GENERAL ORDERS
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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, D.C., *24 April 1966*

The death of the Honorable LOUIS ARTHUR JOHNSON, former Secretary of Defense, which occurred at Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C., on 24 April 1966, is announced with deep regret.

MR. JOHNSON was born on 10 January 1891, at Roanoke, Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1912, and received a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL. B). Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees (LL. D) were conferred on MR. JOHNSON by Salem College of West Virginia, Kenyon College of Ohio, Creighton University of Nebraska, Villanova University of Pennsylvania, Marietta College of Ohio, West Virginia University, and Pennsylvania Military College.

After graduation, MR. JOHNSON practiced law in Clarksburg, West Virginia, as an associate of the law firm of Steptoe and Johnson of Clarksburg and Charleston, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. In 1916, he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates and in 1917 served as Majority Floor Leader and as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. He was a member of many Democratic Committees, serving on several as Chairman.

MR. JOHNSON entered the military service in August 1917. He attended officers' training camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, and was commissioned a captain of Infantry. He was assigned to the 80th Division at Camp Lee, Virginia, and sailed for France in May 1918. Upon return to the United States, he resumed his law practice in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

MR. JOHNSON performed duty as Civilian Aide for West Virginia to the Secretary of War from 1933 to 1937, and was a member of the Federal Advisory Council of the U.S. Employment Service under the Department of Labor. He was appointed as Assistant Secretary of War on 28 June 1937 and served until 25 July 1940. During this term, MR. JOHNSON favored an expanded air force for the United States and participated actively in formulating and carrying out a program of industrial mobilization. In 1942, the President sent MR. JOHNSON to India as his personal representative, where he remained for several months, both during and after the Cripps Mission which was studying the question of Indian independence. He was appointed, by President Truman, as Secretary of Defense on 28 March 1949 and served in that capacity until his resignation on 19 September 1950.

MR. JOHNSON took an active part in the organization of the American Legion and was elected national commander in 1932 for a one-year term.

In 1933, he was chosen American Vice-President of the Federation Interalliee des Anciens Combattants, an international organization of World War veterans. In 1943, he headed the Legion's commission on postwar America.

MR. JOHNSON was awarded the Medal for Merit for his services rendered as Assistant Secretary of War. The French Legion of Honor Medal, degree of Commander, was bestowed upon him also. In 1961, MR. JOHNSON was presented with the West Virginia Distinguished Service Medal.

Throughout his entire career, whether in public or private life, MR. JOHNSON rendered loyal and distinguished service. With his passing, the country has lost one of its most prominent citizens.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable LOUIS ARTHUR JOHNSON, the National Flag will be displayed at half-staff on all installations under the control of the Department of the Army from the day of death, until retreat on the day of interment, 26 April 1966.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,
*General, United States Army,*
*Chief of Staff.*

Official:
J. C. LAMBERT,
*Major General, United States Army,*
*The Adjutant General.*

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