

1ST LIEUTENANT RICHARD C JACOBS

By Richard Long

World War II ended September 2nd, 1945. Later in that same month, Richard "Dick" Jacobs enlisted in the US Coast Guard. It seems pre-med at University of Wisconsin at just under the age of 17 wasn't the best decision after graduating from an all boys high school. However, his year of pre-med wasn't wasted because it landed him the job of medic aboard the USCGC Eagle, assigned to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. His quarters were right next to the Captain's!

The Eagle (originally Horst Wessel) pictured here, was built in Hamburg, Germany in 1936, and was one of three such vessels in the pre-WWII German Navy. At the end of the war, it was part of war reparations to the US and re-commissioned Cutter Eagle and sailed to New London which was to be her permanent home. It is used to teach cadets unparalleled leadership experience at sea. The ship is a three-masted barque and when under sail has over 22,000 square feet of sail and more than 5 miles of rigging in its 200 lines. Cadets must know the name, operation and function of all sails and of each line.

Dick's second assignment was on another cutter that was a part of the North Atlantic Ice Patrol. Dick separated from service in that assignment and, using the GI Bill, headed back to college. His field of study was Geology. During college he was a USAF ROTC cadet. Upon graduation, he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant and assigned duty as a Cartographer in Japan. Now it was the middle of the Korean War. He used his education to help identify enemy targets. He separated from service on October 1953, a few months after the end of the war.

Lt Jacobs, we honor you and thank you for your service.