



Dallas Keith Gillespie Co H-2

Dal's strongest mark as a cadet was his affinity for oral exercise, which led him to frequent discourses. Being the owner of an intricate and overly active mind, his views often clashed with those of the Tactical Department. His stubborn insistence on catapulting the grandeur of Wells, Nevada added to his distinctive knack for bringing laughter to his friends.

Born – 1 Jan 1939, Tooele, UT.

To USMA – Came from Wells, NV. Appointed by Nevada Senator Malone. Nickname – “Dal”.

Died – 6 Apr 1999 (age 60) at Denver, Bailey County, CO. Cremated and ashes scattered in Bailey, CO, Satellite Beach, FL, and Kennedy Space Center, FL.

Military Awards – NASA Public Service Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Schooling – Master’s Degree in Management, Florida State University.

Family - Wife – Donna Jean Marie Bennett Gillespie (passed away on 6 Jan 2008) – 2 sons (Shawn and Devon) – grandchildren.

Contact – Shawn Gillespie (son), Address unknown, Phone unknown, Email skggillespie@gmail.com

Dallas served on active duty in the Army (Artillery) for 3 years, resigning in 1964, with the rank of 1st. Lieutenant.

After leaving active duty in the Army, Dallas returned to Wells, NV, where he opened a local restaurant. Although Dallas enjoyed the return to his roots, duty called, and he returned to government service in the aerospace industry. In 1968, he went to work with NASA in at John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL. While working at NASA, he earned a Master’s Degree in Management from Florida State University. He also worked for periods of time with McDonnell Douglas and Chrysler Corporation, both at the Kennedy Space Center. Dallas retired in 1998 with thirty years in the aerospace industry. Before retirement, he had attained Senior Executive Service (SES) status. A Classmate, who visited Dallas shortly before his retirement, reported that Dallas was not very happy because he thought he had not accomplished enough. In reality, how could he have accomplished more?

Dallas held membership on the boards of the Astronauts Memorial Planetarium, Junior Achievement, Brevard Cultural Alliance, the Economic Development Commission of East Central Florida and the Brevard Youth Symphony. He was Chairman of the Brevard Symphony Board and was a mentor for the Florida Special Olympics.

Footnote - Dallas was gifted with a great sense of humor and frequently entertained his H-2 classmates with tales of his unique past. Whenever an upperclassman asked where he was from and where in the heck is Wells, Nevada, Dallas would reply, “Sir, it is in the land of the Golden West, at the foot of the scenic Ruby Mountains”.