



Leon Johnson, I was born in Roosevelt, Oklahoma in 1942. I attended Black Wilson Ward Elementary School on the east side of Phoenix, Arizona. In 1955 my family moved to Tempe, Arizona and shortly after we settled in the Okemah Community.

I attended two major schools within the Tempe Union District, Tempe Grammar and Tempe Union High School where I graduated in 1961. I ran track for Tempe Union High School and I won two gold medals in the State Championship in 1961, both in the 100 and 220-yard dash. In same year, I successfully earned a silver medal in the 880 relay and two gold medals in the Luke Greenway Special Invitational in the 100 and 220-yard dash. I was awarded an Athletic Scholarship Award in track and Field to Phoenix College.

After high school, I enrolled in Phoenix College in 1961, majoring in education. I worked various jobs, one being at the Maricopa County Hospital as a food service worker. During this same year, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve and served four months in boot camp out of state. After boot camp, I returned home and enrolled back in Phoenix College until I was called for active duty in 1964. I was sent to the South China Sea during the Vietnam War for two years. My title was 2nd Class Engineer with an E5 Pay Grade, I was responsible for repairing auxiliary equipment such as boats, air compressors, engines, and stirring equipment. I remained in the Navy Reserve for another six years until 1970 receiving an honorable discharge. My reserve duty required attending classes once a month learning continual navy training and periodically onsite visits to local auxiliary companies. Once a year, I traveled out of state to train on a ship at a Naval Base for 2 weeks.

After leaving the Navy Reserve, I re-enrolled in Phoenix College and received an Associate Art Degree in 1977. I worked for Hanson Pump & Pipe Company in pump repairs for two years. My experience led me to Salt River Project as a Pump Service Supervisor in the Water User Association. I maintenance seven major canals and maintained 300 Irrigations Deep Well Pumps that served the valley of Phoenix. My job extended beyond the valley of Phoenix which required out of town travel to service pumps for cooling water at the Generation Plant in Page Arizona, along with servicing the Coronado Plant in Saint John Arizona. I retired in 2004 after 32 years and 7 months.