

Along Route '66



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DAVID LAMPREY NICHOLAS, 1944 - 1969

Last October our Class lost one of its warmest and most sincere members when Dave Nicholas was killed while on a training mission with the Navy Seals in South Vietnam. Throughout his four years at Dartmouth Dave expressed an eagerness for living life to its utmost which was a source of amazement and encouragement to those who knew him. Whether contributing his wry wit to life in New Hampshire Hall or Kappa Sigma, easing the grind of swimming practices, or simply enjoying the companionship of his many friends, Dave possessed an indefatigable spirit which brightened the world of everyone around him. Perhaps it is because he valued life so much, that his sudden death seems so tragic.

Caleb Loring, one of Dave's closest friends in our Class, has described some of his memories of Dave in the following manner:

To me Dave was a person who had many sides to his character. He was fun-loving, enjoyed life to its fullest, and yet there was quite a serious, dedicated side to him that I think not many people knew about. His fun-loving side was quite evident to those of us who were his fraternity brothers, but it was the other side of his character in concert with his fun-loving nature that made him the type of person that I respected and in many ways admired. His seriousness and dedication first became clear to me during our junior year when he was training for the interfraternity swimming meet; he made up his mind that he was going to enter two events and win them. I remember how he set out a training schedule and stuck to it; he also won, as I remember, both events. During his senior year he also made clear, at least to me, his determination to enter the Navy UDT. He signed up for Navy OCS which he completed; then on to UDT school. I cannot quite remember what happened, but I think he got injured during the UDT training and was forced to take an assignment as a line officer. This setback, however, was only temporary as he re-applied to UDT school, completed it, and went on to become a member of the Seals, probably the most elite special force in the United States armed services. The fact that he persevered to become exactly what he wanted to be (a Navy Seal, or anything else) is what I will always remember and admire about Dave. It is a real tragedy to lose someone of Dave's calibre; a real loss to his class and to his country. I guess

the only thing I can say is that I know I will always remember him. I only hope that something like this makes all of us appreciate life more and want to do more with our own lives. So many good men have died, more will die whether in Vietnam or other places, and it is up to us who survive to make all the more of our lives, to take a more active part in our world, in order to make that world something both these men and ourselves would want it to be.

To Dave's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Nicholas, Jr. (1229 Firwood Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa.) the Class of 1966 extends its deepest condolences. We'll never forget him.

REJOINING ROUTE '66

It has been a while since this Newsletter has hit the presses. Our regular Newsletter Editor, STEVE SLOCA, a graduate of Dartmouth ROTC (U.S. Army) among other things, was quietly practicing law in Los Angeles, hoping, as he put it, "to be ignored by the Army." Of such may be the stuff that dreams are made, but not the policy of the U.S. Army. Steve is currently dividing his time between Ft. Gordon, Georgia, and Ft. Lewis, Washington.

In the meantime, I've agreed to try to get our Newsletter rolling again. Since much of the data in the files is somewhat out of date, I'd appreciate your filling out the enclosed questionnaire and returning it to me as soon as possible. I'll put out a new issue as soon as your replies are received.

Charlie Wilmot