

In Memoriam

Dick King

Notes On His

Passing by Those

Who Benefited

From His Wisdom

And Kindness

Compiled and produced by

Wes Iames

Cincinnati, OH

1981 Swing Keel

Miss Spent Youth

Fri 8/25/2006 9:54 PM

Hang onto your saddles -- Dick King just passed away.

His son just called me with the news. I've still got tears. One of our best of the best is gone. Gone.

His son was looking for whoever was going to buy Dick's "Twilight Zone," he's supposed to be coming tomorrow to look it over. The family doesn't want to do that, understandably.

If anyone can pass on the word, the family and I would appreciate it.

What a loss. What a loss.

Chip Ford --
Marblehead, Mass.
1974 Swing Keel "Chip Ahoy" #3282
CTY032820374
Chip Ahoy website: www.chipford.com

RICHARD KING, Jr. MELBOURNE Lieutenant Colonel Richard Thomas King Jr., USAF Retired, a 33 year Brevard County resident passed away on Friday, August 25, 2006 at the age of 68. Even though he suffered from a lengthy illness, his death was unexpected. Dick was born on Governors Island, NY on July 12, 1938 to the late General Richard T. King Sr., USAF Retired and the late Clair Swanson King. He was a graduate of The Citadel and served in the US Air Force for over 20 years. He

was an avid sailor of Catalina 22s. He participated in and won many regattas statewide. He was a technical advisor for the sailing magazine The Catalina Mainsheet for 11 years. As an advisor, he helped hundreds of sailors with their sailboat problems. He corresponded regularly with many other Catalina sailors on what he called The List. A warm and giving man, Dick had a big heart and was always willing to help others. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Linda Venning King; a devoted son, Richard Thomas King V; and our Godsend, Desiree Marie King, all of Melbourne. He also leaves a sister in law, Suzanne Farrell of Archer, FL two nieces, Heather Sipe of Archer, FL and Dr. Michelle Sipe of New York City and many cousins and countless friends. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kathryn Clair King. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, September 1, 2006 at 4 p.m., at Ascension Lutheran Church - ELCA, 1053 Pinetree Drive, Indian Harbour Beach. Contributions, in lieu of flowers, can be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 21475, St. Petersburg, FL 33742. Arrangements are entrusted to South Brevard Funeral Home, Melbourne 724-2222.

Published in FLORIDA TODAY on 8/30/2006.

Fri 8/25/2006 10:19 PM

Good-bye dear friend Dick King.

May you have slipped your cable in peace.

Bayard Gross
CTYH9911M81B

BABY BLUE

<http://tinyurl.com/d7c8s>
Greenwich, CT

Fri 8/25/2006 10:34 PM

What a TREMENDOUS loss to our Catalina 22 community. The knowledge and experience that we have lost will never be found. The void is immeasurable.

I suggest we all begin to think about a proper, permanent memorial to honor his contributions to all of us.

Dan Schafer
Traverse City, MI
"SeaBatical"
1983 Swing Keel ~ #11157

Fri 8/25/2006 10:44 PM

Although we never met, I felt through his writing that I had known Dick a long time. I was saddened that he had to part with his boat but looked forward to all his knowledge and stories. I had hoped his contributions would continue for many years. I hope he will be looking over our shoulder as we work on our boats. He will certainly be in my thoughts.

A sad sad day.

Bob Rayner

76 swing keel "POOH"
Sidney, B.C.

Fri 8/25/2006 11:19 PM

I knew him as a trusted advisor. He was always willing to give of himself and his vast reservoir of knowledge. He will be greatly missed.

Lance B. Jones
Catalina 22s
#9713 Breab Thoin!
#9717 Pog Mo Thoin!
Lake Lanier, Georgia

Sat 8/26/2006 12:21 AM

How sad. While I didn't Dick personally I knew that what he posted would always be most helpful. I'll keep him in my thoughts this weekend as I trim my sails.

