



ALUMNI MEMORIALS

Presented by

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Why?

- A long-standing Princeton tradition – every alumnus
- A fitting ending for any Tiger
- A form of closure for families, friends and classmates, especially roomies

Who?

- Class secretary or memorialist, working with next-of-kin
- A roomie or Princeton pal, son or daughter (with next-of-kin's blessing)

How?

- Wait 2-3 months after passing
- Assemble and organize info
- Send first draft to next-of-kin
- Editing, including *PAW*-ization
- Submit to *PAW*
- Post on class web site

Vital Sources

- University one-page notice – survivors, Princeton connections
- Nassau Herald – undergrad life
- Obituary – career and avocations
- Material sent by family (service program, eulogies, remembrances)

Helpful Sources

- Major reunion yearbooks
- Manual classmate files
- Anecdotal input from classmates

Difficulties and Challenges

- Alternative life styles
- Difficult next-of-kin
- No next-of-kin at all
- Unfortunate lives

My Memorial Format

- 200 words, not flexible, four paragraphs
 1. When and where died, how died, where grew up, high school
 2. Undergrad life – major, club, teams, activities, roomies
 3. Additional degrees, career, philanthropies, avocations, Princeton involvements
 4. Survivors and farewell (maybe)

A Few Nice Residuals

- Family gratitude
- Ongoing relationships
- “Feel good” for the memorialist

(on Class letterhead)

Dear Barbara:

In my capacity as secretary of the Class of 1961, I am writing to offer my condolences on Dan's death, in which sentiment I am joined by the other officers of the Class and his classmates. I saw him last at the Zoom meeting just before our virtual 60th reunion, and it was shock to hear the news. He led a remarkable life.

I'm sure you are aware of the tradition that the passing of every alumnus is marked by a short memorial in the PAW, our alumni magazine. The memorials are limited to 200 words, and I usually write them. I've taken the liberty of drafting one for Dan, and it is enclosed. It's a little over the 200-word limit as is, but I'm happy to delete or add anything really important you feel is off the mark.

I would appreciate your reviewing the memorial for factual accuracy and noting anything important I have left out. After I hear back from you, I will then write a new version and send it back to you for your approval. In any case, nothing goes to the PAW without your final approval.

You can reach me at name@alumni.princeton.edu, or xxx-xxx-xxxx (cell), or, of course, by mail. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thanks very much, and once again, my condolences.

George A. Brakeley III '61, Secretary