

1985 Engineer of Distinction



Roger F. Hibbs

B.S. Chemistry, Eastern Illinois University, 1943

President (Retired in 1984)
Nuclear Division
Union Carbide Corporation
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Citation

Roger F. Hibbs, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Eastern Illinois University. Upon graduation, he joined the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York. He was transferred to the Tennessee Eastman-operated Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge in 1943 at the start of the nation's nuclear energy program. He joined the Carbide organization when management of Y-12 was assumed by Union Carbide in 1947.

Mr. Hibbs' early work at the Y-12 Plant was concerned with the application of mass spectroscopy to determine the uranium isotope concentrations as a process control. He is regarded as one of the pioneers of this vital analytical technique. He subsequently was instrumental in developing enriched uranium chemistry from batch to continuous processing and was a leader in making this technology available to industry.

From 1962 to 1967 he was Manager of the Y-12 Plant. Since 1967, he held positions as Manager of Production and Vice President of Union Carbide's Nuclear Division. In 1969 he was named President and continued in that position until his retirement in 1984. As Division President, he had overall responