The Loss of Bill Johnson

September 1, 1920—January 13, 2013

William A. “Bill” Johnson, husband, father, grandfather, lawyer, gardener, Democrat and Tar Heel fan, died on January 13, 2013. Bill’s education at Buies Creek Academy, Campbell College and UNC-Chapel Hill led to almost 70 years as a practicing attorney, with only brief interruptions to serve as NC Commissioner of Revenue and a Superior Court Judge. What Bill loved most about being a lawyer was representing and counseling his clients, which he was still doing on Saturday, January 12, 2013, when he suddenly became ill. He was married to Mildred Marshbanks Johnson for more than 50 years until her death in 1994. Together they raised three children and enjoyed their four wonderful grandchildren. When not practicing law or spending time with his family, Bill served his beloved UNC as Trustee, member and Chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, member of the Board of Directors of the UNC Center for Civil Rights, and most recently, as a private citizen, worked to insure that the University fulfill its constitutional mandate to extend the benefits of the University of North Carolina, as far as practicable, to the people of the state, free of expense. He also passionately engaged in many other personal, professional and civic activities, including gardening, indulging his great curiosity about almost everything, and working to get Democrats elected. Bill’s unwavering support of his beloved Tar Heels led to many happy and some frustrating, but always optimistic, times. Bill was blessed to love and be loved by many people. It is impossible for his family to express their gratitude for what all these wonderful people meant to and did for Bill. Among the many people and things about Carolina that Bill loved was Dr. Timothy Carey, whose wisdom, care and compassion over many years earned Bill’s complete trust and great affection. His family can never sufficiently acknowledge their gratitude to Dr. Carey.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his daughters, Sandra L. Johnson of Raleigh; Rebecca J. Davidson and husband James P. of Buies Creek. Son, Glenn Johnson and wife Shirley of Buies Creek. Grandchildren, Will Johnson of Fuquay-Varina, Carol Johnson of Holly Springs, Elizabeth Davidson of Carrboro, and Sandra Katharine Davidson of Lillington. In addition to his wife, Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Alton Glenn and Mary Green Johnson and his sisters,

Betty J. Cheek, Anne J. Byrd, and Mary Byrd J. Altvater.

A Celebration of Bill’s life will be conducted 2:00 pm Thursday, January 17, 2013 at Butler Chapel, Campbell University with Rev. Don Bowen officiating. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 3:00—6:00 pm at his home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Mildred M. and William A. Johnson Scholarship, c/o Brandon Wright, UNC School of Law, CB 3382, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; Habitat for Humanity of Harnett Co., 101-B W. Harnett St., Dunn, NC 28334; S.A.F.E of Harnett County, P.O. Box 728, Lillington, NC 27546; Harnett Food Pantry, P.O. Box 2084, Lillington, NC 27546; or a charity of one’s choice.

The famiily will be using Ann's Florist
910 893 9192

Parking for Mr. Johnson's funeral will be limited. Please allow time prior to the service to park your car. Consider car pooling with others attending the funeral.

Butler Chapel 60 TT Lanier Street Campbell University Buies Creek NC