



## Sergeant Major Joseph A. P. Ah Sam (Ret)

### Aloha Tribute To A Keen Sergeant Major

A widely known U.S. Army Special Forces retired Sergeant Major: Joseph A. P. Ah Sam, died in Conway, Arkansas on 4 Nov 05. Joe's disciplined life was filled with 30 years of accomplishments while serving his country as a professional soldier. Joe rose through the ranks from an 18 year old private to the honored rank of Sergeant Major. He never gave up until the final call after fighting cancer for several years. Joe was a life member of the National Special Forces Association (SFA) and Arkansas (SFA) Chapter 49. He was also a highly skilled SR ROTC instructor at Conway College for 8 years, professionally developing the lives of students who remember him fondly and with respect.

In his post retirement years, Joe followed his heart with one of his much loved hobbies: Cars. He worked 14 years as a skilled mechanic for one of Arkansas' major car dealerships.

On 9 Nov, Joe was laid to rest at Conway's Crestlawn Memorial Park with special honors arranged by a devoted family including full military honors provided by Thaddeus H. Caraway VFW Post 2278 Honor Guard of Hot Springs and Chapter 49 teammates.

Joe had a mischievous sense of humor: A good joke to tell or play on someone he held in high regard. He was a gifted leader; soldier, hunter, teacher, writer, and he had the soul of a poet. Near the end, Joe wrote his own paragon for those with no hope, which follows. These words tell us more about this extraordinary man:

#### The Question

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How are you today?  
And I usually respond in my own way.  
For I could think of nothing to say.  
But I'm still on the green side of the grass today.  
Cancer knows no friend or foe.  
And sometime you never know.  
But for everyday that you wake,  
Thank the Lord and pray,  
For you are still on the green side of the grass today.  
Be happy and think positive every day.  
For we never know whats in store for the next day.  
Only the Lord knows our destiny.  
But smile and pray for you are still  
on the green side of the grass today.  
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"Mahalo, Joe. – A hui hou. Aloha"  
(Quote: Friend Vita Clements of Conway)