



**Eugene Price Sanders, Jr. Co I-1**

*As one of the East's finest backstrokers for three years, Spike displayed his inherent trait of rigid application to the goals he set for himself. Nevertheless, he was the bon vivant of I-1, enjoying life to the utmost. He is capable of succeeding at almost any endeavor and has an approach to life that will insure him a rewarding life.*

**Born** – 18 Mar 1940, Kansas City, MO.

**To USMA** – Came from Lancaster, PA (age 17). Appointed by Pennsylvania 9<sup>th</sup>. Nickname – “Spike”.

**Died** – 27 Aug 1961 (age 21) as Henrietta, TX. Buried at Conestoga Memorial Park, Lancaster, PA.

**Military Awards** – National Defense Service Medal.

**Schooling** – Unknown.

**Family** – Unknown.

**Contact** – Unknown.

Spike served on active duty with the Army (Artillery) for two months before his untimely death from an automobile accident in Texas on 27 August 1961.

Footnote from classmate Pat Hoy – “At West Point.....nothing mattered to him so much as the swimming team (his specialty being the backstroke). He held an Academy record, swam in the prestigious East-West meet, and played on the championship water polo team, earning a major “A” in swimming during his last three years. Besides being a quiet but forceful leader among teammates, he was also an exceptional recruiter of swimmers who joined future Army teams and broke records.....His long-term goal was to become an Army doctor, but his life was brought to a tragic and untimely end on Sunday August 27, 1961.....on a long narrow road just outside Henrietta, TX. An oncoming vehicle moving at high speed crossed the centerline and hit the car he was in head-on.....Spike left us the gift of his example, along with a sure sense of the boundless energy and good spirit that still enrich our lives and draw us together in remembrance.”

From other classmates – Drew Casani remembers Spike not only as his “closest friend” but also as “one of the finest backstrokers in the East.” And he saw him as an energizing spirit.....Alan Armstrong, a seasoned athlete himself, speaks of a “curious” thing about Spike. His “exceptional athleticism,” his tough competitiveness, stood in stark contrast to the considerate, mild mannered, modest man that he was out of the water. Alan reminds us that Spike’s “warmth” evoked the love and respect of “all who knew him.” Over time, we came to know him for his gifted ways, his devotion to his team, and his strong leadership under fire. But we admired him most for the simple joy he brought to our lives.