

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club  
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the  
Bell County Communications Center, 708 West Avenue O, in Belton**



## Terry's Telegram...

*Terry Evans, KF5OHR*

Right off the top, I want to extend a very warm welcome to Jim Lotspeich - N5FKW, who joined the club at our November 6th meeting. Jim not only brings a wealth of amateur radio experience, but also vast experience in the commercial broadcast industry. It's great to have you aboard Jim, thanks for joining us!

During this season in which I write, there is a pervasive odor of artificial nutmeg and Figgie pudding in the air. For all of us who have been putting our fingers into the dike trying, not very successfully, in recent weeks to hold back the flood of Christmas, it's time to surrender and get out of the way. No more excuses, no more saying it's too early. Thanksgiving has passed and Halloween is long gone.

Many people are in full shopping mode that began in earnest as soon as the Thanksgiving dinner plates had been washed and put away. It's finally time to get into the spirit. It's like Starbucks saying, 'We're not going to serve anything but peppermint lattes for the next six weeks.

One good measure of the season is Christmas music. Some radio stations begin switching formats to wall-to-wall eggnog-and-mistletoe just a few days after Halloween. Nearly two-thirds of the stations that switch have done so by the day before Thanksgiving. The all-holiday format has remained one of radio's most enduring and profitable gimmicks, with hundreds of stations luring listeners with endless loops of "Feliz Navidad" and "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." Christmas music is comfort-zone radio. It rekindles my faith in the power of radio.

And lastly as a final reminder, we will not have a regular meeting this month. Instead we'll be getting together for a club luncheon on Saturday, December 8th, at Noon, at Clem Mikeska's Bar-B-Q in Temple.

Until then, Merry Figgie Pudding to All and to All a Joyous Razzle Berry Dressing!

73, Terry - KF5OHR





## The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club



**Holiday Luncheon at Clem Mikeska's Bar-B-Q**



**1217 South 57th Street, in Temple**



*...This dinner get-together to be held in lieu of our regular December meeting...*

***Saturday, December 8th at 12:00 Noon***

***Their Website and Menu can be found at:***

**<http://clembbq.com/menu-temple/>**

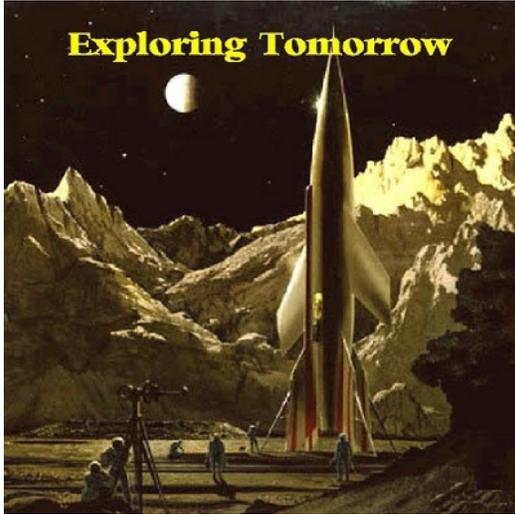
**Map:**

**[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Clem+Mikeska's+Bar-B-Q/@31.0930952,-97.3759582,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x29261500daa186c5?sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8ytyA893cAhVO-6wKHeDEC1QO\\_BIwCnoECAoQCw](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Clem+Mikeska's+Bar-B-Q/@31.0930952,-97.3759582,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x29261500daa186c5?sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8ytyA893cAhVO-6wKHeDEC1QO_BIwCnoECAoQCw)**

***Clem Mikeska's Bar-B-Q: (254) 778-5481***



"Now, step into the incredible, amazing future, as we go -- Exploring Tomorrow!"



*Exploring Tomorrow* aired over the Mutual Broadcasting System from December 4, 1957, until June 13, 1958 and was described as "the first science-fiction show of science-fictioners, by science-fictioners and for science-fictioners."

Each episode featured musings on the cultural, psychological, or sociological implications and technology featured in that night's story and how it might affect mankind. These musings were often as engaging as the story itself.

The series is an excellent example of why radio programs were so popular. A good radio program had to have a story, with a plot that moved quickly because of the limited time available. This series has all of that, plus surprise endings.

