

MG John J. Dillon
Class of 1949
Enshrined 2016



John Joseph Dillon from Indianapolis, Indiana, attended and graduated from Xavier University, College of Liberal Arts at Evanston. As an ROTC cadet he was enrolled in the Xavier Order of Military Merit in 1948 and achieved the cadet rank of Lieutenant Colonel his senior year. He was commissioned and upon graduation in 1949 attended the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, graduating in 1952.

John served in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War.

Not much can be found about his military career except the he reverted to the Indiana National Guard early in his career. In 1964, John traveled with other members of the Indiana National Guard for two weeks of field training in Puerto Rico. He later became the Major General of the Indiana National Guard. In June 1983, while at a training encampment at Camp Grayling, Michigan, John suffered a fatal heart attack.

John was very active within the Indiana Democratic Party. He held various positions within the state party and was a chairman of the Indiana Young Democrats. He served as Indianapolis City Attorney from 1956 to 1965 and was the Democratic nominee in the race for Indiana Attorney General in 1960 but was defeated by incumbent Edwin K. Steers. John won the race in 1964 defeating Steers to become the 35th Attorney General of Indiana.

John served in the administration of Democratic Governor Roger D. Branigin. As Attorney General, he helped to pass and implement new abandoned property laws, assisted in interstate highway construction, and enforced state anti-trust laws. Despite speculation that he would run for Governor in 1968, he instead sought re-election, but was defeated.

John was the Director of the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society. He was also a member of the Indianapolis Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.