



John R. Norton III '50

Has been elected to membership in the

Beta Phi Hall of Honor

Class of 2005

Brother Norton originally hails from Phoenix, Arizona. After attending Stanford University for one year, he transferred to the University of Arizona and obtained a B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1950. A Beta Phi legacy, John pledged the Chapter in the fall of 1947. He served the Chapter as Pro-Consul with Brother "Swede" Johnson as Consul.

After serving his country in the U.S. Air Force as a First Lieutenant from 1953-1955, Brother Norton founded his own company in Blythe, California which engaged in diversified agricultural production in both Arizona and California. These activities included year round lettuce production and seasonal production of numerous fruits and vegetables. He also engaged in cattle feeding and ranching operations.

Brother Norton was the Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture from 1985-1986. He has served as Chairman, President, Director or Trustee on many organizations and businesses including America West Airlines, Arizona Public Service, Western Growers Association, Chief Executives Organization, Western Farm Management Company, Arizona Museum of Science and Technology, Greater Phoenix Leadership, Phoenix Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, President Reagan's Agricultural Task Force Committee and many other appointments. He has truly served his country and his community with distinction. He currently serves as a Director for the Apollo Group and for Shamrock Foods.

Among Brother Norton's many civic and professional activities are as Director of the University of Arizona Foundation, Director and Past Chairman of the Goldwater Institute, Director and Past Chairman of the St. Joseph's Foundation, and Director and immediate Past-Chairman of the New Directions Institute.

Brother Norton has been recognized and received numerous awards. Among these are a Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Arizona, a Distinguished Citizen Award by University of Arizona Alumni Association in 1981, Produce Man of the Year in 1983, an Entrepreneurial Fellow of the Karl Eller Center for the Study of Private Market Economy in the College of Business at the University of Arizona in 1984, the Western Growers Association Award of Honor in 1985, the Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement by the United States Department of Agriculture and the 1998 University of Arizona "Bear Down" Alumnus Award.

Brother Norton has brought honor and distinction to the Sigma Chi Fraternity as a loving father and husband, as a successful businessman and entrepreneur. His steadfast commitment to science and application in the field of agriculture and his support for the University of Arizona and the College of Agriculture has been noteworthy.

When remembering his days at Beta Phi and his experiences as a Sigma Chi, Brother Norton said "My father was a Beta Phi in the early 1920's and I always aspired to be a Sig at the U of A. The high quality of our membership and the life long friendships I made there have been a treasure throughout my life"