



Richard F. Forbes

September 1, 1922 - November 21, 2018

Mechanicsville, VA – CDR Richard (Dick) Forbes passed away on November 21st, 2018 at the age of 96. Born on September 1, 1922 in Charlottesville, he moved to Richmond in 1932 and graduated from Glen Allen High School in 1939. Richard went on to attend Randolph Macon College from 1939-41, enlisting in the US Navy in 1942, and attending Navy pre-flight training at University of North Carolina, where he earned his Naval Aviator Wings.

Richard was deployed to the Pacific Theater flying Patrol Bombers and saw combat in such eventful battles as Iwo Jima and Eniwetok. Richard returned to the Pacific atoll of Eniwetok in 1952 aboard the USS Curtis, where he was the Security Officer for Operation Ivy, the first US test of a Hydrogen Bomb.

After the Korean Conflict, Richard served as a flight instructor at the US Naval Academy, Commander of the 5th Fleet Early Warning Squadron, and then the Commanding Officer of Naval Recruiting based in Alexandria, VA. Richard retired from the US Navy in 1965, joining Eastern Airlines, where he later retired in 1989 as the head of Flight Operations. Richard had two great loves in his life, Frances Davis and Susan Lindsay. He has four children with his first wife, Frances: Karen VanKirk, Sandra Stanley, Kathryn Rudasill, and Richard (Rick) Forbes, Jr. After Frances' passing, Richard later married Susan Lindsay Prince, adopting her daughter, Laura Prince Armstrong, and later adding one more son, David Forbes, to the family.

At 96 years old, it is no surprise that Richard was the last man standing among his siblings, Kathryn, Rosser, Alan, William, and Elizabeth. In addition to his wife and six children, Richard is survived by 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Richard's desire was to not have any sort of visitation or funeral, but a simple scattering of his ashes in his beloved Blue Ridge Mountains.

In lieu of flowers, Richard requested that donations be made to the Cheryl H. Watson Memorial Clinic at Shady Grove United Methodist Church.

8209 Shady Grove Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23111, <http://www.shadygroveumc.org/>.

Comments



“ Susan and family
Thinking of you.

Gloria Couch

Gloria Couch - November 26, 2018 at 09:54 AM



“ Uncle Dick is one of my lifelong heroes. Military bearing to the end, when he spoke, you listened and with respect. Yet, he was fun loving and my siblings and I enjoyed his company many times at Aunt Kitty's Mobjack Bay cottage. I am so glad Jane and I got to visit with him last month. He was the last link with that generation of my mother's family and I miss him already. My thoughts and prayers are with Sue and the family.

Buddy Scott

Buddy Scott - November 25, 2018 at 01:30 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



walker - November 25, 2018 at 07:54 AM



“ Lee and I send our prayers to all of Dick's family. Uncle Dick was special to me and he and my Daddy were good friends. He will be missed by the Davis family. Johnny Davis

John Davis - November 24, 2018 at 07:19 PM



“ My fondest memories of Mr. Forbes were the intense intellectual discussions we would engage in. With a great adult beverage in hand, we spered on so many ideas. He helped me get my first full-time job at Eastern Air Lines. That inspired me to pursue a flying career. He was a true American hero, the apitimy of what a career

Naval Officer should be. I only regret, we never got to fly together. Gone West at 96, a great flight. Condolences to all. He will have a place of Honor in Malcolm's and my museum, named after my grandfathers brother Ensign Dean R. Van Kirk. Who lost his life 1 May 1917 in a plane crash in Pensacola Bay. God Speed " Dick". Steve Van Kirk

Steve Van Kirk - November 24, 2018 at 04:01 PM