact on the growth of his party and the composition of government in this part of the state of New York.

In 1986, he married his wife Maria Elena Esposito. They had no children but spent summers at their other residence on Canandaigua Lake boating and entertaining friends and family. They wintered in Venice, Florida. He and Maria also traveled extensively in the past few years before 2020.

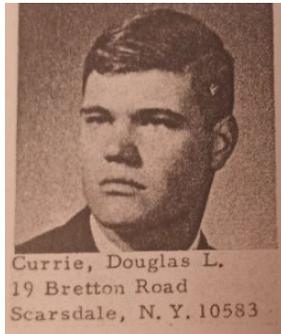
Tom died peacefully, Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 at the age of 73. Tom is survived by his wife and best friend, Maria, and his brother.

Source: Tom’s written profile in our class’50th Celebration book and his Pittsford Obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/democratandchronicle/name/thomas-cook-obituary?id=9953841>

¹ Tom’s Conservative Party is a third party that began in 1962 as a reaction to the 60’s liberalism and is not a part of the Republican Party. It supports their own candidates or candidates of either major party whom support their purely conservative ideology. (Source: Abstracted from Its published mission statement on line)

Doug Leggett Currie (September 21, 1945 – July 23, 2021)



Doug was the founder of Denison's Rugby program.

Painting by W.A Nathans*

Doug Currie was born in White Plains, N.Y. and survived a life threatening first year in childhood after suffering from nephrosis, a kidney issue. He grew up in Scarsdale, NY and then attended Darrow School in New Lebanon, NY. He was co-captain of the football team.

At Denison, Doug played football his freshman year, pledged Beta Theta Pi and became an art major. During his junior year he was THE driving force to form a Rugby team at Denison. The DU Rugby club has continued to be strong ever since. It flourishes today with both a women's team and men's team that play fall and spring schedules.

After his Junior year, Doug attended at CASA (College Art Study Abroad) in Paris as part of his art major. In his senior year, Doug took off the first semester for travel. It was then that he suffered a tragic auto accident in New Mexico that left him severely disabled. His long and arduous recovery prevented him from returning to DU to graduate with his class. Through much hard work and determination, Doug eventually continued his art studies and graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts with the School of visual Arts in New York City in 1976. For many years he assisted Earl Mahon an instructor of art at the Art Students League.

Six years before he died, Doug moved to Delray Florida where was in good health until March of 2021 when with low blood oxygen and low pulse he died of a cardiac arrest the morning of July 23, 2021.

His family obituary, said, "Doug was a fine caring man, generously kind and never short of an enthusiastic humorous observation. His art was his salvation. The surprise of his passing is only matched by his graceful and fearless mastery of some tough circumstances".

His junior year roommate Dan Kreer recently wrote that Doug's courage, focus, and persistence has made him truly inspirational to all who knew him. Dan further reported that in the fall of 2021, in the midst of Covid, twelve Betas and former ruggers came back to Denison for a memorial event for Doug. At that time, the group established and endowed "The Doug Currie Most Inspirational Player Award" for the men's Rugby team. The award includes a perpetual trophy in the Athletic Department and a plaque given to each year's winner". When the award was announced to family, friends, players, and fans at the DU-Kenyon rugby game, there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd.

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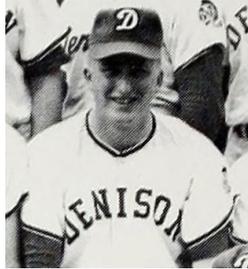
Source: Family Obituary for Delray Florida: <https://www.boyntonmemorial.com/obituary/douglas-currie> * The portrait of Doug was painted by his cousin, William A. Nathans, a well-known artist currently living in Dublin, Ireland. The painting was done from a candid snapshot of Doug. To his Junior Year Beta roommate Dan Kreer, it captures Doug's spirit, courage, and faith by its forward and upward focus. The painting is displayed in the Beta House today. Source: Doug's family Obituary with added information by his junior year roommate Dan Kreer.

¹ Tom's Conservative Party is a third party that began in 1962 as a reaction to the 60's liberalism and is not a part of the Republican Party. It supports their own candidates or candidates of either major party whom support their purely conservative ideology. (Source: Abstracted from Its published mission statement on line)

Woodrow W. “Woody” Dill, Jr. (May 14,2020)



Denison Senior Photo



Denison varsity baseball



Recent photo of Woody

Lexington, KY

Woody came to Denison from Lake Forest High School where he earned First Team All-Conference honors in Baseball and football.

At Denison, Woody joined the Delta Upsilon fraternity and majored in sociology. He lettered in Denison's varsity baseball and was selected as a JA his senior year along with other outstanding members of our class.

After Denison, Woody joined the U.S. Army and finished his service with the rank of sergeant. Afterwards, he went on to earn his Certified Life Underwriting Degree (CLU) from the American College of Life Underwriting in Pennsylvania. He married his wife Julie in 1993.

Woody eventually became Senior Vice President in charge of the Employee Benefits Division of the Marsh and McLennan Agency. For 40 years, Woody thoroughly enjoyed working with those in his company as well as his clients, and they both truly enjoyed working with him.

Woody also contributed greatly to his community by serving as a Big Brother and on the Board of Directors. In 2009, he was elected to their Hall of Fame. Woody continues his love of baseball as a coach at Northern and Eastern Little League. His trip team won the League Championship and his All-Star team went on to the State Championship. Woody cherished his time as a coach, and his players often said that he was the best coach they ever had. Woody also enjoyed golf and served two years as the golf club's president.

Woody committed his time and leadership to his Calvary Baptist Church. He served as a deacon and as a member of various committees and taught Sunday school for ten years.

Woody passed away May 14, 2020 after courageously battling leukemia for over a year. He is survived by his wife Julie and two sons.

Source: Material taken from his Obituary:

<https://milwardfuneral.com/obituaries/699-woodrow-woody-w-dill-jr>

Homer H. Eshbaugh (1946-2020)



Homer Eshbaugh came to Denison from Hinsdale, Illinois. He became a member of the ACC fraternity and Denison's concert choir. Homer withdrew from Denison and received his bachelor's degree from Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin in 1993. He worked for Sara Lee where he met his wife, Linda. He then worked at Dow Chemical and Miller Brewing Company as a computer systems analyst.

In his earlier years he was an accomplished pianist, favoring classical music, an avid birder and singer in several choirs. In later years he helped legally blind people learn how to use the computer. He enjoyed collecting rocks and minerals. Homer was one of the founders of the Grace Baptist Church in Downers Grove, IL. He was also a member of the Alliance Bible Church where he especially enjoyed the men's bible study group. He was a member of the National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy. He always had a funny witticism to share. Homer once said he thought that the Hallelujah Chorus should be played at his funeral. He will be missed by all.

Homer died August 18, 2020. His last residence was in Mequon, Wisconsin. His wife died in 2016. They are both survived by his sister Dorothy Eshbaugh.

Source: His family Obituary Schmidt and Bartelt Funeral Home in Mequon, WI.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/jonline/name/homer-eshbaugh-obituary?id=3364408>

John Ralph Griffin, III (June 6, 1946 – April 5, 2019)



John Griffin



Varsity Soccer.

John's wife was Carol Anderson of Denison Class of '69.



John Griffin, known as “Grif,” was born June 6, 1946 in New York. He grew up in Princeton, New Jersey and Narberth, Pennsylvania.

At Denison he pledge ACC and majored in history. He was a valuable member of Denison’s varsity soccer team as a tough and aggressive halfback. John was outgoing and a good man on and off the field.

John met Carol Jane Anderson (class of '69) at Denison whom he would marry. After college, John and Carol settled in Northern Virginia, and John obtained his MBA from George Washington University. Carol earned her MS degree after Denison at University of Maryland. John continued to play soccer in adult leagues and enjoyed a long career as a government contractor. He became a successful entrepreneur and founded his own consulting firm which Carol help to run for twenty years.

He was a devoted and beloved family man. Carol, his wife of 49 years, died a year and eight months later on December 28,2020. Both are survived by their sons Sean and Eric.

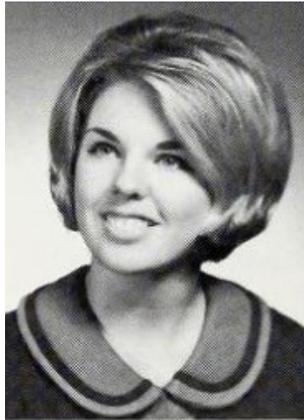
Source. Soccer teammates and his family obituary:

https://www.winchesterstar.com/obituaries/john-ralph-griffin-iii/article_1d124e8c-7026-5429-a3a6-b16976e5a51a.html

John’s wife Carol died after John: Carol’s Obituary:

<https://www.phelpsfunerals.com/obituaries/Carol-Griffin-7/#!/Obituary>

Nancy Howard Grimes (December 31, 1945 – November 16, 2022)



Nancy Howard
Political Science
Franklin, Michigan



Nancy Howard was born in Hempstead, New York on December 31, 1945 and spent her childhood in Franklin, Michigan. At Denison Nancy majored in Political Science and was a member of Pi Beta Phi.

After Denison she went to New York City and worked at American Standard where she joked that she designed its most ubiquitous bathroom product. She then returned to her home state of Michigan as a travel guide and consultant for E.F. MacDonald Incentive Travel Company working with Denison classmates Julia Williams (Howting) and Anne (Kristy) Gray. All three often escorted international tours.

Upon moving to Lexington, Kentucky, she worked for The Travel House and then founded Ashwood Travel. In 1978 she led one of the first American groups to the People's Republic of China. She specialized in international travel and consulting while visiting over 125 countries. As her children grew, she also worked with the Lexington School, serving multiple terms as Board Chair. She was honored to be appointed to the school's permanent executive board.

While Nancy loved travel, her heart could often be found at her sons' sporting events, cheering them on across the country and internationally as they competed.

