

DONALD GENE EIRICH

Lieutenant Colonel Donald G. Eirich, USMC (Ret.), died on 24 August 2011 after a 12-month battle with cancer. He was 73 years of age.

“Don” was noted for his keen sense of humor and even temper. He graduated with the Naval Academy Class of 1960 as a member of the Seventh Company.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Following that, he spent 20 years as an infantry officer and intelligence specialist, including two tours to Vietnam, where he received the Bronze Star with Combat V and Gold Star and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. At this point, he was offered and accepted a political appointment in the Reagan Administration, where he served for five years as Director of Southeast Asian affairs in OSD. Along the way, Don received advanced degrees in international affairs and management.

At the end of the Cold War, Don left the public sector for the private sector. There, he was hired as the North American representative for Indonesian Aircraft Industries by Dr. B.J. Habibie, who later became the Indonesian president. After short stays with a law firm and a computer software firm, he returned to Indonesian affairs by joining the U.S.-Indonesia Society, a non-governmental organization (NGO) devoted to building mutual understanding between the two countries. Don finished his full time career as a managing partner in a small consulting firm (Trans Pacific Partners), which advises Indonesian and U.S. companies doing business in the U.S. and Indonesia.

Despite his private sector, full-time employment, he had time to volunteer for the Red Cross and to raise koi.

Don is survived by his wife of 43 years, Elizabeth Ann (McGarraghy) Eirich of McLean, VA; children, Ann, Christian and Matthew; and four grandchildren.

Skip Weeks '60

Shipmate Nov-Dec 2011