MEMORIALS / PRINCETONIANS

John Putnam Brodsky '52
Put was a graduate of the New York Military Academy. He majored in biology, looking toward his career in medicine, and was a member of Orange Key, Westminster Fellowship, and the Pre-Med Society. He joined Campus, where he became president. His roommates were Al Gonzalez, Mike Ely, Tom Sour, and Hugh Fisk.

He earned a medical degree at Columbia, then served two years as a captain in the Army. Afterward, he established his practice in Rumson, N.J., and served at Riverview Hospital as chief of medicine, co-director of the respiratory intensive-care unit, and president of the Rumson board of health, and an elder in the First Presbyterian Church.

Space limits prevent our mentioning the many organizations of which he was a board member. Welcome wherever he went, Put was president of our class for a period in which we had our 65th reunion, and he presided with customary cheer and competence. Alas, he died Nov. 20, 2018. He is survived by his children John '79, Carolyn, and Rob, with whom all in the class knew Put join in grieving.

Michael E.C. Ely '52
Mike joined us from Exeter. At Princeton he majored in SPIA, preparing for his career in government. He joined Campus, the fencing team, the class memorial insurance fund, and New Century. He was on the Prince editorial staff and was a member of Liberal Union, Washington Club, and Orange Key. He roomed with Philemon Sturges and Tom Sour.

Mike earned a master’s in public affairs at Harvard in 1963 and, in 1970, a Canadian national-defense certificate. His career in the Foreign Service ended in 1991 with his serving as deputy ambassador to the European Union. Afterward, having been a counselor for economic affairs in Rome, Paris, and Tokyo, he was for a time adviser to the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce. He was also chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee of Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired.

Mike died Oct. 18, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Helen; and his two daughters, Caroline and Lydia. To them the class sends good wishes and appreciation of Mike’s long service to our country.

Donald Jelliffe ’52
Don graduated from Wooster Prep and joined the Army before coming to Princeton with our class. His dad, Ely Jelliffe, was in the Class of 1920. Don majored in economics, ate at Cloister, sang in the Glee Club, and was a Tigertone. He joined the Republican Club and Bridge Club, and worked on the Parking Squad. His roommates were Dunc Stevens, Wells Huft, Evan Clay, Allen and Torrey West, and Jack Gray. Called back into the Army from the reserves for Korea, he returned to graduate with the Class of 1953 but continued to call us his class and wrote a essay for The Book of Our History.

We had not heard from him since, and learned of his death March 10, 2018. Don worked in sales at finance and insurance companies briefly, then as a buyer for several companies. In 1972, he became director of purchasing and administrative services for Alaska Airlines. From 1979 until 1990 he was contract administrator for Boeing. He turned back to his interest in card playing, and at the time of our 50th, he had been a blackjack dealer for a while at the Muckleshoot Indian Casino.

To his wife, Arlene, and to his three daughters, Phoebe, Gerry, and Jessica, we send regrets over the death of our lively brother with thanks for his repeated military service to our nation.

James R. Strohecker '52
Jim graduated from Liberty High School in Bethlehem, Pa. At Princeton he studied basic engineering and ate at Dial. He was on the staff of The Tiger and joined IAA and the Basic Engineering Society. At the end of junior year he left for Officer Candidate School and then served as a lieutenant in the Army Field Artillery with the Third Infantry Division in Korea. He returned to graduate with the Class of ’55. His Princeton education served him well as head of his own firm, Strohecker — a heavy-construction firm — now operated by his children. After Jim’s retirement, he and his wife, Marilyn, enjoyed sailing his 37-foot sailboat.

He died Jan. 30, 2020. He is survived by Marilyn and their children, James B., Elizabeth, Robert, and Lisa. To them the class sends sympathies and respect for Jim’s service to our country.

THE CLASS OF 1953

Don Morrison Kelley Jr. ’53
Don was born in New York City and came to Princeton from the Brooks School. He majored in history and wrote his thesis on “The National Elections of 1852.” He was a member of Colonial Club.

After graduation he served in the Army in Okinawa and met his wife, Vita, a stewardess with Northwest Airlines, while traveling between Okinawa and the United States. Vita was from the Philippines, so Don moved there after being discharged from the Army and he was involved in business in the Philippines for several years. Don and Vita moved to Hawaii and, after a few years there, settled in Albuquerque, N.M., where Don created I.M.M., a business-forms and printing company, and Vita created a fashion company.

Retiring in 2000, Don and Vita moved to San Antonio, where Don volunteered extensively at Brooke Army Medical Center and his local church. Moving to West Chester, Ohio, in 2010 to be closer to family, Don continued to volunteer at the emergency department of the local hospital and his parish church.

Don died Jan. 12, 2019, at home, and his wife died 10 days later. They are survived by their three daughters and six grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1954

John E. Packard III '54

Jack’s father, John II, was in the Class of 1928. Jack graduated from Marblehead (Mass.) High School. At Princeton he majored in French and in the Special Program in European Civilization, writing his senior thesis on existentialism. He was a member of Cap and Gown. After graduation he served in the Navy for three years.

Jack enjoyed a 40-year career in the restaurant-supply industry. At the time of our 50th reunion, he was engaged in various Princeton efforts and wrote, performed, and served as president of Washington’s Hexagon Club — modeled after the Triangle Club. It was established in 1953 for the purpose of presenting an annual original musical-comedy revue with proceeds going to charity.

For our 50th-reunion yearbook, he wrote that he was “comfortably retired, having had a modest amount of success in the world of commerce and my chosen field of athletic endeavor, having won a couple of national senior doubles championships in platform tennis in the ’70s.”

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Barbara; daughters Donna Packard LaChance ’79 and Debbie Kennedy; son Dean Packard; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

THE CLASS OF 1955

Emile Karafiol ’55
Emile was born March 29, 1935, in Warsaw, Poland. He died Jan. 16, 2019, in the University of Chicago Hospital. He was 81.

He was not a typical American suburban life. His family fled persecution of Jews in Europe, settling in Montreal. He came to the United States as an undergraduate, earning a degree at Princeton in 1955 and a Ph.D. in European history from Cornell in 1965.

He taught history at the University of Chicago until 1977. In 1969 he was awarded