Paul Kingsbury
Elmira NY
Ragamuffin

Sat 8/26/2006 8:21 AM

As a newcomer to C22s Dick's advice was invaluable. His knowledge, wisdom, and generosity were unique. Few of us get to be held in such great esteem. Rest in peace, Dick.

Brian Meyer
S. Sutton, NH
1988 wing keel #14774
"All Four I"

Sat 8/26/2006 8:49 AM

He will be missed by a lot of people that hadn't even had the chance to meet him, that says a lot about him as a person.

My prayers are with him and his loved ones.

Javier Gras
#13125
Dallas TX

Sat 8/26/2006 8:59 AM

Chip,

We will all miss his knowledge and expertise.

David Bergevin
C22 #12454 "BADAM"

Sat 8/26/2006 9:21 AM

Dick will be sorely missed. His input was always well regarded and welcome. I'll be praying for his family and friends. Life is so short.

Peter Snyder

Windabout - 1978 sk #8329
Lake Chickamauga, TN

Sat 8/26/2006 10:02 AM

I am both shocked and saddened.
My regards to his family. Dick was a friend I never met but always read. He will truly be missed.

God Bless

Steve Morgan
Bayport, N.Y.
#14444
wing

Sat 8/26/2006 11:10 AM

After reading the many emails from Dick and exchanging some with him to help me on my boat, I met him last Feb. at the Mid-Winters in Sanford, FL. It was a pleasure talking with him and he will be missed by all. Certainly an annual race in his memory would be appropriate.

Jon Hubertz
#12231
Punta Gorda, FL

Sat 8/26/2006 11:14 AM

I just got off the phone with Dick's (ouch) widow, Linda. She's holding up well, though going through

what we'd expect -- the empty rooms syndrome. I told her to call me if there's anything I can do. More, perhaps, on this later -- but Dick talked to me the other night about a class-action lawsuit that he was joining.

We don't have a place yet to send flowers yet, but we will -- Linda asks that donations instead be made to the Heart Association, details to follow. Our card will read: "Your friends on the C22 list." I'll get more details as she relates them to me. I've enough cash in the "List Sponsors" account to handle it. Who'd have ever thought we'd need it for this? But it's there.

You can read my obit and memorial to Dick at:

http://chipford.com/dick_king.htm

I'm sure you'll all agree, Dick was an extraordinary soldier; a teacher and leader. We'll miss him greatly.

Chip Ford, List Owner / Administrator
Marblehead, Mass.
1974 Swing Keel "Chip Ahoy" #3282
CTY032820374
Chip Ahoy website: www.chipford.com

Sat 8/26/2006 2:49 PM

Sea-Fever

I MUST down to the seas again, to the lonely sea
and the sky,

And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the
white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn
breaking.

I must down to the seas again, for the call of the
running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be
denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds
flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the
sea-gulls crying.

I must down to the seas again to the vagrant gypsy
life.
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the
wind's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-
rover,
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long
trick's over.

John Masefield

Gareth Gammon
Fort St. James, B.C. Canada
1980 Swing keel 9782
Calylpo

Sat 8/26/2006 2:58 PM

First and foremost I hope Mr. King Rests in Peace,
he always hated me calling him that, but it was out

of total respect for this great man. I hope you all will let me share an experience, quickly, with you. Glenn I think you will remember this, we were racing some where in Florida, down wind leg and we were coming to a closed line and the three of us, well me and Glenn, were on the fringe of not making the pin and Dick just kept coming down and not give us an inch. If my memory serves me well, we got with in about 20 feet of the pin, I slowed the boat ever so slightly and let Glenn slip between me and the pin, he is my best buddy you know, and after the racing was over and we were talking, rum induced I am sure, I asked Dick what was up with that? He said "What" and I explained the situation. His reaction was typical Dick King; he smiled a big smile and said "RACING!" Each time I saw him after that his health was worse and worse. I am happy I had the experience to know! him. I will send a prayer out for him and his family, and I know one thing, this world, our world, will be much less with out him! Thanks For Every Thing MR. KING!!!

