

A native of Danville, Virginia, Coach Harry Johnson was a product of the Danville Public School system. He received a B.S. from Virginia State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Virginia. Before beginning his career in education, Harry played professional baseball in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization and served a tour of duty in the United States Army. Coach Johnson was married to Gaynell and they are the proud parents of two children, Christopher and Gabrielle.

When Coach Johnson first came to George Washington High School, he taught physical education and coached both junior varsity football and basketball. He was elevated to the head coaching position for the 1977-78 season where he remained for 19 years. During his time as the head coach at GW his teams won 348 games, earned 14 district titles, 6 Holiday Shootout championships, 3 final four appearances and one state title. His last team ended the 1995-96 season by defeating Hopewell 73-71 and winning the school's first boys state title since 1933. A final record of 28-0 and a number 4 national ranking in the USA Today poll culminated Coach Johnson's career as GW's all-time winningest coach.

After retiring from teaching Coach Johnson continued to help and work with young people through his participation in many civic endeavors. He was an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, The Danville Kiwanis Club, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Harry has also served on the board of directors of the Salvation Army, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and The Danville Boys and Girls Club. Coach Johnson received numerous honors and awards but his most cherished award was his induction into the Danville Register and Bee Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

**Coach Harry
Johnson
1938-2020**

