



Willie P. Johnson

September 18, 1938 - May 29, 2021

Willie P. Johnson was born to Will P. Johnson and Fannie M. Hawkins on September 18, 1938 in Stonewall, Louisiana. He was 82 years old. He is survived by his wife. Liyan (Xu) Johnson, stepson Xu Wang wife Shanhui Zhang and grandson Alex Wang.

Willie served in the United States of America Armed Forces for more than 20 years. Willie retired as a veteran from the United States Army as a Master Sergeant on August 31, 1984 and was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group. He was also in the U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center in St. Louis, Missouri. He was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for the security, plans and operations directorate of the 7th support command.

Willie spend a great deal of time in China. He taught at the University of Chengdu. Willie earned a Ph.D. and Master of Arts Degrees I Gerontology from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Drury College, Springfield, Missouri in August 15, 1987.

On October 6, 1992, Willie was sent a letter from Barbara Bush, wife of former President Bush, for his participation in a walk to help raise money for Alzheimer awareness. He was a former member of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. He was also a member of Alzheimer's disease Association in Chicago, Illinois and Gerontology Society, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Willie chose to focus his efforts on bringing more awareness to Alzheimer's. He lived with his grandmother who developed the disease. He watched her drastically change, from a loving grandmother, as the disease progressed. This was heartbreaking for him. To bring awareness to the disease he did a 20,000 mile, two year walk across America and back.

Willie love music. He made his living by playing in traveling band. He played in the Tennessee State University Band in Nashville and for the Army in the 298th Army Band called the Ambassadors.