

Richard Harding: December 29, 1918 – May 20, 2018

Richard (Dick) Harding known by his grand kids as “poppy” was born on December 29, 1918 at his home in Arlington Ma. He and his sister were the first generation of children not born on Marthad Vineyard. In 1930 At Age 12 the family moved to Lexington and lived on Highland Ave with his mother Gertrude Ramsey, father James Arnold Harding Jr. and Sister Barbara.

From the time, he was young he loved playing sports. Dick loved Baseball, Hockey and Golf. He was Captain of the Lexington High baseball team and played on the all Middlesex team and was on the first ever Lexington High Hockey team in 1936. He also qualified for the Mass amateur golf tournament. Dick attended Bowdoin College and was a star athlete in baseball and Hockey and won the final golf tournament in his senior year.

Dick was a decorated WWII veteran hero and was awarded the silver star and six air medals. Active duty September 1941 to October 1945. Dick served in the Pacific Theatre He flew a dive bomber from the aircraft carrier the U.S.S. Franklin. He flew a HellDiver Aircraft at Iwo Jima, Guam, Okinawa and Leyte Gulf. later he was a carrier flight instructor back in the Pensacola, FL. He loved this assignment because he could play golf in the afternoons after instructing new pilots.

After WWII Dick attended Harvard Business School and later spent his career as a nation sales manager for Merckens Chocolates and Nabisco.

After Graduating from Harvard Dick married to Barbara (Dell) Harding. They lived a great life in Lexington and enjoyed traveling, playing, golf, bridge and skiing. Dick continued to ski until he was 91 and played his last round of golf at 98. Dick and Del had three children, Richard Harding, Janice Cronstrom and James Arnold Harding 3rd. Today Richard lives in Windham, NH with his wife Debbie, Janice lives in Dunstable with her husband Pete and James lives in Lexington with his wife Andrea and children Kelley and Matt.

Dick will be missed by all including many friends for the Lexington Golf and ski club. As on close friend recently stated, “he was an officer and a humble gentleman and will leave a big hole in a lot of lives”.

Services will be held later in June at a private burial on Martha’s Vineyard Island. Dick will be buried with his wife, father, Mother and grandparents.