



Dr. Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson '50

Has been elected to membership in the

Beta Phi Hall of Honor Class of 2002

In Tucson, few men have had more impact on the Community than Dr. Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson, a former University of Arizona Administrator whose success in academia and the private sector made him a local legend.

Born in Wilcox, Arizona, Brother Johnson came to the University of Arizona and was initiated into the Sigma Chi Fraternity in 1947. Active in many campus leadership roles, he received the outstanding student award, served the Beta Phi Chapter as Annotator and Consul, and was the Beta Phi Balfour Award nominee. After graduating from the U of A with bachelor's and master's degrees in 1950, Brother Johnson was hired as a graduate assistant in the Wildcats' Athletic Department before being named Director of the Student Union Memorial Building in 1952.

In 1958, Brother Johnson was named the President of the U of A Alumni Association, one of the most influential organizations in the City. Five years later, he became a member of the University's administration, when he was named Vice President for University Relations.

It was while serving in that position that Brother Johnson made a name for himself in academia. Thanks in large part to his efforts, the University constructed three of its most recognizable buildings: the medical school, the UA library and McKale Center.

Although Brother Johnson was unsuccessful in his attempt to become UA President, he will be remembered as one of the most influential and respected administrators in University of Arizona history.

When he left the U of A for the University of New Mexico in 1977, and later for the Coors Brewing Company in 1985, Brother Johnson remained a true Wildcat at heart. A longtime supporter of Wildcat Athletics and a friend to numerous campus Presidents, Brother Johnson was rarely far from Tucson, or the University of Arizona.

Sadly, Brother Johnson died of lung cancer in 1995, but his rich legacy will always continue at the University of Arizona.

In 1993, the same year he was given an Honorary Doctorate Degree by the University of Arizona, the U of A's alumni building was named in honor of Brother Johnson. To this day, the "Swede" Johnson Memorial Building is a campus landmark and is home to Arizona's alumni offices. Brother Johnson has been honored by being elected to the University of Arizona Hall of Fame.

Elected as the 53rd Grand Consul of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, Brother Johnson has been named both a "Significant Sig" and is member of the Order of Constantine. His leadership and contributions to Sigma Chi Fraternity are numerous through his work and leadership with the Leadership Training Board in multiple positions including Committee Chair, Vice-Chairman and Chairman, the Sigma Chi Executive Committee, the Board of Grand Trustees as Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Fraternity Committee on Public Service and Public Relations, and his dedicated service to the Beta Phi Chapter as Faculty Advisor, House Corporation member, and a past Tucson Alumni President and alumnus advocate. He received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1952. "Swede" will always be a special part of the Beta Phi Chapter.

Marvin "Swede" Johnson personifies the Spirit of Youth and exemplifies service to the community and has set the standard for other Brothers in Sigma Chi to follow.