

Bobby Wayne Dodd

Bobby Wayne Dodd's Story

D.O.B. 1/21/25

I was born January 21, 1925 in Olvey, Arkansas, the ninth of ten children. My father was an itinerant tenant farmer looking for the ideal farm. We moved to Oklahoma in 1926 and I attended 8 schools while my family moved around in Oklahoma. I graduated from high school at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma in May 1942. I was married to Oneita Elizabeth Spencer November 8, 1942.

I was called up in the draft in March 1943. I chose to join the Navy and was sent to the Naval Recruit Training Station in San Diego. After Boot Camp Training I was sent to the Electricians School at the Training Center. After finishing school I spent 3 months having a hernia repaired and was then attached to the Landing Craft Training School at Coronado on the Strand living in tents. In June 1944 I was attached to a Landing Craft Boat Group as the Boat Electrician and we were sent to Oceanside, California Boat Basin for training. In November 1944 we went to Richmond, California and boarded the U.S.S. Talladega as The Landing Craft Boat Group. After 13 months in the Pacific and the end of the war with Japan the ship returned to San Pedro, California and I was discharged December 6, 1945.



After spending a few years working in construction and various other jobs I was employed by Thompson Products Inc. in Inglewood, California in a research and development laboratory. Thompson Products evolved into TRW after sponsoring Ramo and Wooldridge in a testing venture. I was attached to a remote test site at San Juan Capistrano, California as a foreman of a test support group. I worked very closely with the development of the LEM Engine which landed our astronauts on the moon. I retired in 1985 after 33 years with TRW.

I was divorced in 1969 and in 1977 I met Arlene Kozmnski Wilson, a Navy widow, who has been a major factor in my life since then. She lives near me in Laguna Woods, California where we enjoy being together almost every day. Over the years we have enjoyed going to shows and other entertainment together and travel both in and out of a motor home. Our lives have been rich with activities with friends and our families. She is "a little Polish girl" who showed her strength when it came to supporting and raising her three children after her husband was first disabled and then passed on. I feel very fortunate to have met her as she has enriched my life in so many ways.

My three children, Bivian Marr, Stanley S. Dodd and Kenneth A. Dodd live near me. I feel very blessed to have been involved in their lives and the lives of my 5 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

I have been a member of the Masonic Lodge since 1952 and Shriner since 1954. I am still active in the Lodge. I play golf at least three times a week and have shot my age about 25 times on out Par 71 Golf Course in Laguna Woods, California.

I have asked that my ashes be interred in the National Cemetery at Point Loma, CA.