Science fiction fans will find it fun exploring yesterday's vision of the future by *Exploring Tomorrow*. You can tune-in again to yesterday's tomorrow at: [https://archive.org/details/Exploring\\_Tomorrow](https://archive.org/details/Exploring_Tomorrow)



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the N5ZXJ repeater, on 145.310(-) PL 123.0 Join Us!

December NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| December 6th:       | December 13th: |
| Net Control: KE5ISN | W5VEX          |
| Back-Up: W5VEX      | K6WXA          |
| December 20th:      | December 27th: |
| Net Control: K6WXA  | KF5OHR         |
| Back-Up: KF5OHR     | AD5SK          |



**160-Meter Contest**

Contest period runs from 5:00 PM CST, November 30th, to 10:59 AM, CST December 2nd. This is a 42-hour all-CW event with no operating time limit. If you have ever yearned to try your hand at Top Band contesting, this is the perfect opportunity!

More information is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>



**Skywarn Recognition Day**



This event takes place on all authorized amateur frequencies and modes from 0001 UTC Dec. 1st to 2400 UTC.

More information is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/skywarn-recognition-day>

**Don't overlook that growing boy, if he's normal he'll be interested in radio. And he'll get more solid enjoyment out of a crystal set or a one tube receiver than all the mechanical trains or flying machines ever invented.**  
**Let's make this a Radio Christmas.**

*Radio Topics* - December, 1923



## Temple Christmas Parade

The Temple Christmas Parade is on Monday, December 3rd at 6:30 P.M. Volunteers are needed to assist with support communications.

At least 10 to 12 volunteers are needed for this event. Staging time will start at 4:00 P.M. We will be operating 2 meter simplex. The necessary equipment will be an HT, safety vest, flashlight and proper clothing for the weather conditions.

If you can assist in this please contact Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC, at: [robert1867@embarqmail.com](mailto:robert1867@embarqmail.com) or by phone at: (254) 702-8066.



## 10-Meter Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, December 8th to 2359Z, December 9th. The objective is for Amateurs worldwide to engage in QSO's with as many other stations as possible on the 10 meter band. For more info please visit: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>



## Election Results



At our last club meeting on November 6th, elections were held for club officers to carry the club through next year.

Elected / Re-elected into office were:  
Terry Evans - KF5OHR as President;  
Alfred Fronefield - W5VCF as Vice President; Trudy Jenkins - KG5VLC as Secretary; Carl Beckom - KG5NFE as Treasurer and Joe Mayer - N5JWM as a Board Director.

## Hints and Kinks

It sits silently, looking majestic and historical. This beautiful old General Electric floor radio isn't functioning, but it is the centerpiece of the lobby of the Radio America Network in Arlington, Virginia.



But once a year, during the holidays, it magically comes to life, playing seasonal tunes for guests and the front office staff. Ok, it's doesn't run by magic. Turn the cabinet around and you would find a spare office computer inside packed with 11 hours of Christmas tunes and connected to a KRK Rockit 5 monitor speaker. With the bass bumped up a bit and placed against a wall to spread the sound, and a yellow bulb behind the dial, the illusion of a comfy old AM parlor radio at Christmas time is complete.

You can create a bit of fun for your visitors over the holidays by placing an old receiver or jukebox as a prop in the lobby of your station. An automation computer is unnecessary; this can be done with WinAmp on a junk computer, or by just connecting a portable MP3 player to an amp attached to the cabinet's speakers.

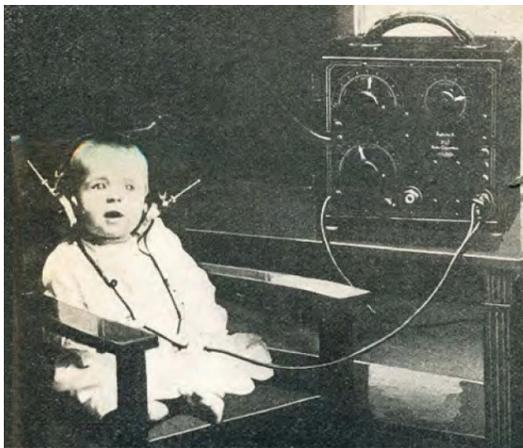


Because of the New Year's holiday falling on Tuesday, January 1st - the day our club would normally hold it's monthly meeting - our January meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 2nd**, at 7:00 p.m.



