



## Ed Johnson

July 19, 1948 - July 7, 2025

Major Charles Edward Johnson  
1948-2025

Ed was born on 7/19/1948 in the “Cedars “in Virginia with the given name of Charles Edward Johnson. Like others in his family, he was called by his middle name.

Ed’s military career should be noted as it was a significant portion of his life. When Ed joined the US Army on June 6, 1966, he was sent to Ft. Dix, NJ for basic training. During his training and aptitude testing, it was discovered that he had some unique talents. After basic training, he was assigned to the Army Security Agency (ASA) and went to Ft. Devens, MA for advanced training and saw service at an outpost in Sinop, Turkey on the Black Sea monitoring Signals Intelligence.

During his time in Turkey, the Vietnam War had “heated up” significantly. Ed was pulled out of Turkey and sent to Vietnam. He was assigned to the 265Th Radio Research Company, which officially didn’t exist, in direct support of the 101st Airborne Division. His “spooks and spies” outfit was involved in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, including the infamous Tet Offensive and the Battle of Hamburger Hill, of which a movie was made.

Sometime during 1968 his first tour of duty ended and he could have come home from Vietnam. But, being the highly intelligent person we thought he was, he decided to re-enlist for another tour. During the Vietnam conflict, Ed was wounded on at least 2 different occasions and received 2 Purple Hearts for his troubles.

Ed survived his second Vietnam experience, said his goodbyes to his comrades, and headed back home. Like so many before him, when he landed on the west coast, he was greeted by taunts and was spat upon by antiwar protestors, a low ebb in the history of this country.

Ed resumed civilian life, obtaining a BA in business & marketing and accepted a job with an Advertising agency in Chicago. After a few months he apparently did not find the job to be very rewarding and so, after qualifying for vacation time, took the vacation, and never returned to work.

At that time, and after studying the situation for a few minutes, he rejoined the US Army, attended Officers Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, GA, graduated and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. Shortly afterwards he went to the elite Ranger training school. Despite the normal 50% dropout rate, he persevered and graduated. We do know that he had two tours in Germany and two tours in Korea. We do believe that he spent unknown amounts of time, in many unknown parts of the world, doing unknown things.

Afterwards, he spent time at Ft. Sill, OK and a couple of tours at Ft. Lewis, WA. Later he lived in New Windsor, NY and Longmont, CO where he was the Army advisor to several National Guard Units.

Ed was an excellent skier. He had honed his skiing skills in various areas around the world such as the Alps while in Germany, the Rocky Mountains while in Colorado, the Cascades and Canadian Rockies while in Washington,

the Adirondacks while in New York and was a ski instructor for the West Point Ski Team while in New York state.

Just prior to the 1990 Invasion by Iraq into Kuwait, Ed had submitted his retirement papers. US and coalition forces were staged in Saudi Arabia in their defense and for a possible invasion of Iraq. Ed, hearing the call, was quickly “unretired! However, two days before he was to report, kidney stones changed that scenario for him. By the time he was cleared, the war was over. He was supposedly heard mumbling that he had missed a damn good war. Ed subsequently retired on April 1, 1991, after 21 years of active duty.

After retirement, Ed decided to pursue his passion for skiing with his first stop being Park City, UT. and subsequently going on to other locations. Deteriorating knees and ankles finally forced him to hang up the skis. Afterward, he decided to attend the A&P Aircraft Mechanic School in Cheyenne, WY. working subsequently in Windsor, CO and Ft. Collins, Co.

Ed began thinking of a second retirement and ultimately found his perfect place in Sheridan, Wyoming. Sheridan is a beautiful small western town with the Big Horn Mountains as an unobstructed backdrop from his rear porch. Sheridan is also home to a regional VA Hospital that could deal with any military service-connected health issues. Ed found many friends in this wonderful location and was known to frequent the Silver Spur Cafe upon more than one occasion and was known by name at Walmart. He will be greatly missed.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Ruth Vandeventer Johnson and Joe Johnson.

Funeral services will be held, per Ed’s wishes, in Jonesville, VA with burial in

the cemetery on the Vandeventer family farm. A gathering of family and friends will be held at the Robinette Funeral Home in Jonesville, VA on August 1, from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m. with interment to follow at 11:30 a.m. at the Vandeventer Cemetery. Subsequently, a celebration of life will be held in Sheridan, Wyoming on August 8, 2025. Please contact the Sheridan Funeral Home for more information.

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Online condolences may be sent by visiting, [www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com](http://www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com). Robinette Funeral Home of Jonesville, VA and Sheridan Funeral Home of Sheridan, WY are serving the family of Ed Johnson.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Robinette Funeral Home (Jonesville)

146 Maple Drive

P.O. Box 238

Jonesville, VA 24263

(276) 346-1196

# Tribute Wall



“ *Condolences to the Johnson family. I've known Ed for many years. I always enjoyed Ed's presence at our 265th RRC reunions. You will be truly missed. Through the Night, Brother*

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**John Mastro** - October 20, 2025 at 05:24 PM

CB

“ *Carol Byington sent a virtual gift in memory of Ed Johnson*



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**Carol Byington** - July 27, 2025 at 08:55 PM

WA

“ *Wandaleen Adams lit a candle in memory of Ed Johnson*



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**Wandaleen Adams** - July 16, 2025 at 04:57 PM

SL

“ *Thank you for your service Sir, and prayers for your family!*



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**Shelby LONG** - July 12, 2025 at 09:16 AM

PW

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Eddie’s passing. He was one of my very earliest childhood friends. Over the years I have tried to keep track of him. Reading his obituary, I can see why it was so difficult. He has led a life of adventure, danger, and great service to our country. He lived life on his own terms. Goodbye, my friend. So glad you are finally coming back home to Jonesville. Patricia Hopkins White*

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**Patricia Hopkins White** - July 12, 2025 at 09:09 AM