



This Is Herstory

Dr. SGM (Ret.) Shirley E. Johnson

U.S. Army

Dr. Shirley Elaine Johnson is the eldest of three siblings, born in Brooklyn, NY; however, raised in Norlina, NC by her grandmother. She attended Warren County Public Schools in North Carolina. At a tender age of 32, Dr. Johnson entered the United States Army in September 1990 and attended Basic Training at Fort Dix, NJ followed by Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN, where she graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate. She has attended a variety of military schools from primary Noncommissioned Officer Course (The beginning level of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System) to the United States Army's Sergeant Major Academy (The highest level of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System). During Dr. Johnson's military career, she has received numerous awards and decorations.



Dr. Johnson's trailblazing positions while serving was being the 1st Female Finance First Sergeant in DFAS, IN, her portrait was chosen out of 450 Soldiers to represent the United States in a mural on the pulpit wall of the first wooden church built for Soldiers in Tazar, Hungary, and completing the Bataan Death March-a marathon-length 26.2-mile (42.2 km) march/run conducted at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Her highest military rank was Sergeant Major and she retired from the United States Army on May 31, 2015.

Dr. Johnson holds a Ph.D. in Organization and Management with a Specialization in Leadership from Capella University, a Master's Degree from Northcentral University in Educational Leadership, a Master's Degree from the University of Oklahoma in Public Administration, and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Nova University in Professional Management.



Dr. Johnson's teaching career began as an adjunct professor in 2002 for Webster University and Park University in Fort Irwin, CA. She currently teaches a variety of business courses at the graduate level for Webster University. Dr. Johnson joined the federal government workforce with Veterans Affairs in Feb 2016 and retired from that organization June 30, 2021.

Dr. Johnson became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in April 2006, and she chaired the Linda Davis Memorial Walk-a-Thon, and she is the International Association of Military Women of Color Membership and Internal Audit Committee Chair. Dr. Johnson is a faithful Christian and a woman of GOD who is proud to let everyone know that HE is LORD and the head of her life. Dr. Johnson has a son, Reginald (Reggie), four grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter.

