

## Douglas Alan Williams



Captain Douglas A. Williams, USN (Ret.), passed away in Virginia Beach, VA, on 2 May 2025. He was 90 years old.

Born on 8 January 1935 in Oakland, CA, “Doug” was the only son of the late Lloyd Roy and Helen Caroline (Johnson) Williams of Burlingame, CA. Growing up in the San Francisco suburbs, Doug developed a love of boating and sailing and was a proud member of the Sea Scouts in high school. He learned about navigating from his beloved uncles, who were commercial fishermen in the Pacific Northwest.

His boating experiences as a young person would come to shape the course of his life. After graduating from Burlingame High School in 1952, Doug studied architectural drawing at San Mateo Junior College, graduating in 1954. Doug dedicated himself to serving his country, enlisting in the Naval Reserve in 1952 and beginning active duty in 1954.

He then attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Bainbridge, MD. At Annapolis, Doug was a member of the rowing team and graduated 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 career, Doug was a member of the submarine force, including as commanding officer of Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602) from 1976-1979. He was stationed in various ports of call, including Groton, CT, San Diego, CA, Norfolk, VA, Charleston, SC, Pearl Harbor, HI, and Guam.

After his retirement in 1990, Doug spent time on his sailboat, Quadra, with his first mate, Elizabeth, and the two shared many adventures, traveling by sea, land and air. He was a sports car enthusiast and loved long drives. Doug also enjoyed growing roses and vegetables in his garden at home.

Doug 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 as a devoted and loving son, husband, father and grandfather.

Predeceased by his parents, and his first wife, Margaret Elizabeth Yu Williams, Doug is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Alexander Williams; two daughters, Lara Blanchard (Steve) and Audrey Thompson (Patrick); and two granddaughters, Daria and Sophie.

*September-October 2025 Shipmate*