Bob Scott
THE BANSHEE
C22 6973

Sat 8/26/2006 3:45 PM

I, too, never met Dick, but was he ever helpful given his contributions to the NSA technical manual and his contributions to this list. I remember when I first joined the list how Dick encouraged listers to use an informative signature line. I also noted how he always addressed a specific questioner by first

name. He was a model for his generosity and graciousness. We truly will miss his presence.

Stuart Youngblood
Fort Worth, TX
The Girls, #7932
CTVH7932M77L

Sat 8/26/2006 3:54 PM

I very sorry to here this. I never met Dick except in this forum. I wish his family and friends my deepest condolences

Bill Burrows C22
1989 wing #14956

Sat 8/26/2006 4:08 PM

Words cannot express my sadness at this news. Our storehouse of knowledge, the voice of reason and, although I never met him, a great guy will be sorely missed.

The only positive thing is that he will have fair winds for eternity.

R. C. Luiken
Ricochet, 13560, Swing keel
Milford DE

Sat 8/26/2006 4:24 PM

My God Rest Dick King Peacefully.

I am saddened to get the email that Dick King had passed away.

I noticed that he was emailing messages to fellow sailors as late as August 24th. Still helping others with his experience and knowledge.

Fortunately, I have saved thousands of email responses, and hundreds are from Dick King. I will continue to benefit from his help for years to come.

I only knew Dick King from ChipFord.com. He was one of the first to answer a newbie like me with his help.

Thank you to all Catalina 22 Sailors that participate here helping myself and others with their knowledge and experience so that we are able to sail and enjoy.

Thank You Dick King.

Jim Bailey
Sailing Free
1973 Swing Keel #2371
Hesperia, California

Sat 8/26/2006 5:31 PM

Thanks Dick for all the help. You made sailing for us neophytes so much easier. You will be missed.

Jim Holliday
74 swing keel, #3436
Gandalf

Sat 8/26/2006 6:55 PM

Wow, I am so sorry to here about Dick, he was really a great help to everyone. We are all going to miss his input. These tragedies always remind us how short life is.

Chris Hadden
Shimmer
1974 swing keel #3439
Newfane, Vermont

Sat 8/26/2006 9:21 PM

I finally get to my e-mail today and find the news about Mr. King.

I do not have the words to express my sorrow, I am sure we are all feeling about his passing and the family he left behind.

God speed Dick, I hope you are sailing with the angels. I sure wish we could have gone sailing together.

All my best,

Bill Bell
#13784 Phoenix
87sk Port Orange, FL

Sat 8/26/2006 9:33 PM

As a Freemason, I fly the Square and Compass as my personal flag.

I also have flags of the US Armed Forces to honor my guests aboard who have served.

I won't be sailing this weekend, but next weekend I will fly the US Air Force flag at half-mast to honor Dick's memory.

My only contact with him was through his replies to questions from those needing advice. He always seemed to answer not only the question, but also the questions that would pop up half-way through the procedure.

I never imagined that I could miss someone I never met face-to-face so much.

Wes Iames
Cincinnati, OH
1981 Swing Keel
Miss Spent Youth
Sail # 10154
CTYH0154M81G

Sat 8/26/2006 10:41 PM

Chip and all....

Very sad to hear of Dick's passing, just when he was (and we all were) so optimistic he would have a full cardiac recovery...

He will be missed by many people he has no idea will miss him...that is special....

Good job Chip on the flowers, and if that is not enough to push me, nothing is, I have a busy week out of town, but will send what I can to the list coffers.....Thank You, for all you do.

Garrett
Phoenix, AZ
1974 Swinger #3627
"Sting"

Sat 8/26/2006 10:38 PM

Gosh, I'm also shocked and very saddened to hear about Dick!

I was going to report to him today that I finally put my boom vang back on as per his direction, with the cam cleat up by the boom instead of near the base of the mast as per the Catalina owner's manual. Now that I can reach the line and cleat it, I can use it. He'll be immortal on Happy Daze because I'll think of him every time I use it.....in fact he'll be immortal on any number of Catalina 22s for the same reason! The product of his thought will continue to live on to benefit his beloved fellow Catalina 22 sailors.

