

It seemed that Charles Long Soldier was born to serve. Born November 19, 1949 to Francis and Evelyn (Janis) Long Soldier in Pine Ridge, he graduated 8th grade from Crazy Horse School in Wanblee, SD. He then began his life of service, beginning with his service to his country. He enlisted in the US Army at Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1968 when he was 19 years old. During his one year and three months in the Army, he'd be stationed at Fort Lewis, Fort Sill (Oklahoma), and in South Korea during the Vietnam Conflict. Of his time in the military, he spent nine months in Foreign Service.

He was honorably discharged in 1970 and returned to South Dakota, where he pursued his educational interests. Charles attended School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, Black Hills State in Spearfish, Oglala Lakota College in Kyle. Charles continued his life of service by working as an EMT and a BIA Wild Land Firefighter. He also volunteered as a DJ at KILI Radio and was a Media Coordinator at Oglala Lakota College. He also served as Commander of Post 269 in Wanblee. It is noted that Charles volunteered for different events and causes throughout his life and focused his efforts as a civil and human rights activist, wanting to be a voice for those “whose voices were not heard.”¹

Charles passed away June 14, 2017 and is interred at Lakota Freedom Veterans Cemetery in Kyle, SD.

¹ Direct quote and other information from “Charles Anthony Long Soldier Sr. Obituary,” *Native Sun News Today*, June 21, 2017.