



Richard Franklin Alvord

November 26, 1926 - May 11, 2022

Richard was born in Chicago on November 29, 1926. One year later he and his family moved to Sous St. Marie, Michigan, where Richard lived with his parents, brother and sister until he was 16 years old. During the warmer months, Richard spent his days running around in the woods (which he knew well for miles and miles) and even built a tepee where he would sit by the fire for hours. In the winter, he cross-country skied and built his own ski run in a small ravine. He was a superb ice skater and enjoyed ice hockey and skating on the various ponds and lakes near his home.

In April of his sophomore year, he left high school and moved to Detroit to live with his mother where he remained for two years. Two years later he turned 18 and in February of 1945 was drafted into the United States Army. Richard completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and then deployed to Hawaii where he spent one month. After a month he deployed to Osaka, Japan, where he spent one year. During his time in Osaka, he was a truck driver for Headquarters Company and was discharged December, 1946, and returned to Detroit.

In March, 1951 Richard enlisted in the Army and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he spent a year and a half. While he was there he did “odds and ends,” and went to the pool everyday while attending electronics school. In November, 1952 he was deployed to Inchon, Korea and was sent into the battlefield somewhere in Korea. He went through two major battles, but his ribbons did not say exactly when. He received a rifleman’s badge which gave

him an additional nine dollars a month. He once told his wife Patricia, "Even though I grew up in Sous St. Marie, North Korea was the coldest place I have ever been." He went further to say, "When sleeping in tents, the night guards would turn the soldiers' heaters down at each end and as soon as they left, someone would get up and turn them up again. We were much warmer when we were sleeping in caves." Richard put his electronics skills to work by picking up the pieces of radios, repairing them, and by morning they were ready for his fellow soldiers to carry them out on patrol and to the front lines. He spent nine months in Korea and left in August, 1953. He had earned 36 points in total, and an extra four points for serving on the front lines the entire time. Upon returning to the United States, he became a platoon sergeant at Fort Riley, Kansas and ended his military career three years later in March, 1954.

After leaving the Army he returned to Detroit and in 1958 moved to Portland with friends. When he arrived in Portland he could not find work so he headed to Seattle and went to work for Safeway. While working at Safeway he was diagnosed with TB and spent seven months at the VA Hospital in Walla Walla, Washington. Still sick, he transferred to Deerborn, Michigan to be by his mother's side as she was dying of breast cancer. After his mother's death Richard had surgery for his TB and later recovered.

Richard returned to Portland once again in 1958 where from 1958-1961 he worked on his electronics engineering associates degree. After completing his degree, he was hired by Tektronix making \$1.78 an hour. He worked there for 20 years including two years in Alaska. In 1983 Richard retired early from Tektronix and a year later began working for OECO as a components engineer. Richard officially retired from OECO in 1991.

Following his retirement he and his wife with the help of family planted a very successful vineyard in the Chehalem Valley 11 miles northwest of Newberg, Oregon. When they moved to their vineyard land, their neighbor Mike Etzel said, . . . "those toys won't last long," and he was right.

Richard is survived by his wife Patricia, daughter Anne, and stepchildren

Craig, Charles, Todd, Elaine and Melanie. He also leaves behind nine grandchildren, Kim, Timaree, Sofia, Sage, Sterling, Madisen, Kane, Charlton, Olivia and seven great grandchildren.

Memorial Service 3:00 PM, Saturday, August 6, 2022 at the Alvord Residence.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 6. 3:00 PM (PT)

Alvord Residence
15025 NE North Valley Rd.
Newberg, OR 97132

Tribute Wall

RD

“ My memories of Richard Alvord are of a thoughtful and intelligent man who always went out of his way, along with Patricia, to be a good host to me when I was in town. I could never thank Patricia or Dick enough for the many wonderful lunches and dinners at the Vineyard and for allowing me to be a part of their lives so that I could be with Olivia in such a wonderful place. I also owe a significant debt of gratitude to Dick and Patricia for helping Melanie and I raise Olivia along with others in the family. Without Dick and Patricia it would have been much more difficult to raise and care for Olivia. So I am deeply thankful that Olivia and Melanie had Dick and Patricia to lean on all these years.

Dick was a wonderful father-in-law who I thoroughly enjoyed being around listening to his latest news on the next batch of wine or talk a little politics or other academic subjects. I have several favorite memories of Dick, but one of them was on a trip to France to see the Burgundy region. Dick was in the co-pilot seat in the big van we had rented while Patricia, Melanie, baby Olivia, and I think Ruth Ann Hobbs were in the back. Dick was the temperature control man and the head navigator from his co-pilot seat when we came rolling into the beautiful city of Nuits-Saint-George where we were going to meet the French mother and father of one of Dick and Patricia's neighbors.

As head navigator, Dick was sharp as a tack and never missed pointing out where we were located or where we were heading. In this case, Dick saw the sign for Nuits Saint-George faster than anyone and blurted out for all to hear that we had made it to "New-It Saint George" when some in the peanut gallery started to giggle and ask Dick to repeat where we were. Dick promptly doubled down in his gruff and determined voice "New It Saint-George" which did nothing to calm down the laughter from the Peanut Gallery in the back and the front. And did nothing to dissuade Dick on his pronunciation of the French City.

So, in honor of Richard Alvord for sticking to his guns, I have

petitioned the French Government that from hence forward and forever, the American pronunciation of the beautiful, small village nestled in the Burgundy Wine Region of France be New It Saint George.

On a serious note, I want to say to all of you: Patricia, Chuck and Diann, Elaine and Ethan, Todd, Melanie, Kane, Charlton, Timaree, Sofia, Sage, Maddison, Sterling, Olivia and any significant others how sorry I am for your loss, and I hope you will always treasure the time you had on this earth with Richard. He lived a long and blessed life. I will miss him and treasure my time and memories with him. May he Rest in Peace.

Russ Draper

Russell G Draper - August 06, 2022 at 11:50 AM