Bon Voyage on your journey way beyond the horizon Dick King!

Jon Gollieher
"85 12712

Happy Daze
Anderson, IN

Sun 8/27/2006 8:15 AM

A toast to Mr. King! Haven't known him long, but in reading the C-22 Technical Manual that I got w/ my boat, it looks like he wrote most of it!

I'm going to hoist the sails today and head out, in his honor!

Chip Mautz
Alley Cat, #11442
Lake Lanier, GA

Sun 8/27/2006 9:05 AM

Yesterday I went out on Chip Ahoy and hoisted a sail for Dick; for the first time I sailed off my mooring in the congested harbor anchorage where my boat resides and slalomed out. I kept the motor running, just in case, but got out of the harbor under sail without hitting anything!

Instead of flowers, at his family's request, this discussion group will send a donation to the American Diabetes Association in Dick's name. I'll write the check today.

Chip Ford --
Marblehead, Mass.
1974 Swing Keel "Chip Ahoy" #3282

CTY032820374
Chip Ahoy website: www.chipford.com

Sun 8/27/2006 10:30 AM

I did the same thing, hoisted the sails on Calypso and went for a sail on a beautiful, sunny day. The weather was warm, there were small whitecaps on the water, and a fresh breeze was blowing down the lake. It was a great afternoon with gps speeds up to 5.4 knots. I did one other thing in Dick's honour. I took a young chap who, with his new wife, are the wharfingers at our small marina this year. Gary had never been sailing before and I had promised him his first sail. I introduced him to sailing and the C22 and tried to pass along what little I know about both. He proved to be a fast learner and a willing crew. Dick spent a great deal of time imparting his great knowledge of all things nautical and the C22 in particular and although I could never equal his ability and knowledge, I thought he might approve of the rest of us attempting do the same. While I never met Dick and only knew him through this list, I felt sure that he was with us on Stuart Lake yesterday.

Gareth Gammon
Fort St. James, B.C. Canada
1980 Swing keel 9782
Calypso

Sun 8/27/2006 10:30 AM

Fair winds Mr. Dick King. You will be surely missed.

Victor Kuhl
'Penguino'

Sun 8/27/2006 10:49 AM

I worked on my race boat, 9713, on Saturday. It was hard NOT to think of Dick -- so much of what I've done to both my C-22s was based on things that Dick recommended to me.

One of the things that I loved about him was that when we had the big blow up last years with many of the racers, Dick, an avid racer himself, didn't take the harsh talk that passed on this list personally. He saw the merit of both worlds of the C-22 and worked to help both become better sailors and have better boats.

When I first met him, it was like he'd known me for all my life. A great guy who will be sorely missed by the C-22 community.

Lance B. Jones
Catalina 22s
#9713 Breab Thoin!
#9717 Pog Mo Thoin!
Lake Lanier, Georgia

Sun 8/27/2006 11:22 AM

As a newbie, a few thoughts . . .

Dick King embodied the greatest human characteristic of which we should all strive - to give of ourselves. He took time to write countless e-mails, responding to almost every question I posted, and giving of his knowledge simply so that someone he had never met could get more out of life.

This day, I put the finishing touches on my mast, etc. and prepare for my maiden sail (after working on it for 2 1/2 years); and I will do so with Dick King on my mind and remember that if I have the knowledge, I will share it.

Dwayne D. Perser
Indian Rocks Beach, FL
Catalina 22 Swing Keel
Bohemian Rhapsody
CTY 02528 0873

Sun 8/27/2006 11:56 AM

Dear Ricky
I have just joined the Chip Ahoy web site and have learnt so much from Dick - he was a wonderful man and you are fortunate to have had such a Father!
My deepest sympathy!

