



CONCORD UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA

A native West Virginian, James D. "Jim" Connolly was born in the community of Widemouth in 1930. He grew up in Bakersville, North Carolina and following graduation, returned to West Virginia to work in the coal industry.

Mr. Connolly founded Conn-Weld Industries in Princeton, W.Va. in 1974. He started the business in a small building with only a few employees and served customers on the East Coast. Under his exceptional leadership, Conn-Weld grew into an international business with more than 200 employees and offices and sales throughout the world.

While Mr. Connolly did not attend college, his story illustrates how hard work, vision, and dedication can help create business success. He understood the value of a college education and backed that belief by establishing the Conn-Weld Scholarship at Concord University. Thanks to his generosity, area students have benefited from this scholarship.

Mr. Connolly also served Concord as a loyal member of the Concord University Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation honored him in 2007 with the Award of Excellence for his "outstanding leadership and commitment to excellence in education."

His philanthropy and service extended to the community with membership on the Salvation Army Board, the Princeton Community Hospital Foundation Board, and the Buckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He also served on the committee that helped plan, develop, and build the Princeton Health and Fitness Center. Mr. Connolly's many honors also include recognition in Who's Who of American Business Leaders and the Randy Brady Award for Outstanding Service from the Salvation Army.

Mr. Connolly passed away in November 2014 in Princeton at the age of 84.

When asked what words best describe Mr. Connolly, his family, friends, and employees would say "persistence and commitment." He was known for his persistence to turn failure into success and a commitment to never give up.

For his outstanding professional accomplishments and his dedication and generosity to his neighbors, Concord University posthumously confers upon James D. "Jim" Connolly, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON
DECEMBER 12, 2015

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