

## **Richard Eaton Dodson**

Captain Richard E. Dodson, USN (Ret.), of Lubbock, TX, died from complications of Parkinson's disease on 26 December 2025. He was 89 years old.

"Dick" was born in San Diego, CA, to then-Lieutenant (later Captain) Lucian F. Dodson '31 and Virginia (Eaton). He grew up in a typically itinerant Navy family during and after World War II. Entering the Naval Academy from Patuxent River, MD, he was a member of the 17th Company.

During his 30 years as a Surface Warfare Officer, Dick served in VESOLE (DDR-878) during the Cuban Missile Crisis; in INGRAHAM (DD-694); as a "Black Beret" on swift boats in Vietnam; as executive officer in ROBERT L. WILSON (DD-847); and commanded JONAS INGRAM (DD-938) (May 1976-July 1978). Dick served ashore as the Naval Academy commandant's aide and then 22nd Company officer (1965-1967); on the OpNav staff; as an instructor at the Naval War College; and as Director of Training at Fleet Training Group Guantanamo Bay. He commanded Fleet Training Center Mayport and then NROTCU Texas Tech University as his final duty, retiring in June 1990. In addition to graduating from the Army War College in 1979, Dick also earned a master's degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1981.

Following retirement, Dick and his wife, Deborah, a middle school English teacher, remained in Lubbock, where he had been inspired to move by the paperback Westerns he read on his many deployments. They traveled extensively in several RVs during the summers, accompanied by a varying menagerie of four-legged family members, across a wide swath of the Western and Southern United States. He earned his private pilot's license with an instrument rating, owning a small airplane and then a succession of motorcycles, on which he traveled thousands of miles around West Texas.

Although increasingly limited by declining health in his later years, Dick was known as a kind and generous person to anyone in need, be they two-legged or four-legged. He was especially fond of the many dogs they adopted over the years.

Dick is survived by his devoted wife of 39 years, Deborah; sons, Rich '89 (Shelly), Clif and Stephen (Renee); his brother, Michael (Linda); and two grandsons, Taite and Tristan. He was predeceased by his first wife, Adele, in 1985.

*March-April 2026 Shipmate*