She is survived by her husband Allen E. Grimes, Jr. M.D., and her two sons, and many grandchildren.

Source for her post-Denison narrative: Classmate and fellow Travel guide Annie (Kristy) and Nancy's 2022 Lexington, KY obituary <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kentucky/name/nancy-grimes-obituary?id=37859897>

Rev. Linda K. Hendrian (December 21, 1946 – July 23, 2020)



Linda K. Hendrian was born in Mechanicsburg, PA on December 21, 1946 and graduated from Delaware Valley High School in 1964.

Linda came to Denison from Milford, Pennsylvania and majored in Biology and was a member of the Denison Biological Reserve Board and contributed to Denison Biological Journal. She received her BA in biology from Denison University and MA in biology from the University of California. For the first half of her career, she worked as a Marine Biologist in California and later served as the Director of the Environmental Science Lab at Bucknell University.

She left this position to attend Palmer Seminary and upon receiving her Masters of Divinity served as a Pastor in the Presbyterian Church in rural churches in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York for 20 years.



Linda is survived by her brother Thomas Hendrian and his wife Mari of Clarks Summit, PA.

Source: Family Obituary, Milford, PA <https://stroyanfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/128/Linda-Hendrian/obituary.html>

Wendell Early (“Jake”) Jacobs, Jr. (November 15, 1945 – April 29,2020)



Jake & Christine

Wendell Early Jacobs, known by many as “Jake, came to Denison after graduating from Military School at Culver Academy in Indiana. He became a member of Sigma Chi, and participated for two years with Denison’s varsity wrestling team. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts. Jake made a long list of many fond Denison memories in his own profile in our 50th Reunion Celebration Book: “Parties at Buckeye Lake, playing bridge for hours in the Union and driving “hippo” down the hill behind the Sig house. He ended, with no doubt, a nostalgic sign: “The Manor House and 5th Street Market in Newark.

After Denison, Jake felt he could not make a living in art so he earned a Juris Doctor degree at Wayne State University in Michigan. Upon graduation he clerked for Circuit Court Judge Sam Hughes in Ingham County. He then joined the Jackson County Prosecutor’s office in Michigan. After a couple of years as a prosecutor, he decided to form his own firm with Jerry Engle at Jacobs and Engle PC.

He was a member of the Bar Association for both Michigan and Florida and represented thousands of clients. Jake was loved by many due to his infectious smile, love of socializing and sense of humor, especially his ability to laugh at himself.

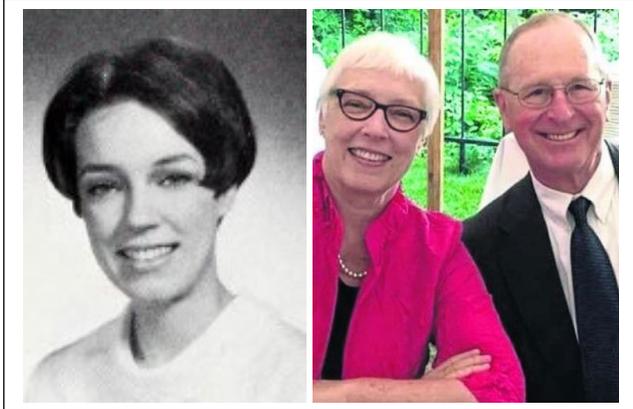
Jake was known to love spending hours making beautiful works of art and creating landscape. He also enjoyed bowling, playing golf, cards, and hanging out with friends at the Grotto Country Club in Jackson.

Jake was willing to help out others in need , whether by active listening or giving them financial assistance. He was a bit of a daredevil, as many friends can attest. He was willing to try anything, most times to amuse others. He cherished his motorcycles and fast cars, especially his beloved Shelby Mustang GT350.

Jake passed away due to a complication from a massive pulmonary embolism. He is survived by his wife Christine Taylor and two sons. **Source: His family’s Michigan obituary and photos were provided by his wife Christine.** <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/legacy/obituary.aspx?pid=196121445>

Jane H. Johnson (Funk) (August 7, 1946 – October 17, 2019)

Jane was born Jane Hanway Johnson on August 7, 1946 in Charleston, West



Virginia. Jane attended Denison University and joined Delta Gamma sorority. She graduated with a degree in Fine Arts with an emphasis on history, subjects in which she maintained a lifelong interest. She continued her education at the former Katharine Gibbs School in New York City,

going on to stay in the city to work as an executive assistant.

It was in Manhattan that she met Phil Funk with whom she would spend the next 50 years. Jane and Phil married in 1971 and settled in Concord, New Hampshire a few years later. Here the couple raised two children. When her children reached school age, Jane returned to work at the Concord Academy of Hair Design where she held an administrative position for many years. She was also a member of the Junior Service League of Concord and lent her voice to the Concord Chorale, carrying on a love of choral music she inherited from her mother.

