

## RICHARD W. DOSS (1933 - )

Richard W. Doss was born in San Diego in 1933. At the age of 12, Richard (sometimes known as "Dick"), began taking tennis lessons at Morley Field from legendary coach, Wilbur Folsom. Being an excellent athlete, Richard soon began dominating his peers. In 1950, Richard won the prestigious Harper Ink Tournament. That win proved to be a turning point in young Richard's tennis career. It was then that Harper Ink, himself, decided to aid in the development of Richard's tennis potential by sponsoring tennis lessons with renowned La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club pro, Lester Stoefer.

Harper Ink's belief in Richard's abilities were realized when Richard won the National Junior Public Parks Championship in 1951. UCLA's tennis coach, J.D. Morgan, knew a good thing when he saw it and invited Richard to attend UCLA and play for the Bruins. Richard accepted and proceeded to lead the Bruins to three Intercollegiate (NCAA) team championships. In his senior year, Richard played No. 1 singles and was chosen as co-captain.

Upon graduation from UCLA, Richard served in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned as Operations/Communications Officer aboard the U.S.S. La Moure County (a Tank Landing Ship) based in Coronado, California.

After two years of active duty in the Navy, Richard followed his calling and enrolled at the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. During his studies, Richard was the Assistant Tennis Pro at the Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena. Richard completed his ministerial training at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, there he received his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Richard then took his first ministerial position in Boston and used that time to earn his Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Religion at Boston University in 1968.

With his advanced degrees and extensive training, Dr. Doss has not only taught at such institutions as Boston University, the American Baptist Seminary of the West, the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and finally, Orange Coast College; Richard has authored two books: "The Last Enemy: A Theological Interpretation of Death," and "The Business of Ethics."

At Orange Coast College, Richard reconnected with his tennis roots. And, he picked up where he left off -- winning. He and Bob Perry, a UCLA teammate, won two National 45 Hard Court titles in La Jolla. Richard also won national doubles titles with Jim Perley of Coronado and John Powless of Madison, Wisconsin. Those were mere appetizers. In 2004, Richard won a "gold slam" by winning all four national championships (with three different partners). Richard has been a member of four World Team Championships and has won three World Doubles Championships. Additionally, Richard and his wife, Kathy Bennett Doss, have won 10 national championships in the 120 and 140 Husband/Wife divisions, including two "gold slams."

Richard just keeps going. Although slowed by two bad knees in his seventies, did that stop him? Not Richard. In 2006, he became "bionic" with two knee replacement surgeries. Then, in 2014, he won yet another "gold slam" in the Men's 80's doubles. In total, Richard has won a remarkable 41 National Senior Doubles Championships. Even after open heart surgery in 2016, Richard is still going for the gold (balls).

With their outstanding records, both Richard and Kathy have been inducted into the Southern California Senior Hall of Fame. They make their home in Laguna Woods, California.