Dr Dieter Lange
South Africa

Sun 8/27/2006 3:46 PM

So sad, he was one of the good guys. I thought he had it beaten. He has helped me a lot from time to

time since I started. I have a mainsail bolt rope roller guide originally from him, that I bought from Marie and it works great. Think of him every time I raise my main.

Ken Brown
1988 C22 Swing #14764

Mon 8/28/2006 9:28 AM

I am very sorry to hear the news. Like many on the list, I learned much from Dick. It was just two weeks ago that he and I exchanged e-mails offline, and he was as helpful and insightful as usual.

I will never be the sailor that Dick was, and will never know the boat the way he did, but he was always there to lend a hand.

My condolences to the family.

Kent S. Kokko, Ph.D
Surprise #15434

Mon 8/28/2006 9:44 AM

It seemed he was finally getting back on the road to good health. We are all shocked. Rest in Peace, Dick.

bob

--

Bob Keim
S/V The Pursuit, 1976 C22 #6195
Nashville, TN
<http://usawaterways.com/svthepursuit.htm>

Mon 8/28/2006 10:07 AM

I was saddened to hear of Dick's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his family in their time of loss. He will be missed by many and certainly by me personally.

James Pierce
Pau Hana, Cocoa Beach, FL

Mon 8/28/2006 10:39 AM

Dick... I learned so much about my boat and sailing from you.

You were often the first to answer newbie's repeated questions, like myself and many others, throughout the years answering the same questions over and over without getting frustrated. Thank you for your time, patience and, of course, your knowledge and love of our Catalinas.

Now we must remember a few of your pet peeves:

1. Make sure the subject line matches the e-mails... if not change it.
2. Say who you are and let us know something about your boat.
3. Use <http://www.tinyurl.com>
4. Don't call him Mr. King... geesh.

My prayers are with you and your family. I hope someone takes appropriate care of your new baby, Twilight Zone.

You will be missed by many. God bless.

Jim Dennis

Tue 8/29/2006 3:59 AM

Dick King:

An icon, a sailor's sailor, leader, mentor, family man, friend.

To my list mates,

My breath left me as I read Chip's announcement of the death of our great friend Dick King. Tears well up in my eyes for a man I never met face to face. That says something. So many of us never personally met Dick but one only has to read all the posts to know that it didn't matter because even though we never met him we all experienced his guiding presence in our community here.

Please forgive my long-windedness and I understand if you stop reading but I feel an intense need to say something about my friend, our friend.

I have been with this list from its inception. Up times, down times, when everyone was sailing in the good weather and when we were all hibernating through the winter months. It has always been the source of great knowledge and inspiration and always the place to go to learn anything I needed to

know about sailing. In the beginning I was embarrassed to post because I, a newbie, who didn't know the bow from the stern, the keel from the rudder or a rope from a line, was overwhelmed by the likes of Bad Bob, Chip Ford, Dale Mack, The Pirate, Dick King, Bayard, Skip and others. Guys that knew sailing and would probably be annoyed by someone like me trying to pick their brains. But having no idea of where else to go I closed my eyes and sent my first post. Almost immediately I received a post from Dick King who subsequently sent me offline guidance and photos to help me begin to learn my boat. He didn't know who I was. He didn't need to care about me or my situation and he didn't have to offer his hand to lead me through... but he did. Not just for me but for anyone, at any time. I believe that most people on this list would have had similar experiences with Dick. When it came to sailing Dick King was certainly our Guru!

But he was more than that. A year ago he was troubled with his heart ailment. He shared his experience with us and exhorted us to take care of ourselves. I had heard advice like that all my life but something about his words stirred something in me. As a fellow diabetic I had a dialog with him off line where he challenged me to lose weight and get myself together not only for myself but for others and for the things I wanted to do. He knew that I would be sailing mostly single-handed and he told me how hard it would be to handle my boat in the shape I was in and God forbid something happened while sailing would I be able to handle it. So he challenged me to take action. He said he would check on me and "break my chops" if I didn't step up to plate. Initially I thought it was pretty funny

but as time went on I couldn't help thinking about why he would care. Again he didn't know me from Adam.

