



Donald "Dyke" Richter Class of 2010

Donald Henry "Dyke" Richter was a 1945 graduate of Oroville High School (OHS) who after serving his country in the US Navy, became a very successful entrepreneur and an excellent citizen of the Oroville community. As a student athlete at OHS, he lettered in football, baseball, and basketball. Following graduation, he enlisted in the Navy Seabees, serving in the Philippines and China. After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the Navy in 1946, he returned to Oroville and began his business career in Paradise where he, his brother, Ken, and another partner owned and operated the Paradise Pine Mills until 1950. In that year, he and Ken formed the K & D R Company, which did logging and construction. The brothers also built and operated the State Box Lumber Mill. They bought and developed land around Oroville, which included the Richter Tract south of Oro-Dam Boulevard and the rock pile properties along Feather River Boulevard. The partnership and two other businessmen built and operated Prospector's Village in 1956. Dyke was a high energy community leader who donated time, money, and hard work to many community projects. He used his ability to operate all types of heavy equipment to perform countless volunteer projects in the area, especially during fires and floods.

Dyke attended Oroville High School from 1940 to 1945. He was a star athlete who lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He was a member of the Block O Society all four years. His football and basketball teams won championships in his junior year. He was selected to be the captain of the football, basketball, and baseball teams in his senior year. In addition to sports, he participated in Associated Student Body (ASB) activities. He was elected class president during his sophomore and junior years. He was also elected Block O president in his senior year. Coach Hugh Harrison recommended Dyke to Saint Mary's University for a scholarship, but he left before graduation at the end of his senior year to enlist in the US Navy during World War II. He received his high school diploma on June 8, 1945.

Dyke enlisted in the Navy on May 23, 1945, and served until August 7, 1946. His highest rank was Storekeeper D Third Class, and he served with the Seabees in the 88th and 96th Naval Construction Battalions. His awards include the Asiatic Pacific, American Area, Victory, and Philippine Liberation Medals.

Dyke became an entrepreneur whose career skills included heavy equipment operator, machinist, millwright, mechanic and bookkeeper. He was a charter member of the Oroville Industrial Commission (OIDCO) which later became the Oroville Economic Development Commission (OEDCO). The Oroville City Council conferred on Dyke the Samuel J. Norris Lifetime Achievement Award for "contributing significant lifetime achievements toward improving the quality of life in the City of Oroville."