

Rev. Silas Alexander McFarland – May 24 1924 - June 29, 2022

Seaman First Class Silas McFarland served in the US Navy during WWII. He served aboard the USS Honolulu and USS Nevada. Medals and citations awarded include: the WWII Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze stars and the Philippine Liberation Campaign Ribbon with three stars.

McFarland also served during the Korean War, joining the USAF and working as an apprentice baker with the 7th Food Service Squadron until being discharged September of 1950.

He was ordained by the Choctaw-Chickasaw Baptist Association on October 11, 1970 to pastor his first church at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Talihina. He pastored several churches in Southeastern Oklahoma, ministering for over 50 years. Rev. McFarland served in leadership positions with the Choctaw-Chickasaw Baptist Association over his time in the ministry. He still served as interim pastor at a church in Stigler at the age of 89 before retiring.

McFarland related a memory of his time on the USS Honolulu, when it was hit by a Japanese bomber torpedo attack. He had been standing on deck near his commanding officer. "I told my commander the plane dropped a bomb, then I just had time to hit the deck." A lot of his friends he served with were below deck, where he had just came from, and they were killed.

Born to Samuel and Mattie McFarland in Nashoba, Oklahoma, Silas McFarland attended boarding schools at the St. Agnes Catholic School in Antlers and then Chilocco. He also studied psychology at UCLA in Los Angeles.

Deceased about one month shy of his 98th birthday, McFarland was buried with military honors at the Choctaw Nation Veterans Cemetery at Tvshka Homma.