

Narimasu People Update

Name Gene R. "Smokey" Johnson (ladies maiden name) _____

I lived in Japan From 1955 to 1957

Member of the Class of 1957

In Japan I Lived at Johnson Air Base

Best Memory of Japan: Just graduating from high school was a biggie. Being a member of FEC Championship Baseball team was another. And to have gotten to know you, who read this memory, when you were young.

Teacher I Remember Best: Ms. Leamer Why? Because she cared. I didn't like her at first, but like great master teachers, she convinced me that she cared about me. I made two "Ds"

Best Friend(s) in Japan: Ishmael Lyons, Gary Hampsch, Bill Fincher, Shelby Kelley, Doug Lennick, Dan Neimi

I graduated from Narimasu

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What Have I done Since Japan (continue on back)

I suppose I was the most lonesome person aboard that big airplane as we crossed the blue Pacific, thru Frisco reroute to Lackland, San Antonio (1957). Didn't know a living soul, but I wanted to be a big league baseball player. The world was mighty big outside. I saw Durk Jones one day in a Sears store in San Antonio. Even he looked good! (1959) Then went to Northwestern State in Louisiana, played ball and earned a commission in the Army Medical Service Corps. Graduated, and went to Ft. Bliss, Texas. Saw Mary Busalacchia in PX. Now, she looked really good! (1963)

Went part way thru flight school and was stationed in the MASH in Korea (yes, the one depicted on TV). Played baseball for 8th Army, met Casey Stengle, Yogi Berra, and Bill Dickey---but they didn't sign me. After assignment in Korea (1965) went back to school at Ft. Sam, then Ft. Polk. Pursued master and PhD degrees in clinical psychology at Northwestern and Ole Miss (1970)—(got the masters +). Was a Vocational Coordinator in public schools and remained in the Army Reserve. Sent to Egypt, Arabia (Desert Storm) Ft. Chaffee, Ft. Polk, Sandia Base, etc, etc. Am now , 2009, doubly retired, healthy, married to Maxine, blessed and happily without a job. Discovered Medicare etc., and am a proud flag waving American. Some of my greatest moments are these at hand, writing to you and seeing you again.

With James Stewart, I can truly say "It's a great life"! May the Lord make his countenance to shine upon you. Sayonara, Smokey