



Dale Walter Doss, CAPT, USN retired

January 4, 1936 - December 11, 2019

Dale W. Doss (CAPT, USN retired) completed his final mission and went home to heaven on Wednesday, December 11th, 2019. He was 83 years old.

CAPT Doss was born in Birmingham, AL and attended St. Andrews - Sewanee School in Sewanee, TN. Upon graduating from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in 1958, he entered the U.S. Navy. He attended Basic Naval Aviation Observer School and Air Navigation School, followed by service as a transport navigator with VR-3 of the Military Air Transport Service at McGuire AFB, New Jersey. His next assignment was as an instructor in the Basic Naval Aviation Observer School and he then attended RA-5C Vigilante replacement air group training with RVAH-3 at NAS Sanford, Florida, and A-6 Intruder bombardier/navigator training with VA-42 at NAS Oceana, Virginia.

LCDR Doss was serving as an A-6A bombardier/navigator with VA-35 at NAS Oceana and deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) in the Gulf of Tonkin when he was forced to eject over North Vietnam on his 54th mission. He was taken Prisoner of War on March 17, 1968 (his son Patrick's birthday). After spending 1,824 days in captivity, he was released during Operation Homecoming on March 14, 1973 and returned on American soil on March 17, 1973.

CDR Doss was briefly hospitalized to recover from his injuries, and then

served as Special Assistant to the Commander of Navy Recruiting Area III. He attended Navy Recruiting School at NAS Pensacola, Florida and then served as Chief Staff Officer of Navy Recruiting Area I. His next assignment was as Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District Montgomery, Alabama, followed by service as Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District Miami, Florida. CAPT Doss' final assignment was as Deputy Inspector General with the Commander, Navy Recruiting Command Inspector General's Office at NTC Orlando, Florida until his retirement from the Navy on March 1, 1983.

Continuing his love of serving, CAPT Doss became the Director of Veteran Services for Leon County, FL for 19 years. His service continued throughout the community volunteering on the Board of Directors for the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Quarterback Club, and President of the Tallahassee Lions Club. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge #937, an FSU Booster, and a member of the Springtime Tallahassee Antebellum Crew.

He is survived by his wife of twenty eight years, Stephany Doss of Tallahassee, FL, his son and daughter-in-law, Patrick and Ruth Lemieux of Crestview, FL and his daughter and son-in-law, Martha and Tom Vance of Cape Canaveral, FL., plus six granddaughters and six great grandchildren. His youngest son, Aaron passed away in 2015.

A service will be held, Monday, December 16th at 12:00 pm at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303. A graveside service with military honors will be held at 2:00, Culley's Meadowood Memorial Park, 700 Timberlane Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32312.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in his honor be made to St. Andrews Sewanee School, Sewanee, TN
<https://www.sasweb.org/give/make-a-gift> .

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

MeadowWood Memorial Park

700 Timberlane Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 16. 12:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Graveside Service

DEC 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

MeadowWood Memorial Park
700 Timberlane Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Tribute Wall



DP

“ I was the Veterans Service officer for Wakulla County, I remember Dale sharing about his days as a POW. He recalled the day when Hanoi Jane came to the Hanoi Hilton; he told how she sold out our troops. Dale loved his country and took pride in serving our veterans.

Dan Paupp - February 07, 2024 at 07:34 PM



JA

“ I received the LCDR DALE DOSS POW bracelet in 2004 or 2005 from a teacher of mine who purchased it during the war; she knew I would appreciate and hold dear this man's sacrifice to his nation and people. If anyone in the Doss family or close friends wishes to have it, please contact me, and I will mail it to you free of charge. Otherwise I will be burying it at my family ranch this Christmas. RIP, LCDR DOSS. To contact me, please use email.

Jake - December 21, 2022 at 12:09 AM



“ I found his POW bracelet in my Dad's things he wore it all during the war. Would love to return it to the family.

Diane Dyess - May 02, 2021 at 01:10 PM

GF

“ I am deeply saddened to have learned only today of Commander Doss passing away exactly 6 years and 6 days after my father, former Lt.J.G. Merrill Harry Faegenburg a former Naval Aviator as well who died on December 5th, 2013.

Commander Doss was perhaps besides my father, the GREATEST man and hero I have ever known. I spent a total of 15 minutes with Commander Doss on two occasions, once in September of 1979, to get special waivers to enlist in the United States Navy as a Nuclear Submarine Computer Technician, and the 2nd time on October 16, 1979 to seek permission to be discharged from the Delayed Enlistment Program, for personal reasons.

