

HEINZ JOHNSON OBITUARY

Heinz H. Johnson passed away peacefully on the morning of August 14th at the age of 94. The retired Air Force Colonel was survived by his wife of 70 years, Priscilla Johnson, and his four children, Lyn Moritt, Jeffrey Johnson, Lori Seitz and Cindy Grotzinger along with 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Heinz, Priscilla and their family moved to San Antonio in 1966.

Colonel Johnson was born, and grew up, in Titusville, Pennsylvania, where his family ran a small grocery store. Colonel Johnson attended college at Edinboro College near Erie, Pennsylvania, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Education. He later attended Florida State University, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in Recreation.

Colonel Johnson loved his country and had a successful career as an Air Force civil servant and as an active duty Air Force officer. As a civilian, he was most notably Recreation Director, Air Force, where he played an integral role in the transformation of the Tops In Blue program. He transitioned back into active duty service and, ultimately, retired as an Air Force Colonel after years of service in military intelligence.

Colonel Johnson was an avid volksmarcher – something he fell in love with while living in Germany – and was active in, and held national office in, the American Volkssport Association (AVA) for many years. Colonel Johnson participated in AVA walks and activities all over the United States and participated in multiple-day 500 km walks in Denmark sponsored by the International Volkssport Association (IVV). All told, he probably walked over 65,000 miles in his 40 years of volksmarching.

In addition to his participation in the volksmarching world, he also volunteered for 25 years for the Georgia Games, an organization founded in 1989 to help Atlanta win its bid to host the 1996 Olympics. Colonel Johnson also loved swimming and was on the swim team at Edinboro college, where he set a school record. An avid gardener who took master gardening classes, he had a special way with plants and loved growing tomatoes in the summer. He was a lover of jazz music and was a drummer in a band during his youth.

Colonel Johnson will be missed by his family and remembered for his years of service to his country, his love of walking, fitness, sports, gardening and jazz and his dedication to the Georgia Games, AVA and IVV.

A memorial service for Colonel Johnson will be held on Friday, September 6, 2024, at 1:00 pm at Emerald Oaks Retirement Community located at 20302 Bulverde Rd., San Antonio, TX, 78259. All are invited to attend the services. The family asks that donations to Tunnel To Towers be made in lieu of sending flowers.