### The WGY Kid

*Radio Topics* - December, 1923



Here's Wallace Gordon Yadon, of Delavan, Wisconsin. The first baby to be named after a broadcasting station. He's shown listening to WGY out of Schenectady, NY, right now. *(Editor's added comments: as a follow-up, I found he passed away on June 21st, 2013 at the age of 90.)*

**Radio succeeds because it rests on one of the earliest of our developmental experiences: sharing human emotion through sounds.**  
- Paul McLane



With cooler temperatures expected, some may want to use their small space heaters. If so, **DO NOT** plug them into a power strip.



These devices are not designed to handle the energy load of a space heater and can over-heat causing a fire hazard.



### CTARC VE Test Session of November 3rd

This past Saturday, November 3rd, CTARC held a VE Test Session which resulted in 4 new Technicians, and one new Extra Class. Congratulations to each new licensee!



A radio tower fire in the transmitter at the top of the 200-foot-plus tower near Tiger Mountain in Washington, temporarily disrupted the transmission of radio station KSWD (94.1 FM) on November 8th. KSWD is currently on a backup transmitter.



## Santa Net on 3.916 MHz



The Santa Net on 3.916 MHz is now active nightly at 7:30 PM CST. Good girls and boys will be able to talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly through Christmas Eve, December 24th.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.3916nets.com/> or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/3916santanel/>

VK4AFU will be active as **YJØAFU** from Vanuatu, 25 December - 1 January. QSL via his home call.

DL1QQ is active as **HSØZNW** from Thailand, until December 7. QSL only via LotW.

A group will be active as **6V1A** from Goree Island, December 7 - 9. QSL via email to: [6v1a.aras@gmail.com](mailto:6v1a.aras@gmail.com)

A group is active as **YN4RRC** from Big Corn Island, Nicaragua, until Dec. 6. QSL via RZ3FW.

**DT8A** is active on King George Island, South Shetland Islands, until the end of December. QSL via HL2FDW.

VE3LYC as **TXØA** and KO8SCA as **TXØM** will operate from Maria Est Atoll, 4 - 18 December. QSL each via their home call.

JAØJHQ will be active as **T32NH** from Kiritimati Island, 5 - 11 December. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active as **OH9S** from Finland, December 1 - 8. QSL via LotW.

F8FUA will be active as **XT2BR** from Burkina Faso, 2 - 11 December. QSL via his home call or LotW.

A group is active as **TM8AB** from Nice, France until December 12. QSL via F5KBM.

**W2MMD** will be active from Petty Island, NJ, on December 8 from 1330 UTC until 1730 UTC. QSL direct.

A group is active from Montserrat as **VP2MLB**, **VP2MSA**, **VP2MSK** and **VP2MZN** until December 10. QSL each as listed on QRZ.com

**OX3LX** is active from Tasiilaq Island, Greenland, until 4 December. QSL via OZØJ.

A group is active from Sri Lanka as **4S7DLG**, until December 6. QSL via DK8ZZ.

7L3PFH will be active as **KHØTG** from Tinian Island, Dec 26 - Jan 1. QSL via JL1UTS.

**N4CAG** will be active signing **stroke PY4** from Brazil, December 2 - 15. QSL via his home call.

HB9FXL is active as **XU7AKB** from Cambodia, until December 14. QSL via his home call or LotW.

## What's New?



Two new repeaters are on the air in Lampasas County. One is on 145.490 (-) PL 123, the other is on 444.500 (+) PL 123. Both carry the N5ZXJ callsign.



### "PIRATE" Act Passes Congress; on to Senate

The Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act, now officially known as H.R. 5709, was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives and has now moved on to the Senate.

