Mr. Knighton was a Lt. Col. in the Air Force during World War II. He received two Air Force Commendation Medals. His hobbies were tennis, farming and music. Mr. Knighton attended the University of Missouri. He was a member of Reserve Officer Association, McConnell Air Force Base, Rotary International (Paul Harris Foundation), Sigma Nu Fraternity at the University of Missouri, the Kansas Geological Society, Wichita and a member of University Congregational Church.

Mr. Knighton was the Chairman of Knighton Oil Company, Inc. of Wichita, Kansas. Services provided by the company included: Geologists, Lease Acquisitions, Producer, Petroleum Engineer and Exploration. Areas of operation in Kansas included: Stafford, Pratt, Morris, Ellis, Marion and Barber Counties.