



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2007

COLONEL STONE JOHNSON was born on September 9, 1918 in Lowndes County and was raised in Birmingham. His name, which in military circles denotes rank, is not a title. Colonel Stone Johnson is his birth name.

Colonel Johnson earned numerous accolades through service and virtuous living. During the Civil Rights Movement, Colonel Johnson was a bodyguard to Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. He did this at great risk to his personal safety and as a volunteer. He never asked to be paid and never expected compensation. He also was never afraid. A man of faith, he knew that God was protecting him. That is why he was fearless as he protected the good men who were leading the movement.

In 1963, he prevented a church bombing by removing a bucket of dynamite the Ku Klux Klan had placed outside Bethel Baptist Church in Collegeville. He and another foot soldier took the bucket to an open area. As soon as they stepped back, the explosives detonated. Fortunately, neither man was hurt.

It was a dangerous time for blacks in Birmingham and he was a front line soldier. That was the same summer that the four little girls were killed by a bomb that exploded at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

He also worked as a union representative where he fought to improve conditions for railroad workers.

Colonel Johnson pursued freedom and justice for all citizens as chairman of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

He died in January 2012.