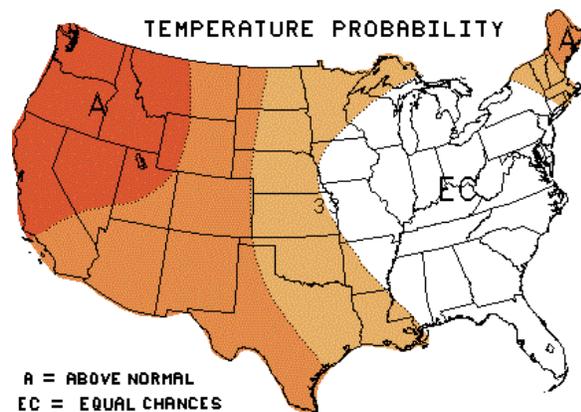


## Winter Forecast Outlook

The Earth's orbit around the sun – and the tilt on its axis – are bringing us to a place in time and space where our world's Northern Hemisphere will have the Winter Solstice. For those of us here in Central Texas, the Winter Solstice, bringing the first day of Winter, will be on Friday, December 21st, at 4:23 PM CST.

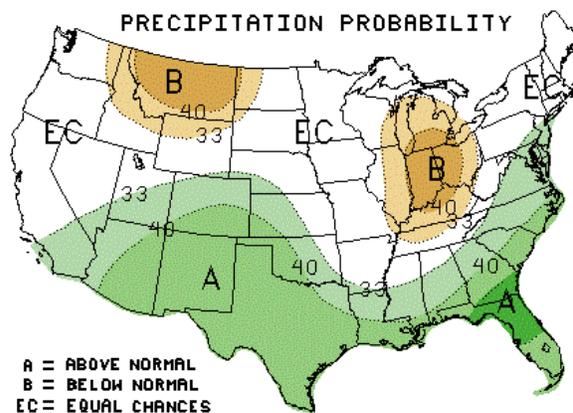
The winter forecast hinges largely on a 70% to 75% chance that an El Niño event, characterized by warming waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, will influence the winter season by bringing wetter conditions across the southern United States, and warmer, drier conditions to parts of the North.

Warmer-than-normal conditions are anticipated across much of the northern and western U.S., with the greatest likelihood in Alaska and from the Pacific Northwest to the Northern Plains. The Southeast, Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic all have equal chances for below, near, or above-average temperatures. No part of the U.S. is favored to have below-average temperatures.



With the Southeast the only region not projected to have above-normal temperatures, that could mean a few winter storms will bring snow to the Deep South, which can cause major disruptions to the region.

However, NOAA warns it's no time to ditch the shovels and heavy winter jackets, as its forecast does not mean the winter of 2018 - 2019 will not feature major snowstorms. Even during a warmer-than-average winter, periods of cold temperatures and snowfall are still likely to occur.



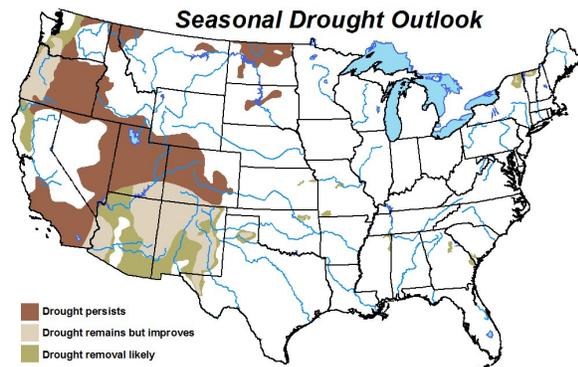
Precipitation is expected to be above normal across the southern tier of the US, extending up into the Mid-Atlantic. Northern Florida and southern Georgia have the greatest odds for above-average precipitation this winter.

Drier-than-average conditions are most likely in parts of the northern Rockies and Northern Plains, as well as in the Great Lakes and northern Ohio Valley.

The outlook does not project seasonal snowfall accumulations as snow forecasts are generally not predictable more than a week in advance.

The Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates drought conditions are likely to persist across portions of the Southwest, Southern California, the central Great Basin, central Rockies, Northern Plains and portions of the interior Pacific Northwest. While drought conditions are anticipated to improve in areas throughout Arizona and New Mexico, southern sections of Utah and Colorado, the coastal Pacific Northwest and the Central Plains.

