

## Richard Dudman

Richard Dudman's capture by Vietnamese guerillas was a highpoint of his 76 years as a newspaper reporter and editor, including 32 years with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He and two other reporters were ambushed in 1970. As Vietcong fighters herded them at gunpoint into the jungle, Mr. Dudman whispered to his younger colleagues to keep their spirits up, "If we get out of this alive, we'll have a hell of a good story." His wife, Helen, along with many others pleaded for his release and the three were finally let go. He wrote a series of syndicated articles about the experience, and the book, "40 Days with the Enemy."

Thirty years later, he learned the identity of the Vietcong officer who took charge of the prisoners and eventually ordered their release and went back to Vietnam to interview him. The general joked that he had released the journalists because they ate too much.

Mr. Dudman had a rare interview with the Cambodian dictator Pol Pot in 1978 and took one of the few existing photographs of the dictator. That night, a gunman threatened Mr. Dudman in the guesthouse where he was staying and killed one of his colleagues.

As a foreign correspondent, Mr. Dudman always kept his bag packed and his passport up to date, ready to take off on a few hours' notice. He covered wars and revolutions, in the Middle East, South America and Asia. During his ten-year coverage of the Vietnam War, he early on demonstrated the futility of the effort, which would end in an American defeat and humiliation.

Serving as the Post-Dispatch Washington bureau chief, he led the effort to publish copies of the Pentagon Papers, a secret official history of the Vietnam War. He covered the assassination of President Kennedy and the attempted assassination of President Reagan. He was listed on President Nixon's famous Enemy List, made public in 1973.

Mr. Dudman retired from the Post-Dispatch in 1981 and moved to Maine, where the family kept an island home and where his wife bought and operated radio stations in Ellsworth from 1980-1999. He served as chairman of the committees that developed the JUMP playground in Ellsworth and later its expansion into Knowlton Park. He sailed his Friendship sloop, Freedom, served as an editor for South North News Service and for many years wrote two editorials a week for the Bangor Daily News. He retired for the last time in June 2012.

He received many awards for his reporting, including the Polk Career Award and was inducted into the Maine Press Hall of Fame in 2014. He belonged to the Ellsworth Rotary club, the Friendship Sloop Society, and the Washington Gridiron Club.

Richard Beebe Dudman was born May 3, 1918, in Centerville, Iowa, to Virgil Ernest Dudman, a gynecologist and obstetrician, and Wilma Beebe Dudman. He was raised in Portland, Oregon and during World War II served as a Navy ensign on an armed supply ship that led convoys to Europe and North Africa. He escaped injury as the ship dodged submarine attacks and encountered an air attack in Tunis.

After the war, he was hired as a reporter by the Denver Post. It was in Denver that he met and married the former Helen Sloane. They just celebrated their 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You can't think of a happier marriage.

## In Loving Memory of Richard Dudman



1918 - 2017

FOR RICHARD AND HELEN

If over the clatter of human events in the newsroom  
Where McCarthy has 40% (hurrah) but Rusk  
has the Pentagon (boo)  
And the Embassy gabble mounts and Georgetown eats  
Georgetown stew  
While nice old dowagers buy nice old houses and busily  
make them over into houses snotty and new –  
If over the clatter one hears a voice, any voice at all,  
eccentrically failing to dutifully serve the newsroom as  
confuse room and bluesroom,  
It is apt to be the sweet kindly sensible stable  
calm voice of Richard,  
Or if not Richard the sweet kindly sensible stable calm  
voice of Helen,  
Two ancient doves, coo coo, twenty years, my God,  
Doves turtle,  
Subduing the clatter, thawing the freeze, making all  
but tusky Rusk chortle –  
Richard and Helen, twenty years, my God,  
getting ready  
Calmly for spring, garden, grass, flower, dog turd,  
porch beer and twenty more steady  
Years in the service of two girls Janet and Martha  
and two houses Newark and Maine  
Plus the Post Dispatch, the Post Washington, the Park  
Cleveland and anywhere everywhere  
Any sweet unaddled brain,  
Yes, twenty plus twenty, my God,  
and then twenty more,  
In the service of all that and more,  
and not as a chore,  
It being at last, their service, the service most dove,  
The service of love.

Reed Whittemore, 1968  
Poet Laureate of the United States  
Next-door neighbor in Washington, DC

In Loving Memory of  
**Richard Dudman**

May 3, 1918 – August 3, 2017

**Celebration of Life**

11:00 am, Saturday, August 19, 2017  
Jordan-Fernald

**Opening Remarks**

William Bigelow

**Family Remembrances**

Iris Dudman

Georgia Howland & Richard Howland  
Rosa Mayer & Lillian Mayer  
Martha Dudman

**Closing Remarks**

William Bigelow

**Music**

Masanobu Ikemiya

Everyone is invited to continue the Celebration  
of Life at a reception in the next room.