

Richard (Dick) McLaren

Richard (Dick) born in 1921, spent his early years learning the deep values of the Service. Beginning in 1937 and for each summer thereafter until World War II he worked in Rocky Mountain NP as a laborer, equipment operator and seasonal fire control aide. The Tenth Mountain Division was formed in 1942 and Dick and his younger brother Doug went off to war. From 1942 until his discharge in 1946 Dick served in the famous Tenth. He served in the Aleutian Islands and then went to Europe. Dick was wounded in the bloody battle for Italy's Riva Ridge in 1945, twice on the same day, and received the Purple Heart.

After two years at Colorado A & M Dick went to Olympic National Park in the summer of 1950. Two years later he transferred to Yosemite National Park and took part in the full range of field operations. He had many missions in Search and Rescue and also worked on nearly 8,800 wildland fires over the course of his career. In 1961 Dick went to Kings Canyon NP as district ranger and served for seven more years as Sequoia's backcountry district ranger. He then went to Grand Canyon as the assistant chief ranger and the park's fire control officer. He retired in December of 1980.

Dick died of cancer on January 23, 1991.



