



## Daniel "Dan" Maltby Rugg III

December 30, 1945 - February 6, 2026

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Daniel Rugg, husband, father, grandfather, brother, Naval officer, and lifelong competitive sailor, died on February 6, 2026, at his home in Centreville, Maryland, after battling cancer for several years. He was 80.

An adventurous soul with a lifelong love for the sea, Dan was loyal, dapper, smart, polished and punctual, with a wry sense of humor. Always fascinated by time, clocks, and precise dates, Dan would appreciate the noteworthy 02/06/2026 date of his passing.

He was born in New York City on December 30, 1945, to Daniel M. Rugg Jr. and Carol Van Zandt Rugg. Dan was the older brother to his siblings Peter and Elizabeth.

A well-rounded athlete, Dan was a quarterback, a pitcher, and a hockey player as he attended Buckley County Day School on Long Island, then The Choate School in Wallingford, CT.

After graduation, he enlisted in the US Navy and was then accepted to the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in Bainbridge, MD.

He graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, in 1970, commissioned as Ensign. He was the first two-time All-American sailor on the USNA sailing team, awarded the honors for both the 1969 and 1970 seasons.

Dan married his high school sweetheart, Hallie Pennington Rogers, on June 27, 1970, at St. James Church in Manhattan, following his commissioning from the USNA. They embarked on a ten-year trek of moves across the country in service of Dan's military career. In 1972, their daughter Frazier was born, followed by her brother Whitney in 1974.

Meanwhile, Dan's Naval duty sent him to the Gulf of Tonkin in the Vietnam theater, where he served on the Destroyer USS Higbee (DD-806), as a Weapons Officer. On April 19, 1972, Higbee was the only US warship bombed by a North Vietnamese MIG during the war. Dan was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for Valor. In 1974, Dan and Hallie moved their family from San Diego, CA to Halifax, Nova Scotia for two years while Dan served in the Canadian Navy via the Canadian Naval Exchange. He was on active duty in the Navy until July of 1979, and remained in the reserves for 20+ years, retiring at the rank of Captain.

Dan and Hallie moved to Clearwater, FL, in 1979, for yet another adventure. As Vice President of Hood Sailmakers, Dan was a salesman, sailmaker, and professional sailor. He later became President and owner of the franchise. In 1985, Dan co-founded the St. Petersburg Grand Prix with Hallie and her father Bud Rogers, bringing motorsports racing to the streets of St. Petersburg for the first time.

With more knowledge to share in service, Dan returned to Annapolis in 1989, as the Sailing Master of USNA's Command & Seamanship Training Squadron (CSTS). He trained two generations of Midshipmen to be proficient on the ocean. Dan was an expert instructor of seamanship, navigation, leadership,

and teamwork for over 20 years. In his spare time, Dan was a coach/consultant/trainer and delivery captain along the Eastern Seaboard, finally coming ashore in 2019.

A devout Episcopalian, Dan was active with Hallie at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Centreville. He was a Master of Acolytes and a dedicated servant of the vestry.

Despite his life of accomplishments, Dan remained a combination of proud and humble. His greatest achievement was his family. Known as GranDan to his grandchildren, he loved spending time with them and proudly shared their recent accomplishments with his friends.

Dan was a human version of LinkedIn. He never forgot a name and went out of his way to mentor people and make connections. Dan nurtured and treasured his many friendships and remained very involved with his class at Choate and USNA as an alumnus. In his last days, he was visited by friends going back 60+ years.

Dan is survived by his children: daughter Frazier and her husband Kevin Walker, of North East, MD, son Whitney and his wife Kelli, of Middletown, RI; his grandchildren: Taylor Cantor, Ellis Walker, Campbell Walker, Morgan Rugg, and Alden Rugg; his siblings: brother Peter Rugg and his wife Meredith, of Newport, RI, sister Betsy and her husband Bruce Whitmore, of Holderness, NH; his aunt Sally Lorson, of Westfield, MA; and many dear relatives and friends.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Hallie in 2024, and several beloved relatives and friends.

Arrangements are under the care of Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 408 South Liberty Street, Centreville, MD 21617, (410) 758-1151.

Funeral services will be held Monday, April 13, 2026, at 1030, at the US Naval Academy Chapel, 101 Cooper Road, Annapolis, MD 21402, with inurnment to follow at the columbarium. Celebrants are welcome to join us for a luncheon at the Officers' Club from 1200-1500.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dan's memory to: The Naval Academy Sailing Foundation, 501c.3 <https://www.navalacademysailingfoundation.org/donate>.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you wish to attend the service at the Naval academy, please email your name and phone number to: [creibold@fhfuneralhome.com](mailto:creibold@fhfuneralhome.com) no later than Wednesday March 25th. A specific document is required for attendance.

# Tribute Wall

PZ

“ I met Dan when I was in the navy, assigned at the Navel Academy Sailing Center 1969. We became friends' sailing and learning that Dan's father and my grandfather and uncle served together in WW2 what was known as the Hooligans navy. We crossed wakes many times in our lives. Dan always was warm, welcoming and made a sincere impression on me. I send my prayers and condolences to Rugg family.  
Peter Zendt

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**PETER ZENDT** - May 01 at 11:27 PM

MC

“ Back in 2007 when I built my new house, Dan gave me a "volunteer" Cherry tree from one that grew in his yard next to his house in Centreville, MD. It has grown to over twenty five feet tall and is in full bloom this week. We think of him every spring bloom.  
"Cheers" Dan

Michael Collinson



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**Michael Collinson** - April 08 at 06:17 AM

WR

Michael- thank you for sharing. That sounds just like my dad to me. We celebrated his life last week and the cherry trees were in full bloom at the USNA. Kind regards, Whit Rugg

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**Whit Rugg** - April 21 at 05:45 AM

SH

“ My deepest condolences to Dan's family. Dan was my sailing mentor for 3 years from the time I arrived at USNA as an active duty instructor in 1995 and volunteered with CSTS. He was specific and demanding with EVERY process and procedure aboard the 44' STC and I've always felt that I learned from the best. He imparted lifelong knowledge and skills. I'll always remember returning with him from an afternoon of training on the water when he saw some friends on another boat heading out. We pulled alongside as he declared to me "You've got it", and leapt onto the other boat for more sailing. I had the pleasure of working with him again at the Robert Crown Center from 2005-2009 where he remained the humble and highly respected voice of experience and reason.  
-- Steve Hertel

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**Steve Hertel** - April 07 at 01:08 PM

WR

Steve- that memory made me smile. Dad had such a passion for teaching and sharing the sea with his Mids, Officers and volunteers. He was always happiest and in his natural habitat aboard a boat. Thank you for sharing and I hope you continue to enjoy sailing. Warm regards, Whit

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**Whit Rugg** - April 21 at 05:49 AM

DL

“ Thinking of you -- sorry to read about Dan. We so much from him in CSNTS/OSTS in the mid-aughts. Practical sailing skills, but more importantly, leadership. We credit this training for our ability to live on and sail our own boat for 20 years, and to land an enviable gig on a Spanish tall ship touring both sides of the northern Atlantic. --  
Dan and Jaye Lunsford

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**Dan and Jaye Lunsford** - March 20 at 12:55 PM

WR

*Dan and Jaye- thank you for sharing your memories of dad. It has been comforting to our family to learn more about the lasting impact he had on people's lives in large part to the things he loved most. Sailing and teaching people about safely making ocean passages. I am glad to hear that you have both been using your knowledge and i am sure sharing the lessons with others in the community. Kind regards, Whit Rugg*

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**Whit Rugg** - March 24 at 02:31 PM

JR

“*My wife and I sailed with USNA CSTS with Dan in the 80's and 90's. He was an outstanding instructor and a good man. He trained us so well, that we spent 5 years sailing 1/2/ way around the world with our 5 kids - Maryland to Malaysia. Our last stop in Annapolis before we left, we ate lunch with Dan and Ralph Narajo and picked up some great advice which we put to good use. RIP Dan, thank you for your selfless service to our country and for the knowledge that kept our family safe around the world. God Bless, Joe (USMC) and Beth (USN) Rooney and our gang on Leprechaun.*



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**JOSEPH J ROONEY** - March 11 at 05:18 PM

WR

Joseph-

*thank you for the memories and kind words for my father. He loved sharing his experience with others and giving them the tools to safely make ocean passages. It sounds like you and your family took full advantage of this and had amazing adventures making memories under sail.*

*Kind regards,*

*Whit*

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**Whitney Rugg** - March 17 at 10:37 AM

VJ

“ *During the late eighties I had the pleasure of sailing with Dan on my fathers Frers 48 in SORC. Dan was always and a great teacher to me and many of the "boys" onboard. Afterwards our paths crossed at regattas here and there and at one in Annapolis I had the pleasure of meeting Whit and discussing our common appreciation of his father. My condolences to the entire Rugg family, Victor "Buddy" Cribb*

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**Victor "Buddy" Cribb Jr** - February 16 at 11:29 AM

WR

*Buddy- thank you for the kind words, he shared fond memories of his time sailing with your family during the heyday of the SORC. Kind regards, Whit*

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**Whit Rugg** - February 18 at 11:03 PM

MP

*Very sad to hear of Dan's passing. I always looked forward to seeing Dan at the seemingly numerous regattas we once both relished. Mike Perry*

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**Mike Perry** - February 26 at 02:06 AM

KH

“ Dan was my Department Head on the USS Tuscaloosa LST 1187 in 1973. It was my privilege to serve as a Division Officer working with him. I respected him as the consummate Navy Officer and a wonderful human being. It was my privilege to be with Dan when he scattered his Dad’s ashes at sea. The last time I saw Dan was at a Tuscaloosa Officer reunion in 2009. He will be missed. RIP

Kirk Hammond - February 15 at 11:47 PM

WR

Kirk- thank you for the memories of dad. He loved his time aboard the Tuscaloosa and spoke fondly of his shipmates. Kind regards, Whit Rugg

Whit Rugg - February 16 at 08:41 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Daniel "Dan" Maltby Rugg III.



February 13 at 10:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel "Dan" Maltby Rugg III.

February 13 at 10:27 AM

RG

“ Dan was the captain of the USNA varsity sailing team when I coached there. A good friend and a great loss.  
God bless to Frazier and Whitney.  
Rick Grajirena

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**Rick Grajirena** - February 12 at 08:47 PM

WR

Rick- thank you for your kind words. I have fond memories of our times together in Clearwater. Kindly, Whit

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**Whit Rugg** - February 13 at 08:12 PM

LP

“ Sincere condolences to the Rugg Family.



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**Lisa Plummer** - February 10 at 07:21 PM

GN

I was fortunate to call Dan "shipmate" as we served on USS Tuscaloosa (LST-1187) homeported out of San Diego. Dan was the OPS boss and I was Chief Engineer. The Tuscaloosa wardroom was perhaps the most talented group of officers with whom I had the privilege to serve, and Dan was a true leader among them. He always presented that calm, professional demeanor that made things work, and his seamanship, of course, was impeccable. My condolences to the Rugg family. Fair winds. Gary Nelson, Captain, USN (Ret)

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**Gary Nelson** - February 26 at 08:38 AM

WR

Gary- thank you for the kind words and memories about my father. He spoke fondly of his time aboard the Tuscaloosa and we appreciate and thank you for your service. I hope this finds you well and enjoying your well earned retirement. Kind regards, Whit

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**Whitney Rugg** - March 06 at 06:30 AM

L&

*My condolences to the family. I fondly remember crossing paths with Dan periodically at the Academy. We both went to NAPS and USNA. And as circumstances would have it, we were both at the Action off Dong Hoi, 19 April 1972. He on HIGBEE; I on STERETT (I was 1ST LT). We both survived that day and Dan had more sailing, teaching, mentoring and Captaining in his future. For that, we are all in a better place. God Bless you all, Leon Zielinski, USNA, '70*

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**Leon Zielinski, USNA, '70** - March 08 at 12:21 AM

DK

*Dan and I spent many hours on the water together when I was a civilian instructor at CSNTS. He was a great sailor, a great teacher, and a good friend. He will be missed by all who knew him. Deepest condolences to Frazer and Whit.*

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**David Kantor** - March 11 at 04:37 PM

MM

*I raced intercollegiate dinghies with Dan at Annapolis in '68-'70. He was the best among us and it was always a good day if you beat Dan in our daily practices. He and Doby Joslin were our leaders. He was a wonderful guy.*

*Marty McGee, USNA '72*

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**Marty McGee** - March 28 at 01:56 AM