

INDUCTEE

ARNOLD JOHNSON, M.D.

Graduated. . . .1935
Married.Kate Carr, deceased
Children.Susie, Dennis, Byron
Resides.Gahanna

In high school Arnold Johnson was an involved student. Having lost his leg in a childhood accident, he had to limit his athletic activities but he found many other ways to excel and leave his mark, so to speak, in his high school's history. Following graduation he went on to Ohio State University to earn his medical degree and returned to Gahanna to practice medicine and raise his family. He is often quoted to say he delivered "lots of babies" while he practiced here.

After Riverside Hospital opened in 1961, he decided to limit his practice to anesthesiology and found it necessary to move his family from Gahanna, closer to the hospital, because he was called in to surgery so often. He was privileged to be the anesthesiologist for the first surgery performed at Riverside, and also for the first total hip replacement. He spent 42 years as an anesthesiologist at Riverside and White Cross hospitals.

Although Dr. Johnson moved out of Gahanna, his devotion to his childhood community continued to be evident throughout most of his life. His longtime friends and church were here and so were his non-professional interests. Despite living in Upper Arlington for a good many years, he has been a long time member of the Gahanna Lions' Club, even serving as president. It was while he was president that the Lions Club raffled off a car to finance new Gahanna High School Marching Band uniforms. He also was a member of the Gahanna Businessmen's Organization that purchased lights for the Jefferson Elementary Little League field.

His community contributions are many but perhaps he is best known for his "work" with high school athletics. The Gahanna Booster Club was organized at a meeting in his home and he was a "jack of all trades" at the football games, serving not only as team physician but also as team photographer. As photographer he stationed himself in a platform at the top of a light pole. It wasn't unusual for him to climb down and then back up again more than once during an evening when a player was injured on the field. As team physician he also donated his time for player physicals at the beginning of the season.

Since his retirement from his medical practice in 1985, he has again become a Gahanna resident, coming "home" to live in the community where his heart has always been and where his children and grandchildren have also made their homes.

Dr. Arnold Johnson was named to the Gahanna Lincoln Athletic Hall of Fame as an Award of Merit Honoree in 1987.