

REMEMBERING AND HONORING NORMAN PETER JOHNSON

Norman Peter Johnson, known to many as “Pete” was an advocate and visionary for the field of Prevention. Pete was intricate in the lives of so many prevention professionals as he spent countless hours mentoring and guiding their futures in this field, and many attest their personal success to his leadership and mentorship. Those who knew him describe him as doing anything for anybody and never saying no to a speaking request, training or community event as he truly believed in the importance of education and raising awareness.

Pete spent his career as a Research Associate Professor at the School of Medicine and was the Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug in the Department of Behavior and Neuroscience at the University of South Carolina. Pete worked tirelessly with the Fighting Back grant and chaired a committee of medical professionals that developed resources to educate physicians on identifying drug use and addiction within their own practices. Pete also is credited with the development of a Drug Dictionary used to match street drug terms with their correct drug identification so that professionals would understand what their clients and/or patients were consuming. As a professor



in the School of Medicine he was quoted as saying “ It does not matter what background you work in, you need to get comfortable dealing with those that struggle with addiction because you will encounter this wherever you go.” He taught the field how addiction affects the population and how professionals need to be prepared to work with that population. Pete received his PhD from Purdue University, was married with two sons and was an avid Gamecock fan. Unfortunately he passed away in the mid 90’s from a heart attack. His passion for prevention is embodied in the work of those who knew and loved him. This is why SCAPPA named an award in his honor, so that others may continue to strive for what Pete achieved.