

Donald P. Dick
53 Fairlawn Drive
Rochester, NY 14617-3201

A USNA line officer graduate spending his entire first year following graduation at the Academy? I did. My initial orders to a destroyer in Bremerton, WA were replaced with temporary duty in the Exec. department over the summer to help indoctrinate the incoming plebe class. The follow-on orders to a destroyer in San Diego in September were changed to additional special duty at the Academy in connection with a fleet-wide olympic basketball team (we made it to the AAU quarter-finals in Denver in March, '48). Colateral duties were teaching plebe steam in the Dept. of Marine Engineering. When the bb team disbanded in March, I continued teaching through the end of the school year. Married the day after graduation, it was a great way for Barbara and me to spend our first year together, contributing to celebrating our 59th wedding anniversary in June, 2006.

June, '48 found me reporting to the USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CV-47). The next two years were interesting, being division officer of the 7th (20mm), 3rd (5" & 40mm), and F (fire control) divisions, plus standing OOD watches in-port and at-sea. During June through August of 1949, following a Med cruise, I was in charge of a group of about 20 enlisted on temporary duty at the Earle, NJ Naval Ammunition Depot, helping the depot staff overhaul our ship's ammunition. Somehow I was also appointed coach of a very successful Phil Sea basketball team.

After resigning my regular commission in May, '50, Barbara and I relocated to Rochester New York where I had joined the Eastman Kodak Company. There only a little more than a year, I was recalled (USNR) to active duty in October, '51 during the Korean Conflict, teaching Gunnery and Fire Control at the Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. Two years later I returned to Kodak, from which I retired in 1985.

Our 6 children, their 5 spouses, and 8 grandchildren make our lives interesting. The family, sans one daughter, is pictured below. I've been busy during retirement doing family genealogy, playing a church pipe organ, and at age 70 took flying lessons, earning my private pilot's license a year later and fulfilling a dream for the next 4 years. Mine has been a full and blessed life. Now, writing an autobiography at the family's behest, I'm recalling many long-forgotten Navy and other memories.

