



Nowell A. Cochrane

January 20, 1945 - January 16, 2015

Nowell Alexander Cochrane of Queenstown, MD, passed away peacefully at his home on January 16, 2015. He was 69.

Nowell was born in Baltimore, MD, on January 20, 1945, to Rev. Nowell Hague Cochrane and Mary Elizabeth (nee Alexander). He was a 1963 graduate of McDonogh School in Owings Mills, MD. After graduation, he joined the Army and served in Vietnam with MACV as an advisor from 1964-1966. Upon his return, he completed his B.A. at the University of Maryland and attended the Defense Language Institute where he learned Japanese, after which he spent much of his 12 years in the military focused on East Asia before joining the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as an Operations Officer. In 2000, he retired from the CIA and joined Booz Allen Hamilton, where he continued to support the nation.

Nowell spent the entirety of his adult life serving his country and his family. His proudest moments were the births of his children and grandchildren, and the 2007 recognition of his unit as a CIA Trailblazer.

Throughout his travels and posts across the world, he remained a Maryland boy through-and-through, and nothing made him happier than watching the Orioles over steamed crabs with a beer in hand.

He will be remembered for his incredible wit, sense of humor, intelligence, and integrity. As the only child of divorced parents, his family was everything to him – and as anyone who knew him can attest to, this included the beloved dogs that accompanied him throughout his life: Sandy, Spunky, Huey, and fat Gus.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Sumiko Cochrane of Queenstown, MD; two sons, Kenneth Cochrane and wife Celena of Stevensville, MD, and Robert Cochrane and wife Melissa of Reston, VA; and grandchildren, Kyle, 5, Sydney, 4, Seth, 2, and Ella 1.

A visitation will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015, from 10 am -12 pm, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Queenstown, MD, followed by a service beginning at 12 pm, after which he will be buried with honors at Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery, in Easton, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compass Regional Hospice, 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

11365 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke's Chapel
7208 Main Street
Queenstown, MD 21658

Service

JAN 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke's Chapel
7208 Main Street
Queenstown, MD 21658

Tribute Wall



“ *Nowell A. Cochrane*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Nowell A. Cochrane*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Nowell A. Cochrane*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I knew Nowell when he was a little boy and I was a little girl. Our parents were friends. In fact, Nowell's dad, Father Cochrane, took my mother to the hospital when I was born, and Nowell's mom was my Godmother. After they divorced we didn't see each other as often and lost track. In reviewing my childhood, I often thought of my godmother and Nowell. My parents, Dr. and Mrs. Harry M. Beck, are gone now as well. I am saddened that I missed knowing him all these years. Katherine Beck Smith*

Katherine Smith - December 11, 2019 at 12:00 PM

WH

“ Nowell was a great man who was always a pleasure to work with. Very few people outside of a very small cadre of silent professionals have had the privilege of working with him on projects that made history and made our country a safer place for everyone. Ingrained in my memory forever will be some of the trips we made together and the partnerships that were forged. God Speed Nowell and thank you for your service to our Nation.

Wayne H

Wayne H - January 30, 2015 at 06:50 PM

JA

“ Nowell Cochrane was an outstanding individual who made a difference in how the Community approached its mission. In the 1980s, he along with a small band of others sounded the tocsin for the Community to work a new area, an area that has now become institutionalized in the Community. Equally important to this contribution was his work with young people in the organization. Nowell devoted a considerable amount of his energy to mentoring young officers, sharing with them stories and approaches to solving problems that will help them through their careers, This generosity with his younger colleagues, including me, will always be appreciated and we hope that we will be as helpful to our young charges as Nowell was with us.

John M. Alford - January 30, 2015 at 08:34 AM

JH

“Your Dad was truly an extraordinary man whose life’s work has been to produce outstanding sons and a body of professional accomplishments which contribute importantly to the work of defending our nation’s interests around the world. Nowell lived for the challenge of doing what couldn’t be done. I watched in astonishment and admiration many of the challenges he took on with zest and energy -- and saw many problems deemed insoluble by others give way and become major breakthroughs in operational achievement.

Not everyone who wears a badge makes a difference. Nowell did. He made a difference to me personally as well in his determined refusal to accept things as they are when he knew they could be made better.

Your father was literally unique. He combined creativity, daring, boldness, and contempt for hypocrisy which is truly rare. He liked nothing better than the challenge of a problem which was too big; he lived to do the things that “can’t be done”. I know because I watched in amazement how many times he took that challenge and prevailed.

He set very high standards for himself and challenged us to do the same. His contributions to our nation’s security endure and our nation is safer because of the work he did. We are all in his debt.

My warmest wishes to you and all of your family.

Joe Hayes

Joe Hayes - January 18, 2015 at 06:07 PM

JS

“*Nowell was an exceptional person - both personally and professionally. As a colleague of his I was fortunate to witness first hand many of his significant accomplishments while we worked together at the Agency against some of this country's most hardened of targets. Nowell's drive, perseverance and brilliance (clearly well ahead of his time) were key to some of the organization's most significant successes. His legacy, both through his family and work, will last forever. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.*

John S.

JOHN SANO - January 17, 2015 at 06:30 PM