



Melvin Lloyd Johnson

February 24, 1983 - July 17, 2026

A life should not be defined solely by its final chapter. Mel's life was complicated, as every life is, but it was also marked by courage, sacrifice, service, and a deep love for his children. He was a husband, father, son, brother, soldier, aviator, and friend. Although he faced difficult battles in his later years, those struggles do not erase the honorable service he gave to his country or the love he carried for his family. Mel entered the United States Army on July 26, 2001, and served for more than 16 years before being medically retired on October 30, 2017, at the rank of Sergeant First Class. As a Black Hawk crew chief, he served with two of the Army's most storied aviation organizations, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, known as the Night Stalkers, and the 101st Airborne Division. Mel lived to fly. He took great pride in being a soldier, an aviator, and a noncommissioned officer. His military service included five deployments to designated imminent danger areas and combat zones in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

He served in Kosovo from November 2002 to September 2003; in Iraq from February 2004 to February 2005, February to April 2009, and December 2009 to July 2010; and in Afghanistan from July to November 2010.

His military decorations reflected the skill, courage, and dedication with which he served.

They included the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star; Iraq Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars; Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star; three Air Medals; four Army Commendation Medals; four Army Achievement Medals; four Army Good Conduct Medals; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral three; Army Service Ribbon; four Overseas Service Ribbons; two NATO Medals; Basic Army Instructor Badge; Combat Action Badge; and Basic Aviation Badge.

Of all the titles Mel held, none meant more to him than father. He was intensely proud of his daughters, Haley Brook and Jessie Marie Johnson. His love for them remained one of the strongest and most enduring parts of his life.

Mel is survived by his wife, Concetta Johnson; his daughters, Hailey Brooke Johnson and Jessie Marie Johnson; his parents, Mel and Gwen Johnson; his brother Stewart Burke Johnson and sister-in-law Allison Johnson; and many extended family

members, fellow
soldiers, and friends.

During the final ten months of Mel's life, his parents, Mel and Gwen, walked
closely

beside their son and provided devoted daily care. Their steadfast presence
reflected the

enduring love of parents who continued to stand with their child through
circumstances that

were often painful and difficult.

Mel's journey through life and faith was deeply personal and, at times,
complicated.

Those who loved him now entrust him to the mercy of a loving God who sees
the whole

person, knows every battle, and understands the wounds that can remain long
after a soldier

has left the battlefield.

May God receive this fallen soldier with compassion. May He bring peace to a
warrior

who carried burdens that others could not always see. And may Mel now find
the rest that so

often escaped him in this life.

Mel's final struggles were only one part of his story. He will be remembered as
a

decorated soldier, a proud father, a skilled aviator, and a man whose life
mattered deeply to

those who loved him.

Night Stalkers Don't Quit

Tribute Wall



“ Colonel Tim Hall, USAF (ret) lit a candle in memory of Melvin Lloyd Johnson



Colonel Tim Hall, USAF (ret) - July 30 at 06:44 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Melvin Lloyd Johnson.



July 21 at 03:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melvin Lloyd Johnson.

July 21 at 03:27 PM