**Gordon V. Johnson**

Gordon V. Johnson, Emeritus Professor at Oklahoma State University passed away on June 21, 2020. Dr. Johnson was born on January 9, 1940 in Harvey North Dakota. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Fessenden High School in 1959. He met the love of his life, Dorothy Schwarz, in high school and they were married July 27, 1962 in Fessenden, North Dakota.

Gordon completed his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture at North Dakota State University in 1963. Soon thereafter he completed his Master's Degree at the University of Nevada in 1966 and his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska in 1969 working directly with Professor R. A. Olson. His first faculty position was at the University of Arizona, where he worked from 1969 to 1974. He then accepted a position at Oklahoma State University where he was employed for the next 26 years before retiring. While at OSU he achieved the rank of Regents Professor in 1998. His prior roles at OSU included being a Professor from 1983 to 1998 and an Associate Professor from 1977 to 1983.

His tenure at Oklahoma State University included many productive years in research, teaching and extension. This included having been the director of the OSU Agronomic Services Laboratory more commonly known as the Soil Testing Lab. Dr. Johnson is one of very few OSU faculty members to have been recognized as a distinguished Fellow in both the American Society of Agronomy (1989) and the Soil Science Society of America (1995). In 1998, he was part of an OSU team that travelled to Sanliurfa Turkey where he successfully resolved a water salinity issue that had arisen with neighboring Syria.

Dr. Johnson was an avid golfer where his athletic skills included a low handicap and many rounds in the 70’s. He and his daughter Alane were both accomplished runners having competed in several running and charity events that generated financial support for many local causes. He was the major advisor for numerous MS and PhD students, and that were accompanied by having a host of highly cited journal publications that were a product of this commitment. He was further recognized as being one of the founding fathers of the Certified Crop Adviser Program (CCA). Via local and state testing this serves as a proficiency metric for both consultants and producers and that continues today.

For several years, Dr. Johnson taught the soil nutrient management class for undergraduates that was incredibly popular with students via his unique and highly effective teaching skills. Today he is still recognized for his “Dip Stick Theory” that helped farmers gauge the need for phosphorus fertilizer and the use of a sufficiency concept for immobile nutrients. This fundamental theory continues to be taught in classrooms at agricultural universities all over the world.

Gordon was a team player and will always be remembered as being cordial and kind to everyone regardless of their station in life. He will be sorely missed.