No one brought Jane more joy than her three grandchildren. Jane was a devoted Grammy: a regular on the lacrosse fields and at dance recitals. Time with her family was the major focus of Jane's life. Her dedication to this family time was not diminished by her diagnosis with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, which she faced courageously for the last 10 years of her life. She met her illness, which culminated in metastatic breast cancer, with dignity, grace, and intelligence.

She is survived by her husband, Philip; her children, and grandchildren. Source: Abstracts from her family's Obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/legacy/obituary.aspx?n=jane-johnson-funk&pid=194246587>

Courtney E. Martin (January 2,1947- July 7, 2019)



Courtney was born on January 21, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois. She came to Denison from Kalamazoo, Michigan and became a member of Kappa Alpha Theta. After her second year, she left to finish college in Colorado. While there, she worked during summer breaks in Aspen and Vail ski resorts.

After graduating from college, Courtney found work in London, using her weekends and holidays to tour Europe. While her adventures were often solo, she always made friends along the way. When she returned to the states, she remained a lifelong Anglophile. She was committed to her English morning tea and was a great fan of British humor in general and of *Monty Python* in particular.

After returning home to Kalamazoo, she worked several years in fashion at Jacobson's department store. Courtney met and married the love of her life, David Higgins. They shortly bought a very small RV and toured the country ending up in San Diego, CA. By then Courtney was ready to settle down.

She went back to work in retail, but her true passion was the San Diego Zoo, where she volunteered. She learned there were openings at the Zoo library, and this began her library career. Taking classes nights and weekends, she earned a master's degree in Library Science. She said, in retrospect, it was a perfect fit ... she loved books, and she was a master organizer.

Courtney eventually moved on to serve as a librarian for the Design Institute of San Diego. While there she also taught popular classes in the history of 20th Century design and architecture.

When Courtney and David retired, they discovered Mt. Dora, Florida through a friend who lived there. After one visit in 2009, they were hooked and moved there.

During her time in Mt. Dora, her bright vibrant personality, creative quirky style, infectious laugh and her generous heart attracted many good friends. As one of them put it, during conversations, Courtney made you feel as though you were the most fascinating person she had ever encountered. What a gift! She is missed.

Courtney is survived by her husband David L. Higgins.

Source: *Her Florida 2019 Obituary*: <https://baldwincremation.com/obituaries/courtney-martin/>

Barbara Mohler (Shepherd) (3/14/46 - 2/9/2019)



Barb graduated from Charleston High School in West Virginia. At Denison she majored in sociology and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, also serving as president of the Kappa House. She was a Junior Advisor as well. Barb was a truly compassionate, intuitive, and fun-loving friend beloved by all. She was an inspiration to those who knew her well and to those who witnessed her courage after her diagnosis of ALS. Her laugh was contagious.

After Denison, Barb enjoyed a variety of occupations including being a stewardess for Pan Am when glamor was key, serving as a travel agent, working as an executive assistant for Charles Moore Architects, and acting as executive assistant to various pastors at the Riverbend Church Community for over 20 years, which allowed her to share her passion for interacting with youth. She was a faithful member of the Links Sunday School Class. Barb lived every minute of her life to the fullest, cherishing her time with family and friends. She lived her life in faith and love, never missing an opportunity to have a great adventure. Her West Virginia roots ran deep and her love of rivers was lifelong, from the Elk River in West Virginia to the Llano in Texas. When Barb was asked, What is your idea of perfect happiness? Her response was: "I reflected on this more than normal, even in the middle of the night, and it all can be pretty well summarized by love of family. The concept has played itself over and over in my life in different gradations: as a child with parents who loved me, as a mother of three sons who I truly love more than I might have imagined (and who reciprocate that love) and now as a grandmother with grandchildren."

Barb met her husband on a blind date in 1969 and married four months later. Her husband was a fighter pilot who served in Vietnam and later became an architect. They finally settled in Austin, Texas. She was diagnosed with ALS in 2006 and lost her ability to talk and eat or drink normally. She was able to still be active with yoga, kayaking, and travel. She came to our 50th, and she ended her 50th Celebration book profile with, "I plan to keep on keeping. God is good. Life is full. Relationships matter."

Barb is survived by her husband William G. Shepherd of Austin, Texas. **Source:** *Barb's senior suitemates and her family's obituary.* <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/statesman/name/barbara-shepherd-obituary?id=9952419>

Robert Wilson Morgan (October 7, 1946 – September 11, 2022)



1964 at Denison / Bob is on the right at Camp Deerwood, NH 1965 / The Bob, the avid biker

Robert Morgan was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and attended 18 different schools before his high school graduation from Broad Ripple High School in Indianapolis. He came to Denison from Newtown Square, Pennsylvania and majored in speech and became a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. From Denison, he eventually settled in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

He met his wife Linda in the early 1980s, and they were married in their backyard in 1984, with daughters Sarah and Jess as witnesses. The family moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1990.

