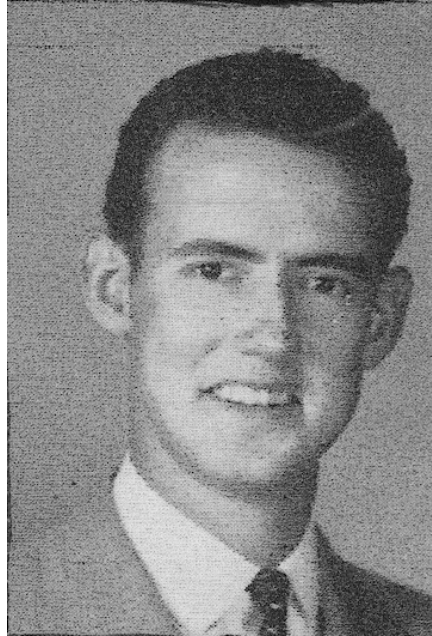


### Tribute from Vic Atkins

Doug could always brighten up your day with a joke, even if you had heard him tell it several times before - he told it so well. We roomed together at the Cat House the last year I was on the Knights(1948). We both loved to pull gags on the other AKOs. The gag that stands out in my mind was this: We played an out of town gig, somewhere in Georgia, I think. My Dad had given me my first car, a black Chevy. Doug and I decided that we would drive my new car to the gig instead of riding on the bus with the other Knights. When the gig was over, we got a head start on the Knights' bus headed back to Auburn. After a few minutes, when we were a good distance out of town, we pulled over, got out of the car, took off our coats and tied the sleeves around our waist and rolled up our pants legs. We waited until we saw the bus coming, locked arms and started dancing the cancan. As the bus went by, we suddenly realized that it was the Greyhound bus and not the Knights' bus. You wouldn't believe the expressions on the faces of the passengers who were awake and looking out the window.!



### Dr. Richard Hardin Johnson, Sr.

The much loved Dr. Richard H. Johnson of Atlanta passed away peacefully on January 18, 2010, surrounded by his loved ones. His wit, humor, warmth and great wisdom will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues and former patients. He was born on September 11, 1920 in Montgomery, AL as one of three sons of Ruth Buckler Macey and William David Johnson. He grew up in Montgomery and Mobile and attended Auburn University where he also played trombone with The Auburn Knights Orchestra.

At the outbreak of World War II, he interrupted his education to enlist in the Army Air Corps serving in the 8th Army Air Corps at bases in High Wycombe and Bushy Park near London, England maintaining B-17's and playing in the 8th Army Air Force Band.

After the war, he attended The University of Alabama Medical School where he received his Medical Degree in 1952. Upon graduation, he moved to Atlanta and practiced Internal Medicine for the next 40 years at Piedmont Hospital. He served as vice president and president of Piedmont Hospital Medical Staff from 1986 -1988.

After retiring from his medical practice in 1993, he worked for the next

16 years as a Medical Consultant for the Disability Determination Services at the Social Security Administration. Throughout his life, he pursued his love of music by playing with The Atlanta Seventeen, a big band ensemble with whom he played into his 80's.

A wonderful and devoted family man throughout his life, he is survived by his wife, Nancy Toomer Johnson, his eight children, Susan Johnson Sutterfield, Richard Hardin Johnson, Jr., William David Johnson, Leigh Johnson Steed, Nancy Johnson Thomas, Jennifer Toomer Reed, Stephanie Toomer Braatz and Ashley Toomer Camoosa, his fifteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren with one more on the way.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Woman's Auxiliary of Piedmont Hospital.

### "Say It Isn't So"

by Helen Lombardy

Everything is different. Nothing is the same. The light over Atlanta, GA has dimmed! Our dear friend and AK brother, Dick "Jansen" Johnson, left this earth following an illness, early in the morning Monday, January 15, in this New Year. It's just really hard to believe.

"Jansen" loved this AK organization! Not only did he put his signature on every tune he ever played with you guys, he put his heart, soul and many hours in keeping Auburn Knights alive... such as, working with other dedicated AKs to bring the Auburn Knights presence back to life on campus in 1948 at the ending of World War II (where I'll bet he brought a whole brightness wherever he was!) In the same way, Jansen worked with older brothers (and sisters) in helping to give life to the Auburn Knights Alumni Association!

Dick Johnson was a fine musician. He felt the music! --- loved the Big Band sound --- loved the arrangements that "just knock your socks off!" Not long ago he wrote me (in talking about longevity,) "When I come back, I'm going to be a BASS Trombone!"

Please send all memorial scholarship donations to Fritz Siler, 3110 Deer Chase Ct., Snellville, GA 30039-6261. Checks should be made out to "AKAA Scholarships Fund."

Jansen loved and adored his family. He was so proud of wife Nancy, her beauty, talents and accomplishments. He was a Dad like none other I've ever known: he admired his children (and their children); he spent time with them... learning their personalities and wants and needs. He helped his children "find" themselves whether it was in jobs or in schools in the U.S. or in another part of the world. He "rounded up" his family---entertained them!---while all the time guiding them.

And did you know that Richard H. Johnson was a fine Internal Medicine Physician? "R. H. Johnson, M.D.!" He was trusted and admired in his profession. He gave his patients time and guidance; and, guess what, he knew how to get the to relax and laugh!

Dick Johnson was my dear friend for 68 years! We met in September 1941 when I became part of the best Auburn Knights Orchestra there ever has been! For me, Jansen took the place of the brother I never had. He helped me over rough spots of disappointments or grief in my life---giving me good advice and/or making me laugh. He is certainly "One of a Kind."

Goodbye, Jansen, dear old friend. Lord know we will miss you!

**Henry Burnette "Bernie" Bell Jr.** (1928 - 2010). Bernie peacefully passed away Jan. 29, 2010, in Oneonta, Ala. Born in Waycross, Ga., on Nov. 13, 1928, he lived a full and gregarious life. In the 1940s, while attending the University of Georgia, he traveled as a trombone player and recorded with the Big Bands of Tommy Dorsey, Gene Krupa, Count Basie and Buddy Rich. He eventually received his degree in Commercial Art. After college he proudly served his country as a USAF fighter pilot during the Korean War, where he earned several Medals of Honor for his service. In 1955, he moved to Mountain Brook, Ala., to raise his family. As an ad executive for the Tom Williamson Agency, he found himself in full charge of GM's print and television advertising during the 1960s and 1970s. He also was a founding member of the UAB

SuperJazz, one of the first performing musical jazz ensembles in Birmingham, Ala. The 1980s brought him to Destin, where he was a professor of art and music at OWJC. Bernie's next adventure found him living on Mangrove Cay, Andros, Bahamas, during the 1990s where he spent his days bone fishing, painting and illustrating on "island time." In 2001, he chose to relocate one last time to Oneonta to fish the beautiful lakes, continue his creativity in the mountains, and spend time with his family. Survivors include his son, Andrew (Marcelle) Bell of Destin and daughter Jennifer Robbins of Oneonta; grandchildren Aja Bell (Destin), Tyler Byrd (Birmingham) and Parker Byrd (Oneonta); great-grandchildren Brendon Byrd, Carter Byrd and Maddox Byrd (all in Oneonta).

## **AKAA Reunion Recordings**

ProCAT Audio Video Productions ([www.allabouttheband.com](http://www.allabouttheband.com)) is honored to have been chosen to do the CD and DVD recording for the upcoming Auburn Knights Reunion Concert this July. ProCAT will be capturing this event with three broadcast quality cameras and an array of professional audio and video recording equipment. DVD Option #1 - Purchase your choice of the DVD from each individual concert for only \$20.00 each.

DVD Option #2 - Purchase a complete DVD set of all eight concerts in a 2-3 DVD set for only \$30.00 With the purchase of a DVD product, we are also offering the "companion" audio CD of any of the concerts for only \$5.00 per individual concert.

There will be a single \$5.00 charge for tax, shipping and handling on your order.

ProCAT looks forward to recording this wonderful concert. Purchases can be made at the event by Mastercard, Visa, check or even cash. We will also have this event available for purchase online at [www.allabouttheband.com](http://www.allabouttheband.com) two weeks before the event.

Should you have any questions, stay tuned to this newsletter, or you may contact ProCAT directly by email at [info@procatav.com](mailto:info@procatav.com), or by phone at 205-668-1122 🎵