

Richard S. Beatty
Attorney

Richard Scrivener Beatty, a fifth-generation Washingtonian and lifelong resident of the city died Saturday, July 9, of complications of Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Beatty was born in 1934, the third son of John J. Beatty, Jr. and Helen Louise Simpson Beatty of Washington, DC. After graduating from the Landon School and Williams College, he married Barbara Boyd, of Gibson Island, MD, in 1956. Their 60th anniversary would have been July 14th of this year.

Mr. Beatty enlisted in the United States Army in 1956. After a year at the Army Language School in Monterey California he was fluent in Ukrainian, and he retained that fluency as well as a repertoire of Ukrainian folk songs which he was willing to sing at any time, to the end of his life. However, the army then stationed him in France, where he served as a French interpreter for the Counter Intelligence Corps. In that role he was instrumental in breaking up a ring of thieves absconding with hams from the Post Exchange (PX). He received an honorable discharge at the rank of Sargent.

Upon returning to Washington, Mr. Beatty obtained a law degree from Georgetown University. He began his five-decade law career in the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice. He then became Associate Chief Counsel to the Comptroller of the Currency, before moving to private practice, first at Alston, Miller, and Gaines and then at Shaw Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge.

Mr. Beatty was devoted to volunteer efforts. As Senior Warden of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church he shepherded the congregation through the building of a new church, as well as the expansion of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School from a tiny nursery school to a K-8 school in its own building. He served as President of the House of Mercy, a charity of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, General Counsel of Episcopal Senior Ministries, and Director of the Episcopal Church Foundation. As a member of the founding board of directors of, the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, a tuition-free school for children from traditionally underserved communities, he played a key role in its birth and growth. He also served many roles in supporting his beloved alma mater, Williams College.

Mr. Beatty was a loyal parishioner at St. Patrick's and St. Albans churches, and a member of the Society of Colonial Wars and the American Law Institute. He was a skilled squash player and loved to ski and play tennis and golf. He read voraciously, loved to talk about politics, and sang with a lovely tenor voice. Graced with a ready but gentle wit and twinkly blue eyes, Mr. Beatty made and kept friends at every stage of his life. He is survived by his wife Barbara Boyd Beatty of Washington, DC, and his three children and their families: Charles and Susan Beatty and their children Paul and Julia Beatty, of Annapolis, MD; Alexandra Beatty and Bryan Cannon and their children Timothy, Nicholas, and Maria Cannon, of Chevy Chase, MD; and Nicholas Beatty and Alison Davis and their daughters Olivia and Bryn Beatty, of Victoria, British Columbia.

