



Edward Joseph Dellin

Edward J. (Duke) Dellin resident of Naples, Florida, formerly of Glencoe, IL died peacefully after a battle with pancreatic cancer on October 30, 2021.

Beloved husband to Catherine Connor Dellin. Father to Jeffrey (Kelly), Tomas (Becky), Phillip (Alison) Prange, David (Kate) Prange, Catherine (Nick) Hurtgen and grandfather to Lilliana, Charlotte, Jack and Caroline Dellin, and Ellen, Connor, Amelia, Maeve and Alexandra Prange and Nicholas, Mary and Abigail Hurtgen. He was a loving brother to his sister Jane (Paul)Hahn and uncle to Marsala (Albie) Kelley and Renee (Brian) Burke and great-uncle to their children. Duke was preceded in death by his parents Eduard and Marie Dellin.

Duke was born in Prague on July 19, 1940. He and his family left communist Czechoslovakia in a daring escape in 1948. Duke's father had been active in democratic politics and government before the Nazi invasion and in the resistance to the Communists afterwards. These activities made the family a deadly target under Soviet rule. After their escape, Duke and his family spent a difficult year in a Displaced Persons camp in war-ravaged Germany before immigrating to Chicago in 1949.

Duke's father had been Secretary of the Czechoslovak Sugar Beet Growers Association, a leader in the Agrarian Party of Czechoslovakia, and an official at the Ministry of Agriculture. In Winnetka they took positions as domestic servants. Saving every penny, his father started and built a successful landscaping and tree nursery business on Chicago's North Shore. Duke spoke no English but was thrown into a new environment in Winnetka Public Schools.

After graduating from New Trier High School and then Knox College, Duke began a 55 year career in the investment business. He started with Hornblower & Weeks in Chicago, then spent the last 37 years of his career at William Blair & Co. as an investment advisor, rising to become a partner.

Duke was active in the Captive-Nations Committee efforts to free his native country from totalitarian Soviet rule during the Cold War. After the fall of communism in 1989, Duke returned to the newly-freed Prague. Inspired by that visit he took an active role in fostering close

relations between America and Czechoslovakia. He was asked in 2003 to become Chairman of the Prague-Chicago Sister Cities organization and served as Chairman for 15 years.

Duke became a trusted and well-liked advisor to both American and Czech ambassadors, diplomats and businessmen. He was twice honored by the Czech government for his exceptional efforts improving American-Czech relations. He received the Czech nation's "Gratias Agit" award in 2014 given to prominent leaders who "do the most to promote the good name of the Czech Republic abroad". In 2020, Duke received the Medal of Merit in Diplomacy from the Czech government "for his significant and long standing achievements in the development of international relations between the Czech Republic and the United States of America."

Duke and Cate are members of Skokie Country Club in Glencoe, IL and Wyndemere Country Club in Naples Florida. They are past members of the Hillsboro Club, Pompano Beach, FL and the Chicago Curling Club. Duke was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Other Other Club.

Visitation Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 1pm until the Funeral Mass at 2pm at Sacred Heart Church - 1077 Tower Road, Winnetka, IL 60093. The mass will be live streamed on divinemergynorthshore.org if you are unable to attend.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in his name to:

Masaryk Czech School

5701 W. 22nd Place

Cicero, IL 60804

Or

Camp 5 Museum Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 5

Laona, WI 54541