Heavy rainfall this past fall resulted in major drought reduction throughout the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys, the southern and northern thirds of the Plains, parts of the Southwest, and much of Texas. What remains of the small areas of drought conditions in the State, are either expected to improve, or be removed. Additional drought improvement and removal are likely across eastern Kansas, Missouri, the



Tennessee Valley, Georgia, South Carolina and the southern Great Plains.

The drought outlook is based on precipitation forecasts, extended range temperature outlooks and climatology, recent rainfall and stream-flow along soil moisture, were also considered.



Conditions have been very wet over the past several months. With the development of an El Niño, the wet pattern is not likely to change. Latest forecasts suggest that this will be a weak to moderate event that should end by early spring. This should result in over-all Normal to Below Normal significant wildland fire potential throughout the season. All regions are

expected to experience reduced fire activity during the winter.

Brief periods of critical fire weather conditions could elevate fire potential during occasional wind events over areas that are not snow covered. Events such as this are generally short in duration. Areas to monitor are along the Rocky Mountain Front, the Great Basin, the Southwest, and the southern Great Plains.

Overall, the significant wildland fire potential forecasts expect a rather muted and lower fire risk period as fire danger remains low through the outlook period.

In summary, while the *official* forecast from NOAA is calling for seasonal winter temperatures to be "above average" some forecasters with The Weather Channel and The Farmer's Almanac - if you take stock in that - are calling for a bitterly cold winter. Combined with the outlook of "above average" precipitation, this could lead to a seldom seen snowfall accumulation in our area. (*How many of us even own snow shovels?*)

It should go without saying, be aware of weather events in your area, and be prepared.

# BROADCAST TOPIX

## **Radio Reaches the World's Most Remote Places: - Falklands Radio -**

The Falkland Islands, located in the South Atlantic Ocean, east of South America, is a very remote location that is distant from the rest of the world. Their isolated listeners depend on an independent local radio station to keep them informed, entertained, and connected to each other. Before Argentina invaded the main two islands in April 1982, and were subsequently evicted by British armed forces two months later, most people had never heard of this very remote, isolated, windswept territory.

The Falklands have been a British possession since the first Scottish and Welsh settlers came there in 1833. The 2,841 residents of the islands prosper by raising sheep for wool, and resupplying ships that stop at Stanley, the main port, on East Falkland Island. Providing everyone with music, local news and weather via wireless is the job of Falklands Radio, which broadcasts on five FM frequencies throughout the islands.

There has been a radio broadcasting service in the Falkland Islands since 1929, when a wired service was installed in the islands' capital of Stanley. The station has developed and grown over the years and currently employs 6.5 full-time staff and about 15 freelancers. Falklands Radio's two-floor building in Stanley is "spacious" with two studios, a news room, office spaces and a large archive upstairs. The main FM transmitter and antenna are based in Stanley, with four re-transmitters and antennas located around the two main islands.

The programming format used by Falklands Radio can safely be described as variety. Their daytime shows feature a mix of music genres and talk content, while the evening shows target the more specialist audience and range from classical music. to rock music and almost everything in-between. Their listening audience is made up from all ages and all walks of life living in the Falklands. They even have a show just for children.

Falklands Radio is quite different than a typical urban radio station in Europe or the Americas. One of the main areas in which they are fairly unique, is that as well as being the only community radio station, they are also the only national radio station. Falklands Radio must therefore ensure that content covers items relating to everyday living as well as those which are of national importance.

Falklands Radio has a very loyal audience. Streaming on the web has also extended their station's reach, and they now have listeners tuning in from all over the world. You can listen-in live to their broadcasts by visiting their website at: <http://www.radio.co.fk/>





## Peggy Sue Gerron

*ex: K5PSG, KE5AKW (SK)*

Peggy Sue Gerron became part of Buddy Holly's circle of friends as a teenager, and was a sophomore at Lubbock High School in 1956 when she first encountered Buddy Holly. She was walking to the school's band room and he was rushing to the auditorium to attend an assembly. He crashed into her, sending her to the floor, her books scattering and her poodle skirt rising over her knees. "I'm terribly sorry, but I don't have time to pick you up," he said, "But you sure are pretty."



