



2022 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Oct. 6, 1949

Primary Connections:

- Johnson Battery Technologies: Founder and President, 2011-present
- Excellatron Solid State LLC: Founder and President, 1998-present
- Johnson Research & Development Co. Inc.: Founder and President, 1990-present
- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 1979-82 and 1987-91: Engineer, Mars Observer Project; Fault Protection Engineer, Cassini Project; Power Systems Engineer, Galileo Project

Education:

- Tuskegee University: B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1973; M.S., Nuclear Engineering, 1975

Military Service:

- U.S. Air Force, 1975-79 and 1982-87

Key memberships/awards:

- Alabama Business Hall of Fame: Inductee, 2020
- National Toy Hall of Fame: Super Soaker Inducted, 2015
- State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame: Inductee, 2011
- National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame: Industry Category, 2010

10 Things You Need to Know About

Lonnie Johnson

Inventor of the Super Soaker®

U.S. PATENT NO. 4,591,071

1. Johnson was born in 1949 in Mobile, Alabama.
2. At NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Johnson worked on the Galileo (Jupiter), Cassini (Saturn) and Mars Observer projects.
3. As a member of the U.S. Air Force, he held several positions in the Strategic Air Command and the Air Force Weapons Laboratory.
4. While at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Johnson came up with the idea for the Super Soaker after being inspired watching a stream of water from a small nozzle he had made and attached to his bathroom sink during an experiment on an environmentally friendly heat pump he was developing during his spare time. He built the first prototype after rejoining the Air Force in 1982.
5. With the success of the Super Soaker, Johnson established Johnson Research & Development as an inventor/incubator company under which he develops and spins out other companies to commercialize his inventions.
6. He also has a number of patents for compressed air toy projectile launchers, which became popular Nerf toy guns.
7. Over the years, sales of the Super Soaker have totaled well over \$1 billion.
8. Two of Johnson's companies, Johnson Energy Storage and Johnson Air Batteries, are developing revolutionary battery technology.
9. For JTEC Energy's Johnson Thermo-Electrochemical Converter (JTEC), he received the Breakthrough Award from Popular Mechanics in 2008.
10. Johnson has more than 100 U.S. patents.