



Theodore Vander Els Co L-2

Ted entered West Point after graduating from Ramsey High School, Ramsey, New Jersey in June 1957 – thus fulfilling a boyhood dream of joining the “long grey line.” To him, the Academy has become the source of invaluable training and the deepest friendships, and the object of much heartfelt gratitude. His goal in life is to serve his God and his country.

Born – 3 August 1939 in New Jersey.

To USMA – from Waldwick, NJ. Appointed as a Qualified Alternate QA.

Died – 19 Aug 2025 (age 86) at Sudbury, MA. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – 3 Bronze Star Medals, Army Commendation Medal, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

Schooling – Master of Science MS Degree in Nuclear Engineering & MS Degree in Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT.

Family - One adopted child (Stephen) – one grandchild.

Contact – Stephen Vander Els (son), Address 96 Mossman Road, Sudbury, MA 01776, Phone unknown, Email unknown.

Ted served on active duty in the Army (Corps of Engineers) for 28 years, retiring in 1989, with the rank of Brigadier General. His first assignment was with the 12th Engineer Battalion (Platoon Leader of an Atomic Demolition Platoon & Company Commander) in Germany. He then served in Boston, MA (Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT), Vietnam (1st tour – MACV), Fort Belvoir (Student, Advanced Course, The Engineer School TES), Pentagon, VA (Office of the Chief of Engineers OCE), Fort Leavenworth, KS (Student, Command & General Staff College CGSC), Vietnam (2nd tour – 26th Engineer Battalion RVN), West Point, NY (Staff & Faculty S&F), Italy (AFSOUTH), Fort Belvoir (The Engineer School TES), Germany (Commanding Officer, 9th Engineer Battalion & then Office of the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, US Army Europe), Carlisle, PA (Student, Army War College AWC), Fort Belvoir, VA (Deputy Director, Mobility Equipment Research & Development Center MERDC), Fort Belvoir, VA (Director of Engineering School DCD), Washington, DC (Deputy Director Plans Defense Mapping Agency PL DMA), Chicago, IL (Commanding Officer, North Central Division US Army Corps of Engineers USACE).

After leaving active duty in the Army, Ted had a successful career in Engineering Management. He served as an Engineer with the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) and Senior Project Manager (PB). Ted passed away on 19 August 2025, from Parkinson's disease.

Footnote from Ted - “I’ll close with sharing my joy at an unexpected blessing. Being single all my life, I never anticipated family. But on my last army assignment, my path intersected with a young lad in need of a father, and I, wanting to be the latter, in need of a son. We adopted each other – found on post so to speak.....What wondrous surprises heaven can arrange!”