Bob and Linda were both involved with singing, theatrical performance and stagecraft. They instilled their love of music and the performing arts in both of their daughters, starting with family performances with the Danville Summer Singers in Vermont and continuing in Iowa with the Waterloo Community Playhouse, Blackhawk Children's Theatre, Cedar Falls Community Theatre, the Cedar Valley Singers, and the Metropolitan Chorale. Bob's most memorable roles include "Curly" in Oklahoma and "Bob Cratchit" in A Christmas Carol.

Bob was an avid cyclist. He was a founding member of the Cedar Trails Partnership in 1995 and continued to advocate for safe biking throughout his life. He was a photographer and gardener as well as a writer who wrote or published many articles on these subjects. In 2006, Bob wrote and illustrated *Biking Iowa: 50 Great Road Trips and Trail Rides*. He was also a substitute teacher in middle and high schools in Waterloo and Cedar Falls and was best known for his "Pirate" lectures.

Bob and Linda traveled extensively together, riding a tandem bicycle on tours through the US and Europe, including riding the entire length of the Mississippi River in stages. During the last 31 years, the couple logged close to 100,000 miles on four different tandem trips. Bob's last ride with Linda was on July 22, 2022.

In Bob Morgan, the world has lost a true gentleman, friend, brother, father, papa and husband. He was a great storyteller and conversationalist and will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He will forever be remembered for having a heart larger than life and a sharp sense of humor.

He is survived by wife of 38 years Linda Schultz Morgan. **Source:** Lightly modified from **Bob's 2022 Cedar Falls, Iowa Obituary:** <https://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Robert-Morgan-68/#!/Obituary>

Virginia Nees-Hatlen (January 24, 1947 – October 11, 2020)



Virginia Nees was born in Chicago, Illinois but came to Denison 1964 from Cincinnati, Ohio. She joined Alpha Phi Sorority and majored in history. She went on to study English at Webster College in St. Louis earning her B.A. in 1969. Virginia married Stephen Steinhoff in 1976 and had a daughter Hedda in 1979. She did graduate work at the University of Iowa gaining her doctorate in 1980 with a focus on theoretical approaches to understanding and teaching composition. Her husband Stephen died in soon after 1981.

She then came to the University of Maine to develop and teach courses in composition which was then a new field in higher education English Departments and served as a dedicated faculty member and administrator. After moving to Maine, she married Burton Hatlen in 1983. She and Burton shared numerous professional interests from both being faculty in the UMO English Department and both enjoying modern poetry and music.

During her tenure she was coordinator of college composition, as well as undergraduate studies for the English Department. She worked in multiple roles, including Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Associate Dean of the Division of Lifelong Learning, and Director of the Lifelong Learning Advising Center. Additionally, Virginia was a newsletter editor, conference chair, and president of the Maine Council of English Language Arts, the statewide K-College organization for English teachers, and for several years edited a journal, *The Writing Teacher*, for K-college teachers in Maine.

Virginia was a lifelong teacher, writer, and advocate for students. One of those people who could connect with everyone and anyone she met, Virginia created a sense of welcome and empathy for people across all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Whether it was helping the many first-generation college students whom she assisted over the years to navigate the structures of higher education, leaning into political activism, or testing out a new recipe on family and friends, she was simply put—considerate, classy, and kind.

In 2008, her husband Burt died. She retired in 2014. In recent years she wrote for the UMaine Center on Aging's Gateway Seniors publications. She was the scrupulous editor of a posthumously published collection of Burt Hatlen's poems, "Elegies and Valedictions," and had her own poems published in an assortment of journals and poetry outlets. She was an enthusiastic member of a book club and started a support group for people struggling with Crohn's Disease, a chronic, progressive affliction that consumed a lot of her strength in her last ten years. She was tickled to have a cameo in a recent Stephen King short story, "Mr. Harrigan's Phone" as a church organist (Virginia did, in fact, play the piano).

Source: Her Maine 2020 Obituary: <https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/virginia-nees-hatlen-1080453119>. & <https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/virginia-nees-hatlen-1080453119>

Susan G. Nelson (1946 – May 29, 2020)



Sue is in the center among her sisters of Alpha Phi 1968 Year Book

Susan G. Nelson came to Denison from Evanston, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago along the North Shore of Lake Michigan. She became a member of Alpha Phi sorority and earned her B.A. degree with a major in history.

Susan then earned her M.A. degree in 1973 from Northwestern University and soon worked for the public school system in Lake County, Illinois. While there, she sharpened her resume with further professional study in speech pathology and took a position as a Speech-Language Pathologist II at Cook County Hospital, Chicago.

When she retired, she continued her commitment to serve the most vulnerable by working with at-risk babies and children with speech and language rehabilitation.

Susan took full advantage of Chicago's cultural scene, often attending the Chicago Symphony and exploring the city's Botanic Garden.

She is survived by her two brothers and their families.

Source: Denison Alumni Office

Jeffrey Wilcox Pettegrew, MPA, ARM (September 6, 1946 -March 10, 2021)



Jeffery Pettegrew came to Denison from Columbus, Ohio and became a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and sang with the Denison Concert Choir. He majored in speech communication which served his professional career well.