She would get to know him better when she realized soon after that her boyfriend, Jerry Allison, was the drummer in Buddy's band, which would become known as The Crickets. A year later, The Crickets were in the studio preparing to record "Cindy Lou," a song the group had been performing. (Its title was reportedly a combination of Mr. Holly's niece's first name and his sister's middle name.) But Jerry Allison was hoping to solidify his on-and-off relationship with Peggy Sue and asked Buddy to change the song's name.

Over time, she worked as a dental assistant and owned a plumbing business with her second husband, becoming the first woman to be licensed as a plumber in California.

She returned to Lubbock to care for her mother in 1995. While there in 2004, the Lubbock Amateur Contest Club - W5LCC, set up a special event station - W5B, in observation of the 45th anniversary of Buddy Holly's untimely death in a February 3, 1959, plane crash. During the special event operation, Peggy Sue Gerron was perhaps the most prominent of the W5B guest operators. Participating in the W5B event sharpened her desire to get her ham license, and she obtained her license as KE5AKW. She would later obtain the vanity call sign K5PSG. (*Her license expired in 2014, and her callsign has since been reissued.*)

She said after the W5B special event, "Out of all the Buddy Holly events that I have attended in my life, this event will always stand out in my memory. You can do TV specials, and you can be interviewed by the very best DJs," she said, but there is nothing like the feeling of putting your finger down and transmitting your call sign and having somebody answer back. It's one person communicating with another. Is anybody out there? You bet they are! Keep rockin'!"



*It's hard to stand still, when you're listening to 'Peggy Sue.'*  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDw48r7HFBU>

Peggy Sue Gerron passed away this past October 1st, in Lubbock at the age of 78. Her cause of death was not given.

## Richard W. Diller, KE5ULJ

- Silent Key -

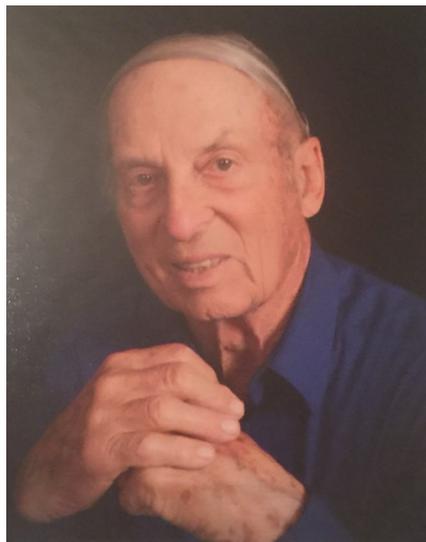
*Editor's introduction... This information is now over a year old, and with events such as this, sometimes the information doesn't get out in a timely manner. Despite the passage of time, a fitting tribute is in order. The following is provided for those of you who knew him.*

Colonel Richard W. Diller (U.S. Army Retired), age 86, of Killeen, Texas, died peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on November 24th, 2017. He was a devoted husband to his wife Carole of 62 years.

Richard was one of the original founding members of the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club, obtaining his Technician Class license just a month before the club was formed. During the first month of the club's existence, he upgraded to General Class, and served on the club's board of directors. His license has since expired in May of this year.

He was born on November 13, 1931, and was the son of the late Brigadier General LeGrande "Pick" Albert Diller, who was one of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's closest aides during World War II. Richard followed in his father's foot steps and entered the U.S. Army where he was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and proudly served his country during the Korean War and Vietnam War.

He was a recipient of the Silver Star with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Medal with Numerals 23; Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; Army Commendation Medal with Valor device and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; National Defense Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; Parachutist Badge; Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars; Senior Army Aviator Badge; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Combat Infantryman's Badge; Army Command and General Staff College Badge; Vietnamese Parachutist Badge and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.



Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, Richard worked at and retired from, Central Texas College.

In his spare time he enjoyed racing Porsche Cars and was a member of the Maverick Porsche Club, as well as the Killeen Rotary Club. Also over the many years, he adopted orphaned dogs and cats who found a forever home with the Diller's.

Richard Diller leaves behind his beloved wife Carole, his daughter Suzanne and many cousins who loved him dearly.

His Funeral Service was held on November 28th, 2017, where after, he was interred at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, in Killeen.