

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Doug Dick, 60, passed peacefully from this life at his home in Mission Viejo, CA on May 7, 2012 after a long, courageous battle with cancer. The first Niner from the Class of '73 to leave us, Doug leaves a legacy of a loving family, an investment in the lives of others, and an honest attempt to serve the God who made him. Nothing else much matters.

Born in Anchorage, AK to Lt Kenneth Rhorer Dick, Jr and Ginia Lou (Wilcox) Dick, Doug entered the Academy with a full head of red hair on 23 June 1969, after graduating from high school in Vallejo, CA. Throughout our four years at the Zoo, he took cadet life seriously enough to graduate 201<sup>st</sup> out of 844, but Doug had his share of fun along the way. One weekend, he came back to the dorm with a kitten. He and roommate Skip Smith successfully hid the cat in their room for several weeks, though were eventually caught. In his senior year, Doug recommitted himself to following Jesus Christ and was a regular participant in the USAFA Baptist Student Union. That commitment in conjunction with his Academy training set the course for the rest of his life. He was the embodiment of what later would become the Air Force Core Values: "Integrity First; Service Before Self; and Excellence in All We Do."

After graduation, Doug married his high school sweetheart, Beverly Elaine Boone, and off they went to Southern California for his MBA at UCLA. Following pilot training at Craig AFB in Selma, AL, it was off to Castle AFB, CA for KC-135 copilot training, and finally "The Real Air Force" at Fairchild AFB, WA, with Sarah and Adam showing up along the way. Assignment led to assignment and promotion led to promotion, ending up back at the tanker schoolhouse at Castle, where he was a squadron commander and then the Deputy Commander, 398th Operations Group prior to retiring in November 1993.

But Doug's role as a leader was only half done. He had a whole 'nother generation to inspire. Following retirement from the Air Force, Doug moved into elementary education. He was a teacher and then assistant principal of an elementary school in Merced, picking up his M.A. in Education concurrently. In 2002, Doug was selected to be the Principal of Del Lago Elementary School in Mission Viejo, CA, where he served until his retirement in 2011. The outpouring of love from students and faculty alike throughout his illness, retirement and passing was overwhelming. Only time will tell the results of his impact on those hundreds of young lives over the years.

Throughout both careers, Doug's success at balancing his professional and personal lives was undergirded by his unshakable faith. Appropriately, he was asked to serve as a teacher, deacon and elder at various churches throughout his adult life. While Christ was the central figure in Doug's life, he made Beverly feel she was the most important mortal person in his life. Together, they successfully passed their faith on to Sarah and Adam, both of whom are now grown with families of their own.

Doug's faith made all the difference during his final two-year struggle with cancer. He was eternally optimistic, closing each e-mail update with "His grace is sufficient." While he endured the myriad treatments that extended his life here on earth longer than any thought possible, he also knew when this earthly life was over, he would continue life eternally in heaven. We look forward to seeing you again, my brother.

—Mike Arnett, '73 CS-09, with assistance from Beverly Dick, Sarah Hume and Skip Smith, '73 and USAFA roommate.