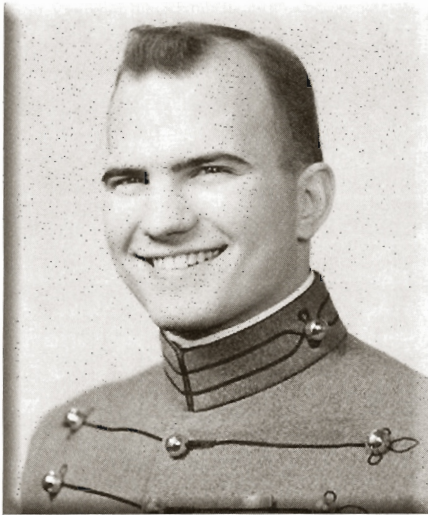


## Richard W. Seward '57

No. 21646 ■ 10 May 1934 – 16 Feb 2004 ■ Died in Gaithersburg, MD  
Cremated. Inurned in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA



*Richard Walter "Dick" Seward* was born at West Point, NY, thus it appeared that he was destined to attend the Academy. His father was a grad (John R. Seward, '29) and a career Army officer. As a child, Dick lived in Panama, New Mexico, and Hawaii. He also spent time with his grandparents in Pennsylvania while his father was deployed during World War II.

After spending a year at Penn State, he entered West Point in June of 1953 as a member of the Class of 1957. When asked about his years at West Point, he often replied, "It puts hair on your chest!" However, it seemed that for some, including Dick, it also can take hair away from your head! Sam Morthland provided the following nostalgic vignette about being his roommate: "Dick and I roomed together Yearling year in the only two-man room available to our class in the 54/55 Divisions. This was a somewhat 'forced marriage' by either our Tactical Officer or the company commander. They had three tasks for me: help Dick with the core academics; exercise some control over his real interest, his Glenn Miller record collection; buy his hair tonic! Also, since we both smoked, no one else had to put up with us in their rooms. It was a fun year, and it worked because Dick rose out of the very dregs of class standing,

his record collection stayed frozen in size, and some hair really seemed to reappear."

Upon graduating ("by the skin of my teeth"), he was stationed in Germany and then Ft. Sill, OK. While at Ft. Sill, he met and married the widow of another West Point grad (Williams '56) and became the step-father of Julie and Alex Williams. Dick then resigned his commission in 1962, had a son (Richard, Jr. born in 1962), packed up the family, and headed back east, settling in the DC area, near the rest of his family. In 1963, he began his long career at the National Bureau of Standards (now known as National Institute of Standards and Technology). Another son, Russell, was born in 1963, followed by a daughter Mary in 1964. After divorcing in 1967, he became the dedicated single parent for Richard, Russell and Mary, something unheard of for a man in that time.

During his career with the Bureau of Standards, his service was recognized when he received one of its highest employee awards. He retired from federal government service in 1989 and settled into his life as a "recluse" in his Gaithersburg, MD, home. He probably would have continued in that mode if not for son Richard's chance encounter outside a local post office one day with classmate Nick Monaco, when he noticed Nick's personalized car tags of "USMA 57". Thus, began Dick's close friendship with Nick and his subsequent immersion into Class functions in the Washington, DC, area. Dick even began venturing outside the Gaithersburg city limits, with the proviso that Nick serve as navigator. Dick's involvement in the Class became one of his life's greatest pleasures. He enjoyed working with the DC area Social Committee, particularly with Nick Monaco

and Rod McConnell (who had dubbed them "The Three Musketeers"), organizing Class luncheons, parties, special events like the 40th and 50th Doolie Day celebrations, and working on the 40th Reunion Committee.

As members of the Class know, there were no official Class flags designed for and presented to the Classes of our era. Dick, on his own initiative, set out to correct this deficiency for Black '57, and he took immense satisfaction in contributing to the Class the "unofficial" Class flag. This flag was solely the product of his creativity and personal fabrication. His Black '57 flag, to this day, is our only Class flag and has proudly flown at many Class events; parties, Reunions, Doolie Day celebrations and was borne at the head of the '57 contingent participating in the Class of 2007 Plebe Marchback as they marched onto post in August 2003. The Class flag, which for Dick was a labor of love, is a poignant reminder and legacy of a man who loved his family, his friends, his '57 Classmates, and the United States Military Academy.

Dick joined the ghostly assemblage of the Long Gray Line on 16 Feb 2004 after a lengthy and valiant battle with cancer. He is deeply missed by his family and by all those he befriended.

—By daughter *Mary Seward Bolen*,  
assisted by classmates  
*Nick Monaco and Sam Morthland*



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