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For Joe Conley, Ike Godsey on *The Waltons* 1928-2013

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Abstract

In your favorite episode, you are past your prime

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For Joe Conley, Ike Godsey on *The Waltons* 1928-2013

by David Vancil

In your favorite episode, you are past your prime, a smiling storekeeper with a snarky TV wife, when Uncle Sam plucks you up to help save the world from the Axis. In the Army now, you can't get out. Of course, John Boy's father has to save your bacon. Your nightmare of slogging through rice paddy muck in South Vietnam was grist for the writers. I didn't know until later that under fire in Korea during your real war, you'd help lug a man down a hill to safety, receiving a wound that plagued you the rest of your life to go along with a Silver Star you didn't like to speak of. I never told you I served in your dream war, remaining silent. Instead, we spoke of your love of song and dance, your talented and beautiful kids, and playing doubles.