For anyone who ever visited Commander Doss in his office in Miami, Florida in 1979, the image of the oil painting in his office of him stepping off the plane onto US soil after being released from captivity in March of 1973, still burns vividly in my mind. His story that he shared with me of his ordeal reminds me every day of the spirit of the true American heroes who have served our country and preserved the freedoms we all cherish.

My meeting Commander Doss, is an event that changed the course of my life, and I owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his gracious support of my personal decision to ultimately have not served in the United States Navy, something to this day I sometimes wonder if really made the right decision. It would have been a great honor to have served on a nuclear submarine, and I often wish I had proceeded with my initial plan.

My deepest condolences to the family of Commander Doss. Know that he is among the greatest heroes our country has ever known, and I am truly honored to have had those brief minutes to know him in 1979.

He is deeply missed and ALWAYS remembered in my heart!

God bless you!

Garry Faegenburg - March 28, 2020 at 03:22 AM

TS

“ Hello. My name is Tracy Schang. I was looking at some old things today and found my POW bracelet I wore in early 70's. Googled Mr Doss's name. I was sad to see he had passed but I was proud to wear his POW bracelet. Thank you LCDR Dale Doss. Sincerely.
Holly, Michigan

Tracy Schang - March 10, 2020 at 07:55 PM

CB

I just came upon my Dale Doss POW bracelet as well and found CAPT USN POW bracelet. What a great man he was. I wonder if any family members would like the bracelet. I would be happy to mail it to them.

Carter Bishop - December 10, 2020 at 04:12 PM

JW

I also had LCDR Dale Doss POW bracelet. My brother was on DE1061 and sent it home to me when I was in 5th grade (1971). I wore it until 1974 when my brother was able to look up and see that he had been released. I've always remembered his name and the wonderful news that he had been released. Many of my brothers friends were not. RIP Mr. Doss and thank you for your service.

Julia Jacques -Seattle, WA - November 15, 2023 at 10:53 PM

SM

I too had LCDR Dale Doss's Bracelet and after he was released from prison, mailed it to him in care of his family.

Sandra Mackey March 13,2004

Sandra Mackey - March 13, 2024 at 02:07 PM

VG

“ To the family of Capt Dale Doss :: Even tho you don't know me, I've known the name Dale Doss since the fall of 1972 when I was a freshman in college and paid \$5 for a POW bracelet that bore his name and the date of his capture by the North Vietnamese. The \$5 was supposed to go toward helping to get our POWs freed and brought back home again. Whether or not that's what happened to my \$5, I have no idea, but I remember there were several bracelets with different names to choose from and I was told to take whichever one I wanted. I chose the bracelet that had the name LCDR Dale W Doss for two reasons - first, because I thought Dale Doss would be an easy name to remember and, second, because he had been captured on a holiday - St Patrick's Day - March 17, 1968. Once I got my bracelet, I wore it all the time. Then, when they brought all of the POWs home, I watched on TV as they landed and got off the plane. I saw newspaper articles telling how people who'd worn POW bracelets had sent theirs to the servicemen whose name was on their bracelets. I wanted to send mine to LCDR Doss but had no idea how to go about finding him. I kept the bracelet for years and years, but somehow I managed to lose it, unfortunately. I never forgot the name Dale Doss, though, and would think of him from time to time over the years and wondered what in the world ever happened to him. I thought of him again last evening and it occurred to me that since Dale Doss had been a POW, I might find out something about him on Google. I came across his obituary and was shocked to discover that yesterday - the day I decided to Google Dale Doss - was also the day of his funeral. To those he has left behind:: I am most truly sorry for your loss, and I want you to know that there's someone out there - a complete stranger - who has remembered LCDR Dale W Doss over the years and is most grateful to him for his service to this country and for the sacrifice he made as a POW. I hope and pray that your memories of him are full of peace, joy, and comfort. With highest regards, Vicky Gardner, Colleyville TX

Vicky Gardner - December 18, 2019 at 01:38 AM

CB

great note Vicky, you are very kind.

Carter Bishop - December 10, 2020 at 04:14 PM

JM

“ *I first heard Captain Doss tell of his POW experiences at a Veterans Day breakfast. Later, he spoke at a local Reserve Officers Association meeting. I got to know him through veterans organizations over the years.*

He was a great American hero.

Jim Myers

Tallahassee

Jim Myers - December 13, 2019 at 09:30 PM

AF

Alfred flauraud always a sad day to learn of the passing of another brave hero I found from that war I found the bracelet amongst my late brother s belongingswho also served in Vietnam in the usmc 1969 to 70

alfred flauraud - January 11, 2022 at 09:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dale Walter Doss, CAPT, USN retired.*



December 13, 2019 at 09:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dale Walter Doss, CAPT, USN retired.*



December 12, 2019 at 07:42 PM