



**Donald Arthur Dreesbach Co B-1**

*Don has spent most of his four years successfully testing his theory that you can get a maximum output with a minimum input, especially in academics. Treading on flirtation walk, designing sports cars, and playing the sax were his favorite pastimes. His natural ability and quiet confidence will take him to the top wherever he goes.*

**Born** – 4 March 1938, in Illinois.

**To USMA** – from Covina, CA. Appointed from California. Nickname – “Driz”.

**Died** – 11 May 2022 (age 84) at Orlando, FL. Buried at West Point.

**Military Awards** – Distinguished Flying Cross, 12 Air Medals, 2 Air Force Commendation Medals, Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal.

**Schooling** – Master of Science Degree in Aero Engineering, MSE, Arizona State University.

**Family** - Wife – Catherine (Cathy) Russomanno Dreesbach (60 years) – 2 children (Scott and Tracy) – 6 grandchildren.

**Contact** – Cathy Dreesbach, Address 8741 Hildreth Avenue, Orlando, FL 32832, Phone 407-601-2785, Email unknown.

Don served on active duty in the Air Force for 26 years, retiring in 1987, with the rank of Colonel. His first assignment was pilot training at Williams AFB north of Phoenix, AZ. He then served at Yokota AFB, Tokyo, Japan, (56<sup>th</sup> Weather (Wx) Reconnaissance Wing piloting WB-50 typhoon hunter planes), then Laredo AFB, TX (3640<sup>th</sup> Pilot Training Squadron), Perrin AFB, TX (3251<sup>st</sup> Pilot Training Squadron), Udorn, Thailand (435<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron piloting F4 Phantom fighters (“my very favorite bird”) out of northeast Thailand during the Vietnam War), Tempe, AZ (Student, Arizona State University), West Point, NY (Instructor, Mechanics Department), Eglin AFB, FL (3246<sup>th</sup> Test Wing), Naples, Italy (Headquarters, Air South), Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH (Aeronautical Systems Division, ASD, Air Force Systems Command, AFSCmd).



After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Don had a successful career in defense contracting in Annapolis, MD and Dayton, OH and then teaching math and aviation at a local community college. Don passed away on 11 May 2022, of natural causes.

Footnote from B-1 Classmate Bill Esselstein – “Don was one of the finest members of the West Point Company B-1 (Beta Uno) fraternity. A truly fine fellow who his Company Mates and other 1961 Class Mates mourn his passing. We wish his family solace at this very sad time.”