



Duncan W. Van Dusen

November 11, 1936 - April 21, 2018

Duncan Whelen Van Dusen, age 81, of Bryn Mawr, PA, died on April 21, 2018 from genetically related blood cancer. He was the beloved husband of Elizabeth, father of Edwin, Duncan and Nicholas, and grandfather of six.

He received his secondary education at Episcopal Academy and St. Paul's School. He was graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 1958 and earned a Masters of Public Health degree at Columbia University. He was an officer in the Army and received both an Army Commendation Medal and a Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement for his service.

In 1968, he joined the University of Pennsylvania, serving as Assistant Dean of the Medical School and later as Associate Secretary of the University.

He volunteered for over 60 years interviewing candidates for admission to Princeton University, receiving the Princeton Alumni Council Award for Service to Princeton in 2008.

He was a president of the Bryn Mawr Civic Association, served on the Lower Merion Township Civil Service Commission, and was on the board of Harriton House in Bryn Mawr.

He served on the Board of Managers of Ralston Center in Philadelphia from 1981 until his death. He was a member of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish and also of the Church of the Redeemer, both in Bryn Mawr. He was known for his warm and kind demeanor, his devotion to his family and his service to community, educational institutions and public health.

Funeral services will be held at The Church of The Redeemer in Bryn Mawr

on Saturday April 28 at 2 p.m. There will also be a memorial mass at Our Mother of Good Counsel at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Van Dusen Family Needs Based Scholarship Fund at Princeton University (PO Box 5357, Princeton, NJ 08544-5357).

Cemetery Details

Adjoining Churchyard


Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR **28**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of The Redeemer
230 Pennswood Road
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall

Lee
Bender

“ *Duncan was always a gentleman and a mensch (Yiddish word for man with integrity)- and he always had a smile on his face and was upbeat. I sat on the Lower Merion Civil Service Commission with him for 23 years and he was out stalwart secretary, loved taking notes of the meetings, and always cared for our hard working police department. He always was more concerned for others than himself, and always asked about my family. We will miss him.*
Lee Bender

Lee Bender - May 24, 2018 at 04:27 PM

BB

“ *With deepest sympathy to you and your family.*
Bea Durham Blackman

Bea Durham Blackman - May 07, 2018 at 10:37 AM

PO

“ *To Duncan's family,*

I just learned of Duncan's passing. My husband and I work at Penn and were very lucky to have known such a kind and genuine man. Our condolences.

Best regards,
Tony and Pat Overend

Patricia Overend - May 04, 2018 at 11:37 AM

RB

“ Dear Libby,

I want you to know how sad I was to hear of Duncan's death. He was always a good friend to me, offering a helping hand wherever possible. He gave me much appreciated and sage advice as I was finding my way through Princeton, Jefferson, the Penn Medical System, and medicine in general throughout the Philadelphia area. He was always positive, encouraging, and enthusiastic while also being truthful. He was one of the most kind and caring individuals I've ever met. He was definitely the jolliest Santa Claus I ever encountered. I will miss him greatly.

Robert L. Boyd, M.D. / Bobby - April 28, 2018 at 07:22 PM

MW

“ *Duncan Wheelen Van Dusen*

What an extraordinary individual, what an extraordinary life! I have never met a more selfless individual with good will towards all, modest, self-effacing who treated everyone as equal. His principle in life to the very end was to be useful in service to his country, to his family and to his fellow man. One can't even begin to assess the incredible number of lives he touched. He became part of the lives of those who met him and got to know him. He loved all and they in turn loved him, admired him and respected him.

In the last years of his life his health began failing and he went through unspeakable suffering. But he was incredibly stoic and there was never a word of self-pity or complaint. Duncan had incredible spiritual and physical strength and even when one knew how ill he was, one was certain he would overcome all. Thus, it was an enormous shock to hear that he no longer is among us. Duncan was fortunate to have his dear Libby share his life, a true pillar of strength for him who shared his suffering, cared and supported him to the bitter end.

Duncan's life, a life well lived, ought to be celebrated. But, those who knew him and loved him share this enormous loss with his family. He leaves a tremendous void no one can fill, for Duncan was unique in every aspect imaginable. It is hard to imagine a world without him and he will be greatly missed.

May Duncan's noble soul rest in peace with the Angels.

Marianna Wakulowska

Marianna Wakulowska - April 26, 2018 at 01:16 PM

RA

“ *Duncan was always a source of strength and encouragement.*

Sincere condolences and praise to the family of a great Princeton leader.

R. Andrews, Jr., '71

Richard Andrews - April 25, 2018 at 09:42 PM

JK

“ *Duncan was one of the first people in our neighborhood that we met when moving to Bryn Mawr in 1971. A mutual friend and neighbor asked several other neighbors in for dinner to meet us. Duncan was a memorable guest and remained a great cheerleader to me and my family ever afterwards. He actually stayed and helped our hostess do all the dishes after the welcome dinner was over, which was unusual for a man at that time! I will miss his faithful presence at church and at Harriton House meetings. He always had a smile, and cheery greeting no matter how debilitating his adversity. My condolences to Libby who lovingly looked after him so diligently.*
Jenny Kirkpatrick

Jenny Kirkpatrick - April 24, 2018 at 01:30 PM