At that time I had a blood Sugar level of 360, A1/c 17% (most charts only go to 15%). I was wearing a Med Alert bracelet in case I had a stroke. I had chest pains, leg pains, back pains. My pains had pains. Dick was a diabetic so he knew the territory where I was headed. Some of you know that I haven't been very active posting for a while. It is because with my job I don't usually have time to get on the list until the wee hours. One of the things I had to do was get lots of good sleep, which meant I had to limit my time posting. But I always looked for Dick's posts because I always learned something from them.

Today I thank God for the gift of the friendship of Dick King. Here was a man who in the face of his own maladies cared about someone else's. A man who even as his heart was failing him had no problem extending it to help another. He embodied the Gospel passage that exhorts us to "love your neighbor as yourself". Out of the goodness of that heart he inspired and still inspires me. Today I have lost close to 60 lbs. My blood Sugar level at my last doctor visit was in the 115-120 range (normal). My A1/c was a healthy 7%. Cholesterol 125. Fat lipids 75. BP 112 over 68. My American Diabetes Association Educator with tearful eyes told me I just gave myself back 10 – 15 yrs of life. This was in no small part because of Dick King and people like him. Yes, a gift is what he was. And he didn't even know me.

Now just imagine how a man like this affected the other aspects of his life, his family and his

associations. Boy would I like to be a fly on the wall at his wake witnessing all the testimonials.

I thank all my list mates for their outpouring of sympathy, respect and tribute for our fallen brother. It makes me proud to be among you. While I will certainly miss Dick, I choose to not so much mourn his loss as celebrate his life.

To Chip,

As a result of the efforts of yourself and those who helped you establish this list, we as a community were blessed with the opportunity to know and experience Dick King. If ever you wonder about what good it is that you do, please remember that.

Thank you for acting as liaison between us and his family and for acting on our behalf.

If the idea appeals to our members it will be my pleasure to research and design a patch or decal as a tribute to Dick that can be displayed on a sail or sailing jacket etc. What are your thoughts?

Again Thanks.

A prayer for a fallen brother,

Almighty God and Father.

As the soul of our fallen brother sails into your keeping

Provide for him eternal calm seas and fair winds.

Let him live on in our hearts so that we feel his presence with the filling of our sails. We thank you for gifting us with his presence And may his deserving soul rest in the peace of your love.

Amen!

Bob Figueroa

"Ruah" Sail #5155, Islip Terrace, NY

"Ruah... Sailing in the breath of God!"

Tue 8/29/2006 10:08 AM

Truly well said Bob. Dick King was an inspiration. Like many I never met him but I received a tremendous amount of information from him & I know for a fact his advice saved me tons of "boat bucks". I remember him every time I get to go up to the lake. With a new baby that isn't often, but I figure when I am not sailing I can teach him about how to approach life much as Dick King did, with an open and generous heart. He won't be soon forgotten and his family is in our prayers.

-Marshall Johnson

1986 C-22 Swing Keel

#13306 "Santorini Baby"

Lake Lanier, GA

Fri 9/1/2006 10:33 PM

Today I drove to Indian Atlantic to attend and speak for our c22 list at Dick Kings Funeral held at his Lutheran Church. I arrived a few minutes after 3 P.M. meeting his son Ricky who I had never meant before at the door. I was the third of five speakers to speak in Dick's remembrance. Expecting more of the speaker to speak of Dick's military career actually ever one of the speakers spoke of Dick in terms of sailing, even a fellow officer & sailor in the Air Force with Dick.

Dick had wanted and was cremated earlier this week, so there was no viewing. I had expected there to be and had to ask if there was a viewing to find that out. The funeral worked out very nicely and lasted a little over one hour and one half. Lynda his wife was remarkably composed and it was nice to finally meet her. Every time I had been to Dick's home in the past she always stayed in her room reading since that is her favorite pastime as Dick had explained. Ricky, Dick's son had been of the five speakers and it seemed as if a light had been turned on in his life when he said "Dad and I had our differences especially when it came to my higher education, I wanted to be a Physical Therapist. I realize what kind of man my dad was and can only wish I can be just like him in raising my own daughter!"

