**Richard “Dick” Chilcoat (1938-2010)**



Dan,  Chill passed away at 10:32 tonight (16th).  The hard fought battle is over.  Mike, Ashley, and I were with him when he took his last breath.  Knew it was coming but didn't expect it to happen that quickly.  When I know more about services, etc. I'll let you know.  Thanks for all your good wishes and prayers.  Hugs to you and Cynthia, Dixie

He has fought a long, hard fight and has surprised all the doctors and nurses with his optimism, good spirits, warrior-like mentality, and humor.  Never once have I heard him complain -- even after being wheelchair bound since early July and bedridden since mid-December.

There will be a memorial service here in College Station but a service and burial will be at Arlington.  He told me he wanted a classmate to lead the service.   Wish I had better news.  I'll be in touch.  Thanks.  Dixie"

Mel Case, who recently visited Dick, reports that Mike and Sharon are with them in Texas and that they are trying to stay strong. He reports that both President Bush 41 and General Powell have called him.

Please keep Dixie and Dick and their family in your prayers over these next days and think back to the Dick Chilcoat of old. Remember his leadership on those great basketball teams. His mature leadership and support of us of us as Cadets. And of course his great Army career. A recent thought that comes to mind was his "cool it" letter sent to the Supe after the 40th Reunion Drill Team demonstration. His last comments to me in January were about maintaining the solidarity and camaraderie of our Class. May we do this in his memory.

May I echo Ron Rezek's comments of last night:

"Dick Chilcoat is one great guy that did so much for all of us as Cadets and well beyond. He was, is, and always will be CHILCOAT OF ARMY; a great man and leader of men."

The man who led the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M for years passed away Tuesday.

Retired Army Lieutenant General Dick Chilcoat had been battling cancer. He stepped aside as the dean of the Bush School in December 2008 after seven-and-a-half years in that position. He succeeded Robert Gates, former Texas A&M president and current secretary of defense, in the job. Chilcoat was the first permanent dean of the school.

Dean Ryan Crocker who now heads the George Bush School of Government & Public Service says, "Dick Chilcoat embodied public service. Hugely distinguished career as a military officer and then he came here to really establish this school. There were 47 students when Dick Chilcoat walked into the Bush School in 2001, there are now over 200, so this school very much stands as his legacy."

Crocker also told News 3 that Dick Chilcoat was a fighter and as he fought in uniform, he fought cancer until he was no longer able to draw breath.

LTG Chilcoat retained the title of executive professor following his tenure as dean.

“Dick Chilcoat exemplified public service at its finest," former President George H.W. Bush said Wednesday in a statement. "He was a great military officer, a great soldier. Further, he was a respected academician, serving admirably as dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. He won the respect of all who knew him. On a personal note, Dick’s enthusiasm knew no bounds. We will sorely miss him and send our most sincere condolences and thoughts to his loving wife Dixie.”

A West Point graduate, Chilcoat went on to a distinguished military career. According to his biography on the Bush School website, he served in Vietnam, and was General Colin Powell's executive assistant during the First Gulf War. Also included in his 42 years of service: serving as the commandant of the Army War College and the president of the National Defense University.

"Dean Chilcoat's service at the Bush School mirrored his distinguished military career," current Dean Ryan Crocker said in a statement released by Texas A&M. "The Bush School made remarkable advances during his tenure. It was a time of great expansion and growth, and Dean Chilcoat played a significant role in advancing our academic programs, including dual-degree programs in political science and economics; launching innovative certificate programs in international affairs and public service and administration; and strongly supporting the expansion of our research capabilities."

"It was largely due to Dick's leadership that the Bush School was able to quickly become highly regarded and nationally ranked in a relatively short period," added Executive Associate Dean Sam Kirkpatrick. "His commitment to academic excellence strengthened our ability to develop and sustain high quality programs, recruit distinguished faculty and excellent students, and attract the private and public resources needed to sustain our dynamic growth."

LTG Chilcoat also earned an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Funeral arrangements are pending. His family says he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial donations can be directed to Hospice Brazos Valley or to the Dean Dick Chilcoat Endowed Fellowship, which is through the Texas A&M Foundation. Make checks payable to "The George Bush School" while noting the donation is in memory of Dick Chilcoat.

