

University of Delaware Honorary Degree

**JOHN W.
MORGAN III**
DOCTOR OF LAWS
honoris causa

The practice of granting honorary degrees dates back to the medieval period. European universities began granting dispensations from particular academic requirements in the 15th century, with the first recorded honorary degree awarded at Oxford University in 1479 to Lionel Woodville, Dean of Exeter and brother-in-law of King Edward IV. Degrees granted “for the sake of honor” (*honoris causa*) from the 15th through the 17th centuries were largely settled upon members of the nobility and high-ranking clergy, though gradually, universities conferred degrees on certain scholars whose career achievements warranted such recognition as well. The first honorary degree awarded in America was a doctor of divinity degree awarded by Harvard University to its president, Increase Mather, in 1692.

The honorary degree is the highest honor bestowed by the University of Delaware. The University bestows honorary degrees to recognize those persons who have attained true distinction in intellectual, civic, industrial, or spiritual realms for the purpose of publically and dramatically affirming the values for which the University stands. These persons may have attained prominence at a local, regional, national, or international level and may or may not have a previous direct relationship with the University of Delaware.

Avid lifelong learner, you earned a bachelor of science degree in political science and criminal justice from the University of Delaware and a master of science degree in national security and strategic studies from the National Defense University. You undertook Korean and Asian area studies and learned the Korean language at the government’s Defense Language Institute.

In addition, you completed specialized executive leadership programs at the University of North Carolina’s Kenan–Flagler Business School and at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Dedicated and respected military leader, you served for more than 30 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Lieutenant General. Your command assignments included being the Commanding General for the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea, Assistant Division Commander for the 1st Infantry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, and Commander of Division Artillery for the 1st Infantry division deployed in Kosovo.

Your staff assignments in the service of our country have included Chief of Staff for the U.S. European Command, Assistant Chief of Staff in the Combined Forces Command of the U.S. Forces in Korea, and numerous positions in the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Immediately prior to your retirement from the Army, you were Commander of the Allied Forces land component in Heidelberg, Germany, directly responsible to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and principal land force advisor for the Alliance.

Globally focused business executive, your retirement from the U.S. Army was not the end of your career. You served for four years as the Chief Operating Officer at EagleForce Associates, an advanced technology development and consulting firm. You are currently Director of Strategy and Global Relations for Northrop Grumman, responsible for customer relations for military, government, civil, and commercial customers across a variety of domains.

Committed board member, you contribute your expertise as an active member of several important councils and advisory boards. You are a member of the National Security Advisory Council’s U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, which supports strategic investment in diplomacy and development alongside defense in order to build a better, safer world. You are also an executive advisory board member for Mission: Readiness, a nonpartisan national security organization of senior retired military leaders that focuses on smart investments in America’s children.

Your commitment to education has led you to serve on the advisory council for ThanksUSA, a nonprofit that provides educational scholarships for children and spouses of U.S. military personnel. You have also continued your involvement and service to the University of Delaware as an Advisory Council Member for UD’s College of Arts and Sciences, where your review and recommendations for the military science curriculum resulted in substantial improvements to the program. You have willingly shared your expertise and advice with UD’s Air Force and Army ROTC cadets, and in 2011, you presided over UD’s ROTC Commissioning ceremony. In 2016, you served as the keynote speaker for UD’s Veterans Day ceremonies on the historic Green. Your service and commitment were also recognized with your induction into UD’s Alumni Wall of Fame.

American author, speaker, and pastor John Maxwell, an expert on leadership, has said, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

John Morgan, throughout your life—in your military service, as a business executive, and in your commitment to helping others—you have demonstrated repeatedly that you are a true leader. Your thoughts, words, and actions inspire us all.

Therefore, under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, I have the pleasure and honor of conferring upon you, John W. Morgan III, the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* and do declare you entitled to all the rights, honors, and privileges to that degree appertaining throughout the world. In testimony thereof, I am pleased to present to you this diploma.

John R. Cochran, Chair
June 1, 2019