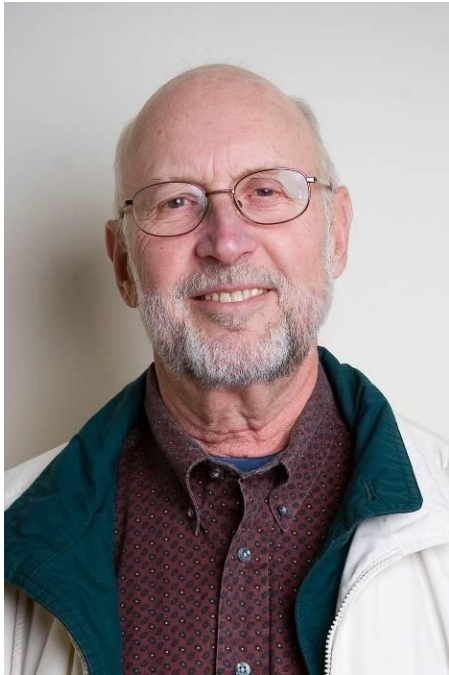


Richard Dooley bio interviewed by David Bledsoe



Richard was born in Long Beach, CA on May 4, 1938. The schools he attended were all in Long Beach, Jane Adams Elementary, Lindberg Jr High and Jordan High School where he graduated in 1956. For 3 years, he was a member of ROTC and a Lieutenant in charge of a platoon. His favorite subject was drafting.

In 1956 & 1957 Richard attended Long Beach City College studying business. His family was in the hardware business, so motivation to finish college wasn't that great. However by the mid 1960's, he'd completed several business management courses sponsored by Whirlpool Corp. as well as receiving an architectural consulting certification.

Richard enjoyed the Boy Scouts from 8 – 14 years of age making it to the rank of First Class. Out of all the Long Beach District, he was chosen as an honorary explorer where he served as a counselor at the Boy Scouts' mountain camp.

While a high school junior, Richard joined the Air Force Reserve. He served for 8 years with most of his training at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, CA where he was a cook for a troop transport wing from 1955 to 1963. He says the most exciting thing about the service was Saturday nights out with the boys.

Drag racing and boat racing were two of Richard's favorite sports. In his first boat race, he fell just a bit short and the boat unfortunately sank. He enjoys water skiing, snow skiing and bowling. Richard reads lots of trade journals and enjoys works of fiction such as Harry Potter having read the entire series. He loves music, especially country.

Richard served as a charter member of the Long Beach Exchange Service Club with the primary function of sponsoring college scholarships. He served as President of the Long Beach Business Club which was very similar to a Chamber of Commerce. He served as the President of the Long Beach Ski Club and regularly skied the Mammoth and San Bernardino mountains. Once a year they made the trip to Aspen CO.

In 1968, Richard married Nancy, the sweetheart of the Long Beach Ski Club and adopted her son Doug (one of our Crew Leaders). They were blessed with two more children Michael and Stephanie before Nancy at the age of 38 passed away after suffering from breast cancer. Richard was left to raise the children on his own until

marrying his wife Jamie who he met while on vacation in Vienna, Austria. Jamie was attending music school in Vienna and was singing at the hotel that Richard was staying. Two months later they hooked up in Switzerland and Jamie returned home to Palace Verdes, CA, about 30 minutes from where Richard lived. They dated for nearly a year, married in the San Bernardino mountains in September 1978 and honeymooned for a week in Israel. By this time, Doug had turned 18. Jamie adopted Michael (7) & Stephanie (8). All three kids have treated her as their own Mom & she has treated them as her own children.

Starting out as a store clerk and cleaning shelves, Richard quickly progressed in the family hardware business to Department Manager, Contract Hardware Management Director, Purchasing & Advertisement Director and eventually President & General Manager. Richard and Jamie produced their own television commercials for several years. The Dooleys enjoyed overwhelming success and cherish the long term relationships of both loyal customers and employees. Those friendships are what made the business a success Richard says. In 1982, they sold their partial ownership in the business. Richard then formed a company – Dooley Property Development Company. From 1982 to 1996, they developed and built shopping centers and multi-family rental properties in the Long Beach area. They moved the business to Franklin in 1989. They came to the Nashville area due to Jamie being a singer/songwriter in the country music business. In 1996, they founded Dooley Homes, LLC primarily engaging in single family custom built homes and renovation projects.

Richard's dad was not a churchgoer but his mom's family where Christian Science. He attended their church through age 12. He attends church with Jamie who is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Brentwood. Richard holds fast to fundamental Christian beliefs and feels a part of the church but has simply never felt the need for official membership. He praises the Lord all the time for our great country & especially for the fact that he lives in Tennessee... this thought came to him recently as he and Jamie were visiting Arlington Vineyards.

Richard's heretofore unwritten plan for the rest of his life is to spend lots of time in the spring & fall with family in Tennessee and summer & winter in Winter Park, CO. where he and Jamie are presently building their new home. In the summer, they plan to hike, bike and fish. In the winter, they want to snow ski, sit by the fireplace and have a drink with the nice friends they have just begun to meet. Before too long, Richard plans to completely retire from the construction business.

Richard first became involved with Habitat in 2005 when Gregg Elliott and his dad Ron were pretty much leading the Habitat construction supervision on their own. After Gregg got the Crew Leader concept underway, Richard signed on because of his belief and personal commitment to Habitat's mission of eliminating sub-standard housing by providing partner families with the opportunity to own a decent and affordable home. Richard gets excited by seeing people of different faiths and nationalities come together ... as one in community.