AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

FORT DEFIANCE VIRGINIA

Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life.

Dr. John David Janney ‘53

May 3, 1936 – September 25, 2026

Dr. John D. Janney, age 90, passed away on September 25, 2026, at his Myrtle Beach home, surrounded by his family. He was born in Mullens, WV, on May 3, 1936, and was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Osborne Castle (Bessie Barbarie) Janney. He was also preceded in death by his sisters, Mrs. Margaret Vargo and Mrs. Nancy Massie; his wife, Sally, who passed away in 2008; and his companion, Mary (Sally), who passed away in April. He is survived by two children – son John David Janney II and wife Noosala of Winston-Salem, NC, and daughter Mrs. Karen Rhodes and husband Michael of Sanford, NC. He is also survived by two wonderful grandchildren, Lauren Elizabeth Rhodes and William David Rhodes of Sanford, NC. He is also survived by his two nephews, Dr. John W. Vargo and Dr. James W. Vargo, and his niece, Dr. Jill Vargo.

Dr. Janney graduated from Collins High School in Oak Hill, WV, and Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance, VA. He completed his pre-optometry education at WVU and earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, Illinois, in June 1960. After graduation, he received a direct commission from the Secretary of the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He graduated from the Medical Field Service School at Fort Sam Houston, TX, and served as Chief of Optometry at the U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

After his tour of duty, he established a private optometry practice in Oak Hill, WV. He cared for the eye health needs of Fayette and Clay Counties for nearly 50 years. He served as a member, past president, and treasurer of Area III of the WV Optometric Association. He was a life member and past president of the WV Optometric Association, serving as president in 1975 and 1995. He was a life member of the American Optometric Association, the Southern Council of Optometrists, and the AOA-PAC. He was named WV Optometrist of the Year in 1975 and was honored by his alma mater, Illinois College of Optometry, as alumnus of the year in 1979. ICO awarded him the Presidential Medal of Honor at the school's 125th anniversary celebration at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. He was a catalyst for changing optometry law and advancing his profession. He also served on numerous national committees. He was Cub Master of Pack 8 of the Boy Scouts of America. He was a former member of the Oak Hill Lions Club and a member of the American Legion. He received a commendation from the Commanding General, United States Armor and Artillery Training Center, Fort Stewart, GA, in January 1965.

He served on the White Oak Country Club Board of Directors for many years and served as President of WOCC in 2003 and 2004. He was a member of the Oak Hill United Methodist Church, where he served on the administrative board and the scholarship committee.

Dave enjoyed traveling, playing bridge, golf, and practicing optometry. His kindness, friendship, and love will be deeply missed. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

In honor of Dave, the family has asked that in lieu of flowers you make a donation to the American Diabetes Association.

At AMA, Dave was Second Year, Sergeant in “B” Co., Swimming, Golf, Honor Roll.

See 1953 cadet life at: https://archive.org/details/augusta-military-academy-recall-1953