I was surprised when Glenn grabbed my arm and thanked me for speaking for our c22 discussion group. I thought I was the only one there but not so, Thank you Glenn, you can sail with me any time!

Ricky told me that he would be forwarding all of Dick's files to the c22 Association for archiving and printing in the newsletter at a later date. Dick's c22 files are very extensive and a rich resource not to be lost. I think we should ask all members to forward their files to the c22 Association, a central location to be made available to everyone, what a rich resource.

I have posted what I said to an almost packed house below trying to include my thoughts which

were many but not nearly enough. I am sure our friend is smiling down on all of us!

Bob "Hobie" Davidson - aka, "The Pirate"
"For Sail"
Titusville, FL

In Remembrance of Dick King

Dick was a loving son, always keeping his son status in his initials RTK, Jr., a husband devoted to Lynda until death, a father to Ricky who he raised, taught to sail an officer and a gentleman, a man I called my friend. He served his country, retiring from the United States Air Force but never retiring from his love of sailing! I did not know Dick while he was in service but I can say I am very proud there are men like Dick King, dedicated to serve in our military always ready to protect this wonderful country that our founding fathers dedicated their lives to. The founders left America in men like Dick's strong, loving and caring hands. For that I am ever grateful!

I have known Dick King for close to six years. We happen to purchase the same type sailboat, a Catalina c22; Dick had been racing one for many years. Dick was looking for crew as most of us usually are so I volunteered to be his crew. We raced together on his boat several times, I learned much from him. I liked Dick so much I drove from Altamonte Springs to his home one Saturday to rewire his old Catalina 22. Sailing with Dick was like sailing with a nautical dictionary because he was a wealth of nautical knowledge and had the patience to Job.

Catalina 22 owners country wide were all communicating via e-mail as we are today on a

secure server Catalina owners set up for sharing our knowledge and experiences. Dick was one of the founders of that secure server service. Dick was one of the most knowledgeable C22 sailors in the country and everyone knew if they had a problem they could depend on Dick for a good solid answer. He became known by all of us including Catalina Yachts as a consummate resource we could all depend on when we were in need. Now we are all feeling the huge empty void of his passing. Dick is now gone, leaving his loving wife Lynda, son Ricky and granddaughter he loved so much behind, plus all of the c22 Catalina sailor's that looked forward to his banter and vast reservoir of knowledge.

Did you ever look up at the clouds and recognize an image floating by. The next time you feel a breeze touch your cheek look at the clouds and look for a sailboat. That will be Dick King sailing his eternal race for God. He will be ahead of all of us cradled in our fathers loving hands.

Sun 9/3/2006 9:37 AM

A couple of thoughts on Dick King's memorial service. The service was held in the sanctuary that Dick, as board member helped build There were numerous people who stood up to talk about the influence Dick had on their lives. All were very moving, most mixed in stories of sailing and fatherly advice. However, the most inspirational message came from Dick's son Ricky. Richard King V recounted growing up as Dick's son and the valuable lessons he learned and the marvelous ways in which Dick taught those lessons. Ricky,

who is the spitting image of his father minus a few pounds and with black hair, is obviously a fine young man and a tribute to Dick's memory. He has a beautiful young daughter who was the apple of Dicks eye. It is apparent in listening to Ricky speak that as much time and effort as Dick put into sailing, it paled in comparison to his love and devotion to his family and church.

There were a number of Florida c22 racers present including the region 3 Commodore Don Lasky and the National Rear Commodore Jennifer Brown. The industry was represented by Joe Waters. Over the next few months the Florida contingent will discuss how we can best honor Dick King.

Dick King led a full life that touched many. Air Force officer, successful carrier, loving family man, active in his church, and avid sailor. He will be missed by many.

Dicks memorial service ended fittingly with the playing of taps and presentation of the flag by an Air Force Honor Guard.

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