

# THE GEORGETOWN CURRENT

## Moroccan king knights resident for educational work

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**H**e may not own a coat of armor, shining or otherwise, but longtime Georgetown resident John Anthony became a knight last month.

Moroccan King Muhammad VI presented the expert on Arab-American relations with the Order of Ouissam Alaouite, the country's highest honor bestowed years ago upon Gen. George S. Patton. The award, established in 1913, recognizes outstanding civil and military accomplishments.

More than 500 people witnessed the June 21 ceremony, which took place at Blair House at the conclusion of Muhammad's first official state visit to the United States since becoming king. They included members of Congress, executive branch officials and the diplomatic corps.

Anthony is the founder, president and chief executive officer of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, which seeks to enhance American awareness of



The Current/Blair Petros  
**John Anthony stands in front of a mirror at his Georgetown house.**

Arab culture and heritage.

Anthony's interest in the Middle East originated when he lived in Egypt for four-and-a-half months with a host family after his graduation in 1962 from Virginia Military Institute. Anthony had received the Richmond Community Ambassador Award.

"My experience in Egypt opened my eyes to their culture, history and heritage," Anthony said. "This was the knowledge that I had only before known superficially through books."

After Anthony's return from Egypt, he decided to continue his study of the Middle East. He received a master's degree from Georgetown University and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University.

Anthony then started teaching a Middle Eastern studies class at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Anthony's location made him accessible to the State, Treasury, and Defense departments who sought his opinions on various policies. Around that time Anthony also became assistant editor of the Middle Eastern Journal.

"It was natural at this point for me to start my own organization," Anthony said. "All of the things I was already involved with naturally fed into one another."

Specifically, Anthony said he

recognized that Americans would have "to start doing their homework" if the United States were to understand the Arab countries.

"There was a real need to have a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that would educate beyond what the universities were offering," Anthony said.

Anthony also stressed the importance of educating students. Sending college-bound students to the Middle East, he said, would help students interested in international relations pick a specialty earlier with more definitiveness.

"We have the capability to produce the next generation of leaders," Anthony said.

He and his wife, former advisory neighborhood commissioner Cynthia Anthony, own a home in Georgetown.

"I first fell in love with Georgetown because it was an echo of my own home, Richmond," Anthony said. "I have always loved its architecture and the tree-lined streets with brick sidewalks. There's an international feeling about the place that is intoxicating."