



John Dennis Guthrie Co L-1

The poet Laureate of Company L-1 has maintained a reputation for a weakness for antiques, a flair for clothes, and a tin ear for jazz. His love of a well-turned phrase and his sense of politics and finance will enable him to add as much color to the Army as he has to L-1.

Born – 3 Jan 1939, Marion, OH.

To USMA – Came from Marion, OH. Appointed by Ohio 8th. Nickname – “Senator”.

Died – 12 June 1983 (age 43). Buried at Marion Cemetery, Marion, OH.

Military Awards – 2 Bronze Star Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

Schooling – Master’s Degree in Education, Ohio State University.

Family – Unknown.

Contact – Unknown.

John served on active duty with the Army (Infantry) for 9 years, resigning in 1970, with the rank of Major. He then served in the Army Reserve, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was with the 34th Infantry. He then served at the Dominican Republic (7th Special Forces Group), Ft. Benning, GA (Infantry Advanced Course), Vietnam (one tour), Macon, GA (Professor of Military Science, Mercer University).

John was a very kind, likable classmate who never seemed to get upset about anything. He was easy to live with every day, always even-keeled, responsible, and reliable. As a cadet he was already a man of sturdy character, clear about who he was. John was a loyal son of Marion, Ohio. He loved to defend the reputation of another son of Marion, the controversial President Warren G. Harding. John often expanded from that base into the advocacy of everything that, in John’s conviction, was traditional, tried, and true--ranging from antiques to politics to patriotic military service. These serious opinions were unusually full-formed and articulate for someone our age. Even more strikingly, they were complemented by John’s equally characteristic engaging humor as something of a ham. His falsetto performance of “You Got to See Mama Every Night” was a hit at our gatherings. He also recited popular poetry, usually humorous, at length, and shared his appreciation of a well-turned phrase, serious or playful. The recitation of “There’s Something about a Martini” was sure to bring down the house. There was never a better merry soul to bring joy to others. John never seemed to care while traveling the road of life whether the road had a crown or not. He clearly was sage and an excellent source of counseling at any time. He was a main stay on Intramural teams and totally reliable. He was a good friend and classmate asking nothing, but always willing to help.

John passed away on 12 June 1983. We all lost a good soldier when he got out of the Army and returned to Ohio and the Ohio State University. But we all gained a fine civilian citizen and teacher. West Point or Ohio State University never had a better representative. He was taken from us far too soon. We miss John.