

Eldon D. Dugan

U.S. Navy China Burma India Theater (CBI)



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Eldon Darrell Dugan was born June 12, 1927 in Vandalia, Illinois. Prior to his enlistment in the Armed Services, he was a student and worked as a farmer. He enlisted in the Merchant Marines June 15, 1945 and shortly afterwards transferred his service to the U. S. Navy. His period of active duty extended to August 5, 1946.

During his period of service, Eldon served as a beach master. The primary location was on the mainland of China. During this period, Eldon's unit received orders to invade Japan. These orders were cancelled, however, after the bombing and surrender of Japan. Following his honorable discharge, he re-enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserves from August 6, 1954 to July 28, 1962.

Eldon's awards and citations consisted of the World War II Medal, the Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and the China Service Medal. At the time of his discharge from the Naval Reserves, Eldon was a Seaman First Class.

Throughout his life, Eldon enjoyed politics and maintained an active social and professional life. He worked as a truck driver and owned HIT Quality gas station in Vandalia, Illinois. He also served as a Lieutenant License Investigator for the State of Illinois. From 1974 to 1988, he was the Director of the Fayette County Civil Defense Department. Eldon was also qualified to teach college courses in military science, including topics such as fallout shelter management, radiological monitoring, severe weather monitoring, and scuba diving. He was a member of the National Rifle Association, the Vandalia Old National Trail Shrine Club, the American Legion Crawford-Hale Post 0095, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3862 and the Temperance Lodge #16A.L. 5863.

In May 1948, Eldon married Tessie Penny. He died in January 1988 and was survived by his wife and two sons, Robert D. Dugan and Charles A. Dugan who both served in the United States Army during the Vietnam era. Robert served from 1970-72 and Charles served from 1971-1973.

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Vandalia, Illinois