

Ray Masai Heitt

Masai was a man in search of his own existence the place where he could make a difference. From the early days as a gang member in little slauson with Bunchy Carter to the Black Panther Party. Each step of the way was an effort to find the true meaning of the principles to live by. It was always important to discover the principles in command of the situation. He always wanted to be justified in his actions. I always remember his comment " Is this my justification for being here." It seems to beg the question, What is our usefulness? Ray Masai Hewitt was a gang member, a black belt in Tae Kwon do, A member and leader in the Black Panther Party, a husband and a father.

Most importantly he was a man who like all of us made mistakes, and more importantly he was available to listen to corrections from the people he trusted. He was my comrade and best friend. Some of our best times were spent arguing politics and philosophy, it was a constant and it made for the spirit to live by. Fishing, back packing and hand gun hunting were favorite sports even though he did not like fish taking the position that fish taste fishy. Many of our friends took note of the fact that we could startle a jack rabbit; let it run for 50 yards and then take it down with a single shot from a 44 magnum single action revolver. Hell; I was there.

Bobby

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Bobby Bowen talks about Ray on the Boycott line:

Under Masai's leadership the line was well managed and very disciplined. He made sure we were fed on a regular basis, and the comrades got proper rest with regular rotation of the line. He encouraged everyone to eat peanuts for protein. All was well on the line until the day of George Jackson funeral. John Seal came to the line and instructed Masai that Huey wanted us all at the funeral; Masai broke down the line and got everyone to the funeral. Huey had a hessie fit he did not want all the Panthers to leave the boycott line. John Seal lied about the instructions he gave Masai and Masai payed for it. He had pain from that mud hole until the day he died.

Hell, I was there.