



DONALD R. COTTINGHAM, SR.

The Academy is pleased to welcome Don as a new Fellow. Throughout a lifetime of several careers, Don Cottingham's dedication to teaching science and technology -- whether in the military, secondary schools, or colleges, has been characterized by excellence and an intense personal commitment to the students he has mentored. Under his tutelage, many scientists, physicians, nurses, corporate leaders, and technological innovators got their inspiration and early skills.

Donald R. Cottingham entered the U.S. Navy as a seaman recruit in 1942 and retired as a Lieutenant Commander in 1965. Among his several military honors are the U.S. Navy Chaplain's Award in 1951 and, in 1961, a Letter of Commendation from the Chief of Naval Operations for decisive action as Commanding Officer of the *USS Pinnacle*. Under Cottingham's orders the *Pinnacle* sank a burning ship in the Spanish port of Alicante preventing its explosion and probable destruction of the city and its residents.

Don's teaching career began at Norview Junior High School in 1965 teaching life science, general science, and physical science. From 1966 to 1971, he taught chemistry and general science at Norfolk Academy. In 1971 he went to Eastern Academy as Headmaster and the school was accredited by the state during its first year. He returned to Norview Junior High as Chair of the Science Department in 1974. In 1977 he transferred to Maury High School as Chair of the Science Department and chemistry teacher until his retirement in 1991. While at Maury High School, Don was instrumental in starting an honors program which awarded monograms to academic students who maintained an average of 3.3 or higher. These awards are made at annual banquets which, according to the Associated Press, were the first of their kind in the nation.

Donald Cottingham has served as an adjunct instructor in chemistry at Tidewater Community College's Portsmouth and Norfolk campuses since 1988.

Donald Cottingham's educational honors include Norfolk City Schools Teacher of the Year (1981), two School Bell Awards (1982 and 1984), Outstanding Achievement Award (1989), two Outstanding Service Awards (1991), and a Citation for Service from the Norfolk School Board (1991). He also received an Outstanding Service Award from the National Science Teachers Association (1991), the Outstanding Teacher Award of the Virginia Academy of Science (1988), the President's Award for Outstanding Leadership from the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (1994), the Teacher of the Year Award from the Hampton Roads Section of the American Chemical Society (1989) and an award for Excellent Performance from the President of Tidewater Community College (1995).

In 1985, Donald R. Cottingham was recognized by President Ronald Reagan with the Presidential Award in Science.

A volunteer with the Virginia Junior Academy of Science for over 30 years, he has served as VJAS Director since 1991. The VJAS, a science education program of the Virginia Academy of Science, has been ranked among the top three state junior academies in the nation for over a quarter of a century and serves approximately 20,000 Virginia junior and senior high school students each year with its nationally acclaimed programs. VJAS awards over \$50,000 in prizes and scholarships in its annual research competitions. Mr. Cottingham's dedication to science education is reflected in the continued national stature of the VJAS, the 10-fold increase in financial awards and scholarships during his directorship, and the growth of the VJAS annual

meetings to approximately 1200 attendees. He is also a member of the VAS Council, Executive Committee, and Fund Raising Committee.

Donald R. Cottingham was President of the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (1990-91) and has served on the Boards of the Virginia Science Leadership Association, Tidewater Association of Science Educators, and the Tidewater Association of Chemistry Teachers which hosted the worldwide Chemistry Education Association Conference in Norfolk in 1995. He was named to the Governor's Coordinating Committee for V-QUEST to reform science, mathematics, and technology education in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and he has served as a member of the American Junior Academy of Science National Committee since 1992.

Don received his Associate degree from J. Sterling Morton Junior College, Cicero IL (1945), his Bachelor of Science degree from Old Dominion University (1966), and his M.S. in education (1971) with additional postgraduate work in chemistry and administration. Other memberships include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Virginia Association of Science Teachers, the National Association of Science Teachers, the National Education Association (retired), the Education Association of Norfolk (retired), the Virginia Science Leadership Association, and Phi Delta Kappa National Honor Society for Education.

A resident of Norfolk, Don Cottingham is Elder Emeritus at First Presbyterian Church where he was a member of the Session for twenty-four years and served eight years as Deacon.

Since his Navy days he has taught Sunday School classes and was Sunday school superintendent

First Presbyterian. He was also a volunteer teacher for the Norfolk Paramedics and is a member of Ruth Lodge #89, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.