



Russell Harold Andrew Johnsen

August 5, 1922 - January 28, 2025

Russell Harold Andrew Johnsen, born August 5, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois, son of Harold and Irene Johnsen, passed peacefully on January 28, 2025. He graduated from Lane Tech and Wright Junior College before enlisting in the Army Air Corp during World War II. He was commissioned as an officer, trained as a meteorologist, and was later deployed to the Indo-Pacific theater as a petroleum officer utilizing his background in chemistry. After the war Johnsen graduated from the University of Chicago and then earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin.

Johnsen joined the faculty of Florida State University in 1951 becoming Professor of Chemistry specializing in Radiation Chemistry. He held several administrative positions including Dean of Graduate Studies before retiring in 1993 after 42 years of service. He co-authored two significant chemistry text books, edited 10 monographs on topics in chemistry and produced numerous technical publications based on his research with graduate students.

Johnsen was married for 75 years to Dorothy Pehta Johnsen who passed in August, 2023. They were avid sailors and world travelers. He is survived by his son Peter (Polly), daughter Margaret "Maggi", two grandsons: Andrew and Eric and two great grandsons: James and Jonah.

Niki Carney of Bevis Funeral Home (www.bevisfh.com or 850-385-2193) is

assisting the Johnsen family with their arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ Dr. Johnsen was a most important person in my life. Chose to go to college against the wishes of my mother. Arrived at FSU with \$25. Had declared a Chemistry major, and went to check on a job before enrolling in classes. First interview was with Dr. Johnsen, the universe provided for me. Worked almost 20 hours a week at the Nuclear Research Building. Typed, graded papers. etc. Only shoes were flip flops my first year. My mother kept her promise and never spoke to me again.

Dr. Johnsen often talked about Peter and Maggie. Hope you both are having wonderful lives. I was lucky to work for him.

He and his grad students took me for their weekly beer gathering when I turned 21. I had one sip, hated it. Still have not had another sip. And we were dry in Tallahassee, remember?

Summer of my junior year I remember scuba diving with Dr. J, Tony Llewellyn and another chem professor-- Gluck? (drove a red convertible). We went to 120'.

After graduation I went to meet Dr. J and Dorothy in the San Francisco area where Dr. J was working for the summer. We went to the Redwood Forests, and to dinner.

Every August 5th I remember his birthday. I will always remember. Stayed in contact with him, and am still teaching college science at 80 yo.

*I have been the most blessed, after your family.
What a difference one person can make.*

*Sending love to all his family,
carolann*

Let me know if I can help you if you are in the Seattle area~

JM

Carolann, I have shared a link to this page with the members of the Apalachee Bay Yacht Club where he and Dorothy were long time members. What a wonderful testament to the man and a wonderful reminder of the opportunity we all have to make a lasting, positive impact in others' lives.

John E McBride - February 12, 2025 at 11:50 PM



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Bevis Funeral Home - January 30, 2025 at 07:32 PM