



Ronald L. Johnson '76

Ronald L. Johnson retired from the U.S. Army in April 2008 at the rank of Major General after serving 32 years. Currently, Ron is a Professor at the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. His active duty career included tours as Deputy Commanding General and Deputy Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2005-2008, Commanding General and Director U.S. Army IMA 2004-2005. Upon retirement from active duty, Ron was hired as the first-ever Senior Vice President, Referee Operations, National Basketball Association and served there 2008-2013, before joining the faculty at Georgia Tech.

Ron attended Georgia Institute of Technology, receiving a Master of Science in Operations Research and Systems Analysis, 1985; School of Advanced Military Studies, Master of Science in Strategic Planning and Theater Operations, 1990; United States Military Academy at West Point, Bachelor of Science, concentration in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics, 1976. Ron was Officer Representative for Men and Women Indoor and Outdoor Track while serving as the Assistant Director, Fourth Class Mathematics in West Point's Math Department from 1986 to 1988.

Ron is a former CASA for Georgia. His board activities include the Board of Directors & Secretary, Goodwill Industries International, 2013-2019; Executive Advisory Council, Mission Readiness/Council For A Strong America, 2011-present; Trustee, Georgia Tech Foundation, 2010-2018; Georgia Tech Alumni Association, 2015-2018; Georgia Tech Advisory Board, 2020-present; and Trustee, U.S. Army War College Foundation, 2018-present. He is on the board of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).

Ron is a sought-after speaker and mentor. His many activities include serving as a Faculty Leadership Fellow, Georgia Tech, 2014-present; Faculty Diversity and Inclusion Fellow, 2017-present; Faculty Senator, 2015-present; 2016 Leadership Atlanta Alumni and Mentor; Advisor to the Board, GuideOn Inc., PurePost, Inc., and Engineering Systems, Inc.; National Trustee, Boys and Girls Club of America, 2014-present; Advisor, Thayer Leadership Development Group, 2016-present; Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumnus at Georgia Tech, 2005; and 2005 Distinguished Lecturer, Vecellio Distinguished Lecture Series at Virginia Tech.

Ron's awards and recognition include the Distinguished Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters); Bronze Star, Legion of Merit (with four oak leaf clusters); Combat Action Badge; Parachutist Badge; Air Assault Badge; 2003 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement in Government Service; Blacks in Government Leadership Excellence Award, 2007; Black Engineer of the Year Award Lifetime Achievement, 2008; Georgia Tech Black Alumni Organization Trailblazer Award, 2017; Georgia Tech's Joseph Petit Distinguished Graduate Award, 2019; Atlanta Business League 2018 Man of Influence Award, and 2019 Black Engineer of the Year College Educator of the Year. Ron resides in Georgia and is the proud father of a former 82nd Airborne paratrooper, Ian.