

## Douglas Allan Williams



Douglas Allan Williams passed away peacefully in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 2, 2025, from natural causes. He was 90 years old. Born on January 8, 1935, in Oakland, California, Doug was the only son of the late Lloyd Roy and Helen Caroline (Johnson) Williams of Burlingame, California.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elizabeth Alexander Williams; his two daughters, Lara (Steve) Blanchard and Audrey (Patrick) Thompson; and two granddaughters, Daria and Sophie. Doug was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret Elizabeth (Yu) Williams.

Growing up in the San Francisco suburbs, Doug developed a love of boating and sailing, and he was a proud member of the Sea Scouts in high school. He learned about navigating by observing the color of the water and the direction of the waves from his beloved uncles, Bruno "Prunes" and Otto "Spuds" Johnson, who were commercial fishermen in the Pacific Northwest. His boating experiences as a young person would come to shape the course of his life.

As a young boy, he developed a love of animals, caring for an abandoned baby squirrel he called Oscar, as well as a duckling he lovingly named Dunkle Doodle Dumps. He enjoyed staying active and was a member of the track team in high school and the rowing team in college. He swam regularly as a young adult, his favorite stroke being the butterfly.

After graduating from Burlingame High School in California in 1952, Doug studied architectural drawing at San Mateo Junior College, graduating in 1954.

Doug dedicated himself to serving his country in the United States Navy. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1952 and began active duty in 1954. He was then selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School at Bainbridge, Maryland, and subsequently graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1960 with a degree in nuclear engineering. He had stories to tell of his interactions with the "Father of the Nuclear Navy," Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

During his long and distinguished naval career, Doug was a member of the submarine force, including as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602) from 1976-1979, and was stationed with his family in various ports of call, including Groton, Connecticut; San Diego, California; Norfolk, Virginia; Charleston, South Carolina; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and Guam. He retired from the Navy as a Captain in 1990.

In his well-deserved retirement, Doug spent time on his sailboat, the Quadra, with his first mate Elizabeth, and the two shared many adventures, traveling by sea, land, and air to destinations across the country and the world. He was a sports car enthusiast and loved going for long drives. When at home, Doug also enjoyed growing roses and vegetables in his garden. Doug was proud of his Finnish and Native American (Lummi) heritage. He will be remembered as a man of few words, as someone who made many personal sacrifices for the safety and security of his country, and also as a devoted and loving son, husband, father, and grandfather. He will be deeply missed.

*Altmeyer Funeral Home*