

Dr. Orlen N. Johnson June 11, 1929–May 2, 2019



Submitted by Debra L. Gander, DDS, MS, AAOMR Immediate Past President, with valuable input from Christine E. Essay, RDH, BS, Dr. Johnson's daughter.

The American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (AAOMR) mourns the death of Dr. Orlen

Norman Johnson, who passed away on May 2, 2019. Dr. Johnson was born in 1929, near Beaver Creek, MN, and grew up in Sioux Falls, SD. During the Korean War (1951–1953), Dr. Johnson was a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy.

After receiving a DDS degree from the University of Minnesota and an MS degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Dr. Johnson entered a career with the U.S. Public Health Service and worked in the Bureau of Radiologic Health. During his tenure with the Public Health Service, he was instrumental in generating published guidelines pertaining to the selection of patients for dental radiographic examination. From 1973 to

1979, he was stationed in Rockville, MD. He moved his family to Lincoln, NE, in 1979 and commuted to Winnebago, NE, where he practiced clinical dentistry until his retirement from the Public Health Service in 1981.

Orlen was a champion for higher education and taught Dental Radiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry for decades after his retirement from the Public Health Service. Along with Evelyn M. Thomson, BSDH, MS, Dr. Johnson co-authored the textbook *Essentials of Dental Radiography for Dental Assistants and Hygienists*. The 10th edition of the textbook was published in 2018.

Dr. Johnson was a long-time member of AAOMR and served as Secretary-Treasurer from 1979 to 1982. He served on the State of Nebraska Radiation Advisory Council. Dr. Johnson was a member of the American Dental Association, Nebraska Dental Association, and Lincoln Dental Association.

Dr. Johnson was a humble gentleman who spoke more highly of his children's accomplishments than of his own. He is survived by his 6 children, 15 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Dr. Johnson was preceded in death by his beloved wife of nearly 65 years, Joelene.