

in memory

OF THE COLLEGE'S 15TH PRESIDENT

W. Noel Johnston led the College through a turbulent era, and left a legacy of expansion in academics and facilities

Former Defiance College president W. Noel Johnston died April 7 at Croasdaile Village Retirement Center in Durham, N.C. He brought a love of education and skills as an administrator and fund-raiser to the College he loved.

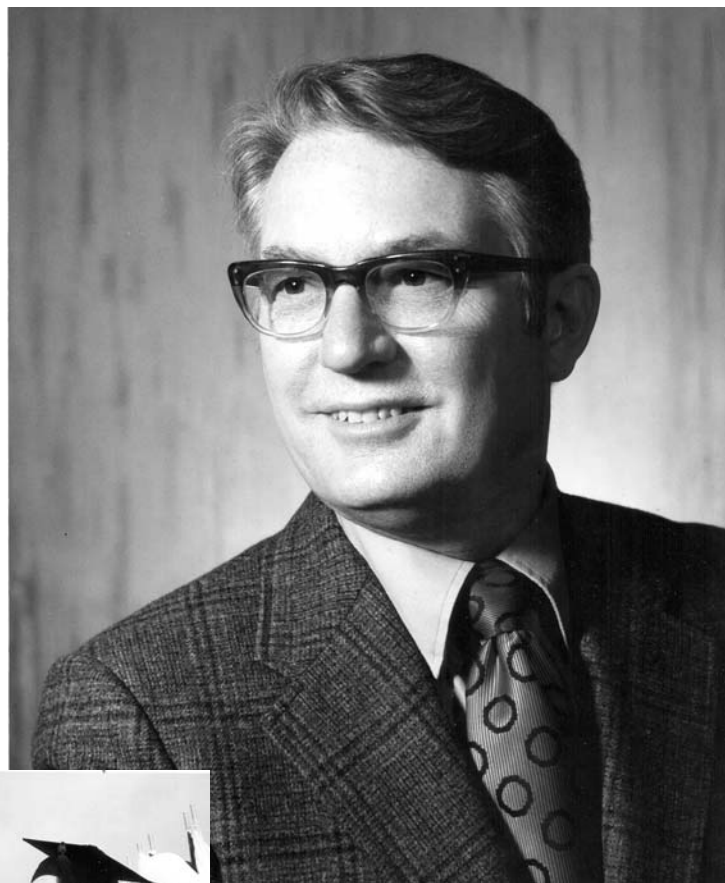
He was inaugurated as the College's 15th president in September 1964, serving until 1974. According to *Making a Difference for 150 Years: A Pictorial History of Defiance College*, President Johnston's tenure saw the campus response to critical issues of the day, tensions of the civil rights movement and Vietnam War protests. The College's academic reputation was enhanced with the beginnings of a nationally recognized forensic program, a natural systems program, the innovative winter term, and the Schauffler College's social work and Christian education programs. To serve the needs of the community, the College started an evening program and provided course offerings for persons in nursing and law enforcement fields to earn baccalaureate degrees. During President Johnston's time in office, the campus changed with construction of a new Defiance Hall, the physical education center (Weaner Community Center), an addition to Enders Student Union, addition of the McCann Center to the library, and development of athletic fields.

He was born March 21, 1919, in Baltimore, Md., the son of Howard and Irene Johnston. Virginia Miles, his wife of 65 years, survives.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1941 and fought in Europe during World War II, becoming a lieutenant. After the war, he matriculated at Johns Hopkins University where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history. For his many achievements in the field of education, he was awarded an

honorary doctorate from Heidelberg College in 1963.

He was vice president of Evansville College from 1954 to 1956, vice president of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn from 1956 to 1958, president of the American College Public Relations Association in Washington, D.C. from 1958 to 1960, and vice president of university relations for Ohio Wesleyan University from 1960 to 1964. After his presidency at Defiance, he became executive director of the New Jersey Association of Independent Colleges



and Universities from 1974 to 1979. He moved from New Jersey to Durham in 1979 where he formed the consulting firm of Ross, Johnston & Kersting with J. David Ross.

Also surviving are a daughter, Virginia Gail Sweat, and her friend, Brenda Frost of Portland, Maine; two sons, William Jr. (Linda), Greeley, Colo., and Jeffrey (Sandy), Durham; and six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held in Few Chapel of the Croasdaile Retirement Community in Durham. Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association or Defiance College. Condolences may be sent to Virginia Johnston, 9 Aldersgate Court, Croasdaile Village Retirement Center, Durham, NC 27705. ♦