

2001 Engineer of Distinction



Jerry L. Childs

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, TPI, 1962

Retired

Part-time Engineering Management Consultant
Science Applications International Corporation
Knoxville, Tennessee

Citation

Since graduating from Tennessee Technological University, Mr. Childs has progressively distinguished himself as a manager in the engineering and scientific community. During his 38-year career in both the government and commercial marketplace he has accumulated management and technical achievements in commercial nuclear power, uranium enrichment, nuclear weapons production and aerospace/defense industries.

Until April 2000, Mr. Childs was a corporate Vice President and Manager of the Integrated Engineering Solutions (IES) Sector Business Unit with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a \$4.7 billion employee-owned corporation. Since coming to work with SAIC in August 1979, he built a 250-person engineering organization with expanded capabilities that provided services and support to over 60 government and commercial clients covering multiple areas of emphasis including program/project management, project control, systems engineering, design engineering, configuration management, safety and risk assessment, information management, and training. Mr. Childs' organization also provided specialty products and services to domestic and international nuclear utilities. He currently is retired but is a part-time Engineering Manager Consultant with SAIC.

Prior to joining SAIC, Mr. Childs achieved an executive level position as Manager of Management Systems, Office of Nuclear Power with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was responsible for developing and managing the implementation and operation of new, modified, and upgraded management systems for all TVA nuclear activities to include four nuclear power plants, Engineering and Construction Operations, and other nuclear divisions such as Quality Assurance, Licensing, and Training. Major accomplishments included centralizing planning and control functions and standardizing processes and procedures to ensure TVA's ability to comply with regulatory requirements. Mr. Childs was recognized in the Office of Nuclear Power as the TVA authority on configuration management and frequently provided presentations on the subject to national engineering conferences. In this position, Mr. Childs managed 1500 employees.

From 1973 to 1986, Mr. Childs served in multiple capacities with the Department of Energy (DOE) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The most prominent position he held was Director of the Centrifuge Engineering Division, with responsibility for managing and coordinating the efforts of three major production contractors, a systems engineering contractor, and other support contractors in the engineering and manufacturing of high volume production centrifuges. Specific responsibilities included engineering and design activities leading to production baselining, qualification testing, configuration management (including chairing the Machine Configuration Control Board), production engineering, reliability, machine-to-plant interface, documentation control, and value engineering. In a separate position as Chief of the Program Management Branch, Mr. Childs was responsible for DOE's program management of the Y-12 Plant weapons production operation and was involved in the coordination of activities with other plants in the nuclear weapons production complex. In his earlier years, Mr. Childs held responsible project management positions with the Department of Defense, as an officer in the U.S. Army, and in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Throughout his career, Mr. Childs has endeavored to do the best possible job in any given situation while maintaining a high level of ethics, which has resulted in a multiplicity of awards and recognition. He has considered it a privilege and honor over the years to be a graduate and representative of Tennessee Tech.

He is an active teacher and worker in his church and enjoys participation in a variety of sports. He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children and three grandchildren.