At Denison Jeff was perhaps most famous for his co-founding of “ The Cave” in the basement of Talbot Hall with Dan Int-Hout of the class of '67. You may recall it was a late-night coffee house, where for 50 cents, you could come and hear folk music when this genre made its second revival in the early 60's. John Denver resided in Columbus at the time while John's father was a Colonel at the Lockbourne Air Force Base. John was 21 years-old and Jeff befriended him and had him come out to Granville on his motorcycle to sing on campus. Jeff even fixed John up with some Denison co-eds. Later, Jeff created a bigger and better place at the Colwell House. This time it had running water and a bathroom. It was called the “Bandersnatch,” and its chill vibe can still be experienced today in the basement of Huffman Hall.

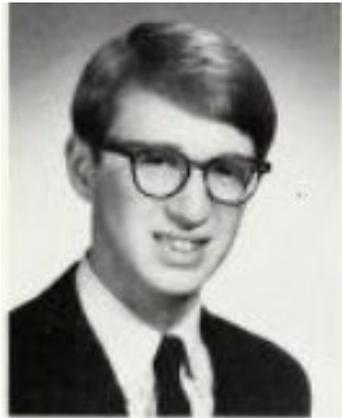
From 1968-1972, Jeff earned the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force and served in Administration & Protocol in both California and Iceland. From 1972-75 Jeffrey then earned his Master's in Public Administration at Cal State, Hayward, while also attending the Insurance Institute of America.

Jeff clearly made a name for himself in the Insurance field. By the time he retired, he had become known as a well-known expert in risk management and workers' compensation and served in many of the industry's executive leadership positions. Jeffery was honored as “Risk Manager of the Year” by Business Insurance Magazine in 1989 and was the standing Chairman of the Business Insurance National Workers' Compensation & Disability Conference for nine years. Starting in the 1990's, Jeffery became a popular writer, industry spokesperson, ARM instructor, entrepreneur and educator at insurance doctorate programs, and a sought-after speaker at his industry's conferences. His success won him an interview on CNN and 60 Minutes. When he retired, he continued to serve on “The Insurance Thought Leadership Advisory Board. “

Jeff's last residence was in Fallbrook, a community north of San Diego, California. He is survived by his second wife, Val, and his six children. Jeff was buried in Miramar National Cemetery.

Sources: No obit has yet to be found for Jeffery but read the Fall 2015 *Denison Magazine* at <https://denison.edu/magazine/fall-2015/139417> Also in the Insurance Industry's magazine articles <https://www.workcompwire.com/2018/09/arawc-announces-new-chief-policy-officer-jeff-pettegrew-mpa-arm/> and <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ec9chyohce5c9458&llr=kbpblmeab>

William Savacool Saunders (1946 - 2018)



William Saunders
English
Weatogue, Connecticut



William Savacool Saunders, known by most as Bill, was born in Mamaroneck, NY and graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon School. He came to Denison from Amherst, Massachusetts. Bill's interest in poetry was apparent at Denison where he majored in English and was, according to a classmate and fellow English major, always the most brilliant student in the class. He was active in Denison's concert choir.

After Denison, he went on to University of Iowa where he received a PhD in Literary Criticism and Contemporary British Poetry. His later career was at The Harvard Graduate School of Design for 30 years where he was the founding editor of The Harvard Design Magazine and edited books on urban and landscape architecture. He spoke widely about these subjects at both personal and professional events. He was also a scholar and writer on contemporary American poetry.

Bill was also a devotee of jazz, classical, gospel and soul music. In later years, he was also a rock and jazz drummer and a vocalist in doo-wop groups; he loved to organize gatherings of dancing and music. He also served as president of The Auburndale Community Association, was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton, and engaged in committed political activism.

Bill died on September 12, 2018 in Auburndale, MA of a fall in his home. He had a very accomplished life. Bill will be remembered as a brilliant thinker, reader, writer, and conversationalist, and as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and colleague whose creative mind was an endless, unique source of knowledge and joy. All who knew him in health and illness mourn his loss.

Bill is survived by his wife Candace Saunders. *Source: Family Obituary Auburndale, MA:*

<https://burkefamilyfuneralhomes.com/book-of-memories/3610980/Saunders-William/obituary.php>

John Edward Stapleford (October 1, 1946 – August 25, 2021)

John was born on October 1, 1946, in Philadelphia. At Denison John pledged Lambda Chi and majored in Chemistry. He was a valuable varsity athlete in both soccer and lacrosse.

After graduating from Denison University, John met and married Linda Ellison and then spent several years as a navigator in the U.S. Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam.



Having earned a Ph.D. in urban and regional economics from the University of Delaware, John began a long career as a researcher and professor in economics and public policy. In his home state of Delaware, John became a well-known economist and a published author and frequent Op-Ed contributor to newspapers

across the state. He directed research and served on many boards.¹ He is the author of over one hundred applied research monographs, as well as the book *Bears, Bulls, and Golden Calves: Applying Christian Ethics in Economics*.

During his life, John was active in the ministries of several area churches and was a board member of the Nehemiah Gateway CDC, and other Christian and youth organizations, as well as a founding member of the board of the Caesar Rodney Institute.²

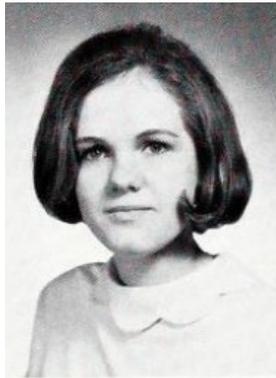
John was a devoted sports fan and continued to be involved with athletics. He played and then coached lacrosse at all levels, including St. Marks High School in Wilmington. He loved reading, especially the Bible, theology and history, and he enjoyed singing and playing the piano and eating any desserts he could find. But most of all, he loved people: talking to them, getting to know them, encouraging them, making them laugh, and finding ways to help them in any way that he could. A fellow Delawarean professional said this about John, “He was my favorite economist with a heart... John was always about helping the underserved. He did that through his work as an economist. He lived life that way by working with his church and a few organizations in the city of Wilmington that help individuals who had come across hard times. He had a big heart.” He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda Stapleford and his daughter and son.

Sources: *Selections from Newark, DE 2021 Obituary:* <https://www.delawareonline.com/obituaries/wnj116180> . For more on his success as an economist read obituary from the *Delaware Business Times:* <https://delawarebusinesstimes.com/news/stapleford-obit/>

1. Positions held in Economics: Director of the Bureau of Economic Research at the University of Delaware, professor of Economic Development at Eastern University, and senior economist at Moody's Analytics. After retirement, he continued to work as a consultant and analyst and helping the Caesar Rodney Institute.

2. Church /Youth organizations: A trustee emeritus of The Independence School, a former President of the Board of the Greater Wilmington Youth for Christ, and a former member of the Board of the Delaware Academy of Youth, the Board of the Methodist Action Program, and the Board of the Delaware First State Community Action Agency.

Ellen Trautman (1946 -2019)



Ellen Trautman
Spanish



Spanish Honorary – 2nd row, 2nd
person to the left.

Ellen Trautman was born in Buffalo, New York and graduated from East Aurora High School in the suburb of East Aurora, southeast of Buffalo. In high school she was secretary of the National Honor Society.

At Denison, Ellen majored in Spanish and became a member of the Spanish Honorary. After Denison she went on to complete a master's degree in Latin American Studies at New York University.

After completing her masters in 1975, she became a loan officer at Wells Fargo Bank in New York City until 1981. It was at this time, when she married Roberto Mendizabal and moved to Peru. In Peru, she became a personal finance officer with Banco de Crédito del Peru. From 1981 to 1995, she had the opportunity to travel throughout Latin America.

After she and her husband separated in 1995, she returned to Western New York. A year later, she began working with the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers. In 1999, she was appointed project director for its Buffalo Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services Division. In this position, she wrote and acquired numerous federal, state, and local grants and was an outspoken advocate for funding for teen pregnancy prevention.

Prior to her retirement at the end of 2016, she arranged a capital improvement grant for a renovation of the Youth Services Department at her agency. She also served as an adjunct professor of Spanish at Medaille College and Erie Community College and a translator in Buffalo City Court and Erie County Court.

Ellen died January 6, 2019 in the Bronx after a 17-month struggle with glioblastoma, a brain cancer. She is survived by her two sons.

Source: Her family's Obituary: *Buffalo News*: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/buffalonews/name/ellen-trautman-obituary?id=6443831>

Virginia Dorothy Wall (Charles) (February 5, 1947 – March 9, 2022)



Virginia was born on February 5, 1947 in Abington, Pennsylvania, a northeastern suburb of Philadelphia. At Denison she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega and majored in biology.

After graduating from Denison University, she earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching at The Johns Hopkins University and then went on to teach science at Hamilton Junior High and then anatomy and physiology along with other biological sciences at Pikesville Senior High School for over 10 years.

In July of 1969 she met Harry K. Charles, Jr., and they wed on March 28, 1970 and later had a daughter, Heather. Virginia spent much of her time raising her daughter, volunteering at local schools, teaching typing to students, acting as PTA president and serving on the school board of Howard County.

After she retired from public education, she became a Legislative Aide for Delegate Shane Pendergrass who was Acting Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee with the Maryland House of Delegates in Annapolis. She served as an advocate for Howard County constituents for almost 20 years.

Virginia enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading science fiction, stamp collecting, mice and dragonflies, spoiling her two grandsons, and petting every dog she met.

Virginia is survived by her husband Harry, her daughter Heather and her brother.

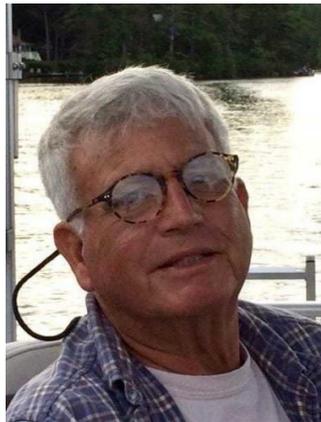
Source: Denison records and her family's Rockville, MD obituary:

<https://www.goinghomecares.com/obituaries/Virginia-Wall-Charles?obId=24261975>

Frank "Pete" O. Walther (April 30, 1946 - November 19,2020)



1964 Baby Book Photo



Recent Photo of Pete- The Avid Sailor



Pete's aircraft in Vietnam VAL-4 OV-10D in 1969 for River patrol drafts & SEALs support.

Pete, as he was known, came to Denison from Newtown Square, twelve miles west of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He pledged the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and majored In Economics.

After graduation Pete was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy in 1968 and was discharged as a Lieutenant on June 30, 1973. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Pete served as a naval aviator in the "Black Ponies" VAL-4, Light Attack Squadron 4, Vietnam (a Navy aviation force that conducted reconnaissance and air attacks in the Mekong Delta). His medals and awards include: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (four awards including Bronze and Gold Stars), Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Color, and Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation.

Pete married his beloved wife Floortje Dykstra Walther on May 17, 2001 on the coast of New Hampshire. He flew for many years as a commercial airline captain for airlines including Braniff and Eastern.

In addition to flight, Pete was an avid sailor. Prior to Denison and perhaps through his college summers, he was a competitive sailor in large sailboats. Later, as an adult, he enjoyed voyages along the American Atlantic from the Caribbean Sea to the northern bounds of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador. He and Floortje enjoyed warm weather, spending summers at their lake house in New Hampshire, and wintering in Florida, where he and Floortje enjoyed the company of their good friends.

In addition to his impressive service to our country, Pete was well-loved and known as a gentle, loving soul with an open heart and a generous spirit. His love of animals led to a steady stream of table scraps to his cherished dogs.

Pete was preceded in death by his first wife Helen. Pete is survived by his wife Floortje.

Source: Slight modification of his 2020 Obituary (Hampton, NH) and help from a fraternity brother.
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/seacoastonline/name/frank-walther-obituary?id=8247118>

Below is a list of deceased Denison classmates from 1965 to February of 2018 (total 57). Most had profiles written for them that were published in our 50th Celebration Book. Our March 2023 list of additional 25 (above) may include some classmates from February to June 2018 that we did not know about at the time of the 50th. If a deceased classmate is not on either list, please contact Denison (alumni@denison.edu) and cc me, Ralph Rhodes (rhodes514@comcast.net).

Larkin N. Allen
4/4/2003

William R. Harvey
1/5/2017

Linda Beebe Rich
4/5/2016

Jean Purman Anderson
4/3/2010

David W. Heer
5/22/2016

Leslie White Riedel
10/11/2009

Marcia Clark Barr
10/5/2012

William R. Herkins
12/27/2008

Donald W. Robinson
2/24/2007

Kathleen Corbin Bartell
8/10/2008

Jeffrey H. Jones
8/13/1969

Theodore J. Rogers
8/22/2014

John P. Batterson
6/18/1969

Steven B. Klacsmann
7/5/2010

Judith Treharne Sandford
2/3/2017

Harold R. Beckwith
9/6/1977

Richard K. Klepfer
8/31/2017

Pauline E. Sasaki
9/8/2010

Michael W. Bouton
8/26/1988

Paul P. Malashevitz
2/10/2017

Blythe Gallaway Schubert
10/13/2017

John V. Brainard
4/14/1987

Kenneth M. Masters
3/19/2000

Paul Q. Sivertsen
1/5/2014

Brenda Snare Brown
11/13/2003

Robert W. McCrackin
4/4/2007

Julie Stevens Snyder
6/25/2002

Dennis L. Brown
7/8/1965

Brian P. McIntyre
7/21/2011

Thomas P. Sparks
1/27/2010

Charles W. Bobinette
7/25/2016

Mary Riddering Merwin
5/28/2015

George W. Stephenson
3/16/2017

Robert S. Craig
10/14/2015

Jean Boyd Michaels
7/22/2001

Carolee Kosman Taipale
6/23/2002

Dianne L. Davidson
1/1/1971

William M. Moore
12/14/2010

Joan Ray VanZandt
1/6/2005

Lee A. DeRoss
1/23/2015

James V. Mortimer
6/12/2003

Anne L. Voss
5/17/1983

Christine Kuhn Evans
8/6/2011

Jane Ruger Mosher
6/28/2008

James Watt
5/1/2006

David M. Goodwin
9/3/2008

Robert W. Page
6/15/1997

George B. Watts
12/22/2016

Sandra Geurtz Graham
4/25/2011

Marian Hoag Phillips
4/26/2013

John W. White
5/15/1974

Mark S. Haines
5/24/2011

Charles M. Polan
5/19/2016

John C. Wyman
4/1/1974

Joseph J. Hallett
10/23/2010

Thomas M. Peterson
5/9/2012

Karen Gernenz Youngman
4/16/2017