

Police Chief Orval James Johnson (1938-2020)

Orval was born September 5, 1938 to Robert Leslie and Elizabeth Mae (Perry) Johnson, Sr. He attended Holmes High School and graduated in 1957.



After graduation, Orval joined the United States Marine Corps and served during the Vietnam War. Staff Sergeant (E-6) Johnson was honorably discharged in 1966 with an Expert Rifleman medal (M-14), Marksman Pistol medal (.45 Automatic Colt Pistol), National Defense Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

He continued to serve, after coming home, in law enforcement. He retired as Erlanger Chief of Police in 1986.

He was also a Kentucky Colonel.

Chief Johnson died unexpectedly on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at the age of 81.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Robert Leslie Johnson, Jr. and Theodore M. Johnson, and half-brother, Rodney Johnson. Chief Johnson is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janetta Ann (Ward) Johnson; children, Robin Leslie (Michael) Johnson-Wilson and James Robert Johnson; grandchildren, Kody Rhyse Johnson and Madeline Elizabeth Johnson; siblings, Kenneth (Rita) Utzinger, Dixie King (Gerald) Babb, and Mary Lou (Tommy) Meadows; and half-siblings, Carroll (Angela) Johnson, David Johnson, and Leslie Johnson.

UPDATE

A committal ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery at 205 Eibeck Lane in Williamstown.