GENERAL ORDERS
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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *12 October 1983*

The death of General Harold Keith Johnson, former Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 24 September 1983, at Washington, DC, is announced with deep regret.

General Johnson loved the Army in which he served for more than 35 years. General Johnson's legacy to our Nation is one not only of commitment to defending our national security, but also one that exemplifies the highest standards of integrity, objectivity, compassion, selflessness, and character. With his passing the Nation has lost a faithful servant; and the United States Army, a courageous commander.

General Johnson was born in Bowesmont, North Dakota, on 22 February 1912. He graduated from the United States Military Academy on 13 June 1933 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry. He advanced through all grades earning an appointment to general on 3 July 1964. General Johnson graduated from the Regular Course of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in June, 1938, and from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in July 1947. Additionally, he was a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, in January, 1950, and the National War College, Washington, DC, in June, 1953.

General Johnson's service included assignments with the 3d Infantry (The Old Guard), Fort Snelling, Minnesota; the 28th Infantry, Fort Niagara, New York; and the 57th Infantry (Philippine Scouts) at Fort William McKinley in the Philippines. In December, 1941, the 57th Infantry deployed to Bataan where General Johnson served as operations officer of the regiment and later as commander of the 3d Battalion. After the fall of Bataan, General Johnson survived the "Bataan Death March", and imprisonment at Camp O'Donnell, Camp Cabanatuan, Bilibid Prison, and, finally, a camp near Inchon, Korea, where he was liberated by the 7th Infantry Division on 8 September 1945.

During the Korean War, General Johnson organized the 1st Provisional Infantry Battalion of the 7th Infantry at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and took it to Korea in August, 1950. His battalion joined the 1st Cavalry Division in the defense of the Pusan Perimeter. He participated in the pursuit to the North, the encounter with the Chinese in late 1950, and the subsequent withdrawal to South Korea. During this period, he commanded both the 5th and 8th Cavalry regiments of the 1st Cavalry Division. From February, 1951, to October, 1951, General Johnson served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G–3, with I Corps in Korea.

After returning from Korea, he served with the Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces at Fort Monroe, Virginia; and with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G–3, Department of the Army, in Washington, DC. He was then assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado, as the Assistant Division Commander of the 8th Infantry Division, which later gyroscoped to Germany. In September, 1957, he became Chief of Staff of the Seventh Army in Europe where he served until March, 1959. The next month he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, G–3, United States Army, Europe. The following December, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Central Army Group, a NATO headquarters concerned with planning for the employment of French, German, and United States Troop operations in Central Europe. During that same period, he performed additional duty as Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Army, Europe. General Johnson returned to the United States in August, 1960, and was assigned as Commandant of the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he served concurrently, until 31 January 1963, as Commanding General of Fort Leavenworth and Commanding General of the United States Army Combat Arms Group. In February, 1963, he became Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations (Plans and Operations) Department of the Army, Washington, DC, and in July was appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations. On 3 July 1964, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the United States Army, the second youngest Chief of Staff in the history of the Army. He retired from that post in July, 1968, terminating his active military career.

General Johnson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross; the Distinguished Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters; the Bronze Star Medal; the Combat Infantryman Badge (Second Award); the American Defense Service Medal with Foreign Service Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four bronze service stars; the World War II Victory Medal; the Philippine Defense Ribbon with one bronze service star; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze service star; the Philippine Independence Ribbon; the Distinguished Unit Emblem with two Oak Leaf Clusters; the Korean Service Medal with service stars representing six Korean war campaigns; the National Defense Service Medal; and two Presidential Unit Citations for service in the Philippine Islands and the Republic of Korea. General Johnson was awarded the Ulchi Distinguished Military Service Medal by the Korean Government; the Legion of Honor, Degree of Officer by the French Government; the Order of Military Merit, Degree of Grand Official, by Brazil; the Legion of Honor, Degree of Commander, by the Philippines and Venezuela; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant by Thailand; Order of Military Merit Taeguk by Korea; White Cross of Military Merit and Greatest Grade by Spain; and the National

Order, Second Class by the Republic of Vietnam. He also received the following honorary Degrees: Honorary Doctor of Laws from Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota; Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois; Pennsylvania Military College, Chester, Pennsylvania; and the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio; Honorary Doctor of Humanities from North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota; Honorary Doctor of Science from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont; and Honorary Doctor of Education from Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

General Johnson was married on 13 April 1935 to the former Dorothy Rennix of Aberdeen, South Dakota, who survives him. He is also survived by three children, Harold K. Jr., Ellen Kay Kimbrough and Robert James.

As a mark of respect to the memory of General Johnson, the National Flag will be displayed at half-staff on all installations under the control of the Department of the Army from day of death, 24 September 1983, until retreat on day of burial, 28 September 1983.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

ROBERT M. JOYCE
Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

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