

Michael J. Johns, Sr.
District 663 Governor for 1986-87

Michael J. Johns, Sr., was born on February 3, 1938, in Cleveland. His father was John I. Johns, the son of a stone mason, and his mother was the former Marianna Farinacci.

John I. Johns was a 1929 graduate of the Western Reserve University School of Architecture, and he joined the Joseph Carabelli Company in 1931. He became the chief designer within a year, and he and some co-workers started their own monument firm, Mayfair Memorials, in 1937. Michael J. Johns joined his father at Mayfair Memorials in 1957. The Johns family purchased the Carabelli Company in 1971, and the two companies merged into the Johns-Carabelli Company.

Michael J. Johns soon distinguished himself in the monuments industry, and he subsequently has served as president of the Monument Builders of Ohio, the Monument Builders of North America, and the American Institute of Commemorative Art (A.I.C.A.). He is a past trustee for the A.I.C.A. Education Foundation. The American Institute of Commemorative Art is limited to sixty members by invitation who exhibit outstanding ability in the field of Memorial Design. Mr. Johns was invited to membership in 1972. He has also earned the Certified Memorialist for Life designation of the Monument Builders of North America. There are approximately 140 Certified Memorialists in the world. Michael J. Johns has been a frequent speaker at industry conferences and is a consultant on cemetery design.

Michael J. Johns, Sr., joined the Rotary Club of Hillcrest in 1976 and twice served as president of the club (in 1980-81 and 2001-02). He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Benefactor of the Rotary Foundation, and a Level 3 member of the Bequest Society.

In addition to serving Rotary as district governor, he has been a zone leadership trainer and a voting delegate to three Rotary International Councils on Legislation. He has served as the leadership development trainer for Rotary District 6630, and as national advisor for the Permanent Fund of Rotary International. He served a two-year term on the Rotary International Board of Directors (2007-2009) and has represented the president of Rotary International at numerous district conferences and institutes in several countries around the world.

Michael J. Johns, Sr., was married to the former Nicolette “Nikki” Nardolillo for some 47 years before she passed away in 2007. They were the parents of six children: Michael N., Mark, Marianne, Monica, Marcia, and Michelle. Three of the children, Michael N., Monica, and Michelle now make up the fourth generation of the Johns family in the monument business as they all work for the Johns-Carabelli Company. Michael N. Johns (also known as Michael Johns, Jr.) also has followed in his father’s Rotary footsteps. He is a past president of three Rotary clubs in District 6630: Chesterland, Hillcrest, and Hillcrest Sunrise.

Michael J. Johns, Sr. is now a member of the Rotary Club of Cleveland. He and his partner, Carol Keck, are actively involved in a variety of District 6630 events.

