J.R. Johnson attended Westminster from 1939-1940. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the swim team.

Johnson enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1941 and was sent to the South Pacific. He received a field commission in 1944 as a 2nd Lieutenant and attended officer's school in Quantico, Virginia. Johnson was an honor guard at the funeral for President Franklin D. Roosevelt in April 1945.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Johnson began attending the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and Northwestern University simultaneously. He graduated from Northwestern in 1946 with a degree in Engineering.

Following graduation, Johnson began his career in manufacturing with Ross Manufacturing in Chicago, Illinois. He developed a unique manufacturing process for capacitors, which led to a position with Standard Coil Products. At Standard, Johnson was responsible for the development and production of a television tuner, at a time when television was in its infancy. The Standard Tuner was sold to every television manufacturer, with production at about 5,000 tuners per day.

After eight years with Standard, Johnson left the company to head Royal Industries, a manufacturer of auto parts and farm equipment. During his tenure as President, Johnson increased the company's annual sales from $11 million to $300 million. Johnson was prompted to leave Royal in 1977 after the company was bought out by Lear Siegler. He then took a position as a Director at the Acme General Corporation, a manufacturer of builders' hardware and consumer products, and served as the company's CEO from 1980-81.

Johnson is currently the Chairman and CEO of Newmar, a company which designs and manufactures high quality electronic power products for communication, navigation and industrial applications. In his twenty-three year plus career with Newmar, Johnson increased the company from a small enterprise to a successful factory with over 100 employees.

Johnson has experienced success outside of the manufacturing field as well. Johnson wrote a fictional novel based on the Royal Industries buy-out experience, entitled *Takeover* (Grafton Books, 1988). Johnson served on the Board of Directors of the Hollywood Park Race Track and has owned a number of thoroughbreds.

Westminster has always held a fond place in Johnson's heart. “The school proved to be a marvelous guide in the step from a small town high school to the college era,” recalls Johnson. Johnson served on the Westminster Board of Trustees from 1967-1982, and continues his association as a Lifetime Trustee. He is a charter member of the President's Club and has been active in soliciting on behalf of the College. He was awarded an honorary degree from Westminster in 1989. In 2003, Johnson was inducted into the prestigious Leadership Society for his overall contributions to the College.

Johnson is the donor and namesake for the Johnson College Inn in Hunter Activity Center, better known to students as JCI. JCI houses a student recreation area, snack bar, student mailboxes, a TV lounge and offices for student organizations.

Johnson resides in Newport Beach, California, with his dog, Charlie. He enjoys traveling and recently visited Europe via the Queen Mary 2. Johnson enjoys flying, boating and horse racing. He owns a 90-foot boat, “The Newmar”, and charters his Citation X airplane. He is a member of the Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena and The Vintage Club in Indian Wells.

“Westminster was a major contributor to the success of my career. The school taught me the merits of honesty, fair play and hard work.”