

We continue to see the increasing value of our relationships as we look back on 30 years of memories and milestones.

Chester and Elizabeth Johnson, better known to their friends as Johnny and Beth, left a lasting legacy of philanthropic generosity, leadership, friendship, and the love of construction.

After his time in the service, Johnny formed Scheumann & Johnson Contractors with Rod Scheumann. The company set the Interstate 5 Ship Canal freeway piers and laid eight miles of tunnel for Metro. They also built the Matthews Beach pump station, the Haines (Alaska) Army Piers, the Sultan River Dam and fish facility.

Beth and Johnny were first introduced to the AGC Education Foundation through their longtime friends Allan and Inger Osberg. Allan recalls that he nominated Johnny to be accorded an Honorary Membership in the AGC Chapter shortly after Johnny retired and that he was extremely appreciative upon hearing that the Board had so voted. Shortly after, the Johnsons hosted Allan and Inger for a dinner at Canlis. This was followed by the initial Johnson gift to the foundation.

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The Mr. and Mrs. Chester Johnson Scholarship was created in the early 1990s to support students studying construction at the university level.

Johnny and Beth were people that recognized the value of hard work and had a great sense of adventure. When Johnny found himself at a stalled project, people recall him saying, "Let's do something even if it's wrong." He then made sure it was done right.

After his death in 1995, Beth fulfilled one of Johnny's wishes by doubling the size of their endowment which brought the *Chester H. Johnson and Elizabeth N. Johnson Memorial Scholarship* to \$100,000. In reference to the scholarship, Beth said, "It gave me so much pleasure to do this. Johnny was a man of few words. His loves were: first, I like to think, me ... next came his work ... and last but not least ... our yacht, the Mercer Girl."

Over the next 13 years, Beth stayed in contact with the AGC Education Foundation. She exchanged notes with Allan, scholarship recipients, and other foundation board members. The foundation staff updated her on her investments, program growth, and details on all the students that benefited from their generosity. In September of 2008, we were sad to learn that Beth had passed away. However, even through death, the Johnson's commitment to education and the construction industry never wavered.

The AGC Education Foundation was named as one of five beneficiaries to the Johnson estate. Our portion of their estate totalled a half a million dollars which has been directed to the *Chester H. and Elizabeth N. Johnson Memorial Scholarship*. The foundation was also named as a signed beneficiary of a uni-trust left by Johnny and Beth, which is presently valued at just under \$600,000.

Assuring that the legacy of their love and commitment to construction lives on through future leaders of our industry, the total amount gifted to the *Chester H. and Elizabeth N. Johnson Memorial Scholarship* will be at least \$1 million. ■



Chester "Johnny" and Elizabeth Johnson on their boat "Mercer Girl"