J. Rufus Abell

**His Legacy…** Joe Rufus Abell was born July 10, 1948 in Newport News, Virginia to Willie and Ida Abell. Rufus passed away April 27, 2014 with family by his side. Rufus is the third of five boys. At the age of 19 he was drafted into the US Army during the peak of the Vietnam War. As a non-combatant Rufus was ordered to train as a combat medic at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Upon completion of his training Rufus was assigned to Darnell Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, Texas where he served as part of an ambulance detachment. While stationed at Ft. Hood Rufus received orders to deploy in support of the Vietnam War. While on patrol in Vietnam Rufus was wounded and lost his right leg. His awards include a Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal (W/Device 60). After being retired from military service Rufus returned to Los Angeles, California where he married Shirley Ann Turner on February 14, 1971. Rufus studied social work at La Sierra University of Riverside in Southern California for 2 years before transferring to the California State University of Chico in Northern CA where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Social Work. Later he earned his Master’s in Social Work from the California State University of Sacramento.

**His Family…** Rufus is survived by his wife Shirley of 43 years; his mother Ida Abell-Henry; his daughter Talitha A. Abell-Harris and husband Antonio B. Harris; his son Jay R. Abell and wife Sarah E. Abell; grandchildren Mia Harris, Antonio Harris, Jr., Willie F. Abell II, Brandon Harris, and Kayleigh Abell; his brothers Willie A. Abell, Jerold Abell (Veronica Abell d.), Steven Abell (Mary Abell). He is preceded in death by his father Willie F. Abell and brother Lawrence Abell (Brenda Abell).

**His Farewell Service …**
His Memorial Service will be held on Monday, May 19, 2014 at 3 p.m. at the Oroville Seventh-day Adventist Church 1180 Robinson St. Oroville, CA. Arrangements are entrusted to Ramsey Funeral Home (530) 534-3877

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