

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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INNOVATIVE LAWYER REMEMBERED WITH JOHN R. JOHNSON MEMORIAL FUND FOR CANCER RESEARCH

DALLAS — September 20, 1994 — When John R. Johnson and other attorneys founded Hewett, Johnson, Swanson & Barbee law firm in 1970, they revolutionized the Dallas legal community. Now the legal community, law clients and his friends are joining hands to support the John R. Johnson Memorial Fund for Cancer Research established at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to memorialize the innovative lawyer, who died last year.

More than \$175,000 has been contributed. All the funds raised will be matched dollar for dollar as part of the university's Fund for Molecular Research.

"Johnny was the nearest individual to a genius I have ever known," said Dallas oil man, developer and investor Ray Hunt. "Helping to fund a scientific search for the cure for cancer in his name is certainly a fitting tribute to his life. He strove for excellence and perfection in every undertaking."

Hunt, a longtime friend and client of Johnson, was responsible for a \$100,000 contribution to the memorial fund.

A \$25,000 contribution came from Johnson's firm, now called Johnson & Wortley.

"John was an important part of our firm," said Toby Gerber, managing director of Johnson & Wortley. "He had tremendous faith in the medical center, so establishing the John R. Johnson Memorial Fund for Cancer Research was an ideal way to dedicate his memory and to help ensure that UT Southwestern Medical Center remains one of the finest facilities available."

Another \$25,000 was contributed by Gail and Dan W. Cook III, trustees of The Cook Foundation. "Obviously, the stimulus for this is Johnny, our dear

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friend, whom we regarded with the highest respect. Johnny was one of the most influential business leaders Dallas ever had, and we wanted to recognize that with this memorial," Dan Cook said.

"This memorial fund will enable UT Southwestern to further develop our research efforts in cancer," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "We are truly appreciative of the support given us by the friends of Johnny Johnson."

Under the name Johnson & Swanson and later Johnson & Gibbs, the law firm was the largest in Dallas in the 1980s. An expert in real-estate law, Johnson was involved in some of Dallas' biggest projects, including devising the private-public development around Reunion Arena and creating a free-trade zone for Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

He was also an active civic leader and served as chairman of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce and on the executive committee of the Dallas Citizens Council.

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