Scholarship donations can be addressed to:

Director of Development  
The Bush School of Government and Public Service  
Texas A&M University  
4220 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-4220

**Latest Comments**

Posted by: Personal Friend Location: Atlanta, GA *on Mar 17, 2010 at 09:09 PM*

Dick Chilcoat exemplified all that was extraordinary as a Man, a Leader and a human being. It is with heartfelt gratitude to acknowledge what an incredible privilege it was to have known him. My personal condolences go out to those at the Bush School--his staff--who surrounded him and supported him with respect and a commitment for excellence. To his family for their personal loss. To those of us who knew him well and will miss his presence so greatly. And to our Country---who has just experienced an incredible loss at a time when his presence is so greatly needed. Dick--it was and always will be the most honorable privilege to have experienced time with you. You will always be in our hearts and memories. Your generosity and wonderful humor will resonate with our family always.

Posted by: Bush School Member *on Mar 17, 2010 at 03:35 PM*

A SAD DAY. DEAN CHILCOAT WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL LEADER WITH GREAT DEDICATION TO THE SCHOOL AND TAMU. HE WILL BE MISSED. OUR CONDOLENCES TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY.

Dick Chilcoat exemplified public service at its finest. He was a great military officer, a great soldier. Further, he was a respected academician, serving admirably as dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. He won the respect of all who knew him. On a personal note, Dick's enthusiasm knew no bounds. We will sorely miss him and send our most sincere condolences and thoughts to his loving wife Dixie."  
  
— George Bush,   
41st President of the United States

In Memory of Richard A. (Dick) Chilcoat

Former dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service and holder of the Edward and Howard Kruse Endowed Chair, Richard A. (Dick) Chilcoat, LTG, U.S. Army (Ret.) died Tuesday, March 16, 2010, in College Station, Texas.

Chilcoat was appointed the School's first permanent dean in July 2001. After stepping down as dean in 2008, Chilcoat held the position of executive professor.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Chilcoat later earned an MBA from Harvard University. During his 42 years of military service, he served in combat in Vietnam; had staff and command tours of duty in the infantry, aviation, operations, and policy and strategy; and served as executive assistant to General Colin Powell during the First Gulf War. Chilcoat also directed and facilitated the Army Strategic Leadership Course for army general officers, served as the 43rd commandant of the United States Army War College and was appointed as the 9th president of the National Defense University by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Dean Chilcoat's service at the Bush School mirrored his distinguished military career," said current Dean Ryan Crocker. "The Bush School made remarkable advances during his tenure. It was a time of great expansion and growth, and Dean Chilcoat played a significant role in advancing our academic programs, including dual degree programs in political science and economics; launching innovative certificate programs in international affairs and public service and administration; and strongly supporting the expansion of our research capabilities," he added.

Executive Associate Dean Sam Kirkpatrick cited Chilcoat's leadership and his outstanding interpersonal skills as enabling the School's success. "It was largely due to Dick's leadership that the Bush School was able to quickly become highly regarded and nationally ranked in a relatively short period. His commitment to academic excellence strengthened our ability to develop and sustain high quality programs, recruit distinguished faculty and excellent students, and attract the private and public resources needed to sustain our dynamic growth," Kirkpatrick concluded.

**Richard Allen "Dick" Chilcoat (1938-2010)**

Richard Allen Chilcoat  
September 16, 1938 – March 16, 2010  
Richard "Dick" Allen Chilcoat, 71, passed away on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at his residence in College Station. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, at Christ United Methodist Church in College Station. A burial service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.  
  
Dick was born on September 16, 1938, in Wilmerding, Pa., to Floyd D. and Edna B. (Moles) Chilcoat. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree. At West Point, Dick was Cadet First Captain and Brigade Commander of the Corps of Cadets. He received his MBA from Harvard University in 1974. He also attended the Command & General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as well as the National War College in Washington, D.C. He was an honorary graduate of the U.S. Army War College.   
  
He served as a member of the Board of Advisors at the Naval Postgraduate School; was a Class Trustee of the Association of Graduates at the U.S. Military Academy; was a member of the Board of Directors for the National Defense University Foundation; and more recently he served on the Board of Directors at CIA University.   
  
On September 1, 2000, Dick retired from the U.S. Army after more than 42 years of active military service. During his transition to civilian life, he provided professional consulting services to business and academic enterprises about education, technology, executive training, and leadership. On July 1, 2001, he was named Dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.   
  
He was a frequent lecturer on the subject of professional military education, strategic leadership, visioning, transformation, and change management. From January 2001 to February 2002, he directed and facilitated the Army Strategic Leadership Course for Army general officers. During his military service, he served in a variety of leadership positions including President of the National Defense University; Commandant of the Army War College; Deputy Commanding General at Fort Jackson; Chief of Staff for the 3rd Infantry Division for the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army; Executive Assistant to General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Deputy Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, U.S. Army; and Senior Speechwriter to the Army Chief of Staff, General John A. Wickham Jr. At the U.S. Military Academy, he served as Assistant to the Academy Dean, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, and was a member of the Academy Athletic Board.  
  
Among his service awards were the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.   
  
He was preceded in death by his father and infant daughter, Lynn Ann.   
  
Survivors include his loving wife of more than 40 years, Dixie (Lowers) Chilcoat; daughter, Sharon Ashley Chilcoat; son, Michael Allen Chilcoat; mother, Edna B. Ratliff; sister, Joanne B. Hess; and several nieces and nephews.   
  
The family wishes to thank our friends in Bryan and College Station for their caring support, the Bush School and associated entities, the doctors and nurses at MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Cancer Center in Bryan, and Hospice Brazos Valley for their love and support during Dick's battle with prostate and bladder cancer.   
  
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to Hospice Brazos Valley, 502 W. 26th St., Bryan, TX 77803, or the Dean Dick Chilcoat Endowed Fellowship (payable to the George Bush School, with a note in the memo line that the memorial is made "In memory of Dick Chilcoat"). Memorials may be sent to Director of Development, the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, 4220 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4220.



Richard A. (Dick) Chilcoat

Executive Professor

[rchilcoat@bushschool.tamu.edu](mailto:rchilcoat@bushschool.tamu.edu) | (979) 862-8828 | Allen Rm. 2135

Richard A. (Dick) Chilcoat, LTG, U.S. Army (Ret.) served as dean of the Bush School from July 2001 — December 2008. Chilcoat is currently executive professor and the holder of the Edward and Howard Kruse Endowed Chair. His undergraduate degree is from the United States Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY; and he received his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Chilcoat has directed and facilitated the Army Strategic Leadership Course for army general officers, served as the 43rd commandant of the United States Army War College and was appointed as the 9th president of the National Defense University by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, concluding 42 years of service in 2000. His military service included combat tours in Vietnam; staff and command tours of duty in the infantry, aviation, operations, and policy and strategy; and serving as executive assistant to General Colin Powell during the First Gulf War. Throughout his military career, he served as an educator and trainer, including assistant to the dean of the USMA Academic Board, assistant professor of social sciences, and member of the USMA Athletic Board. During his cadet career he was first captain and brigade commander of the Corps of Cadets, president of the Class of 1964, and captain of the varsity basketball team. Prior to his arrival at the School, he provided professional consulting services to business and academic enterprises about education and training, executive professional development, and leadership. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Visitors of the CIA University and as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Defense University Foundation.



**Former Bush School Dean Dies**

By Brandi Tevebaugh

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**Published:**Sunday, March 21, 2010

**Updated:**Sunday, March 21, 2010



Former Bush School Dean Richard Chilcoat died Tuesday, in College Station after battling cancer for more than two years. Chilcoat was born Sept. 16, 1938 and died at 72.

Chilcoat was appointed the Bush School’s first permanent dean in July 2001 and resigned in 2008. During his time in the position of dean, Chilcoat made advances in the school.

“He was the full-time dean of the Bush School, so for a period of about six years, he was responsible for all of our growth and development,” said Sam Kirkpatrick, executive associate dean. “During that period, we grew from about 40 students to 200 full-time students. We added one new degree program in international affairs, several certificate programs and hired Chilcoat was the Edward and Howard Kruse Endowed Chair. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and earned an MBA at Harvard.

Chilcoat served in combat in Vietnam and as executive assistant to Gen. Colin Powell in the Gulf War. He directed the Army Strategic Leadership Course, served as the 43rd commandant of the United States Army War College and was appointed as the ninth president of the National Defense University by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

Former President George Bush issued a statement after Chilcoat’s death: “Dick Chilcoat exemplified public service at its finest. He was a great military officer, a great soldier.

Further, he was a respected academician, serving admirably as dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. He won the respect of all who knew him. On a personal note, Dick’s enthusiasm knew no bounds. We will sorely miss him and send our most sincere condolences and thoughts to his loving wife Dixie.”

Chilcoat will be remembered for his achievements and for his optimism and leadership.  
“He was a great leader, commanded great respect from the faculty, staff and students,” Kirkpatrick said. “He was loved and was an eternal optimist, saw the best in people but also was very optimistic to the end that he could beat this cancer. It was a great personal strength of his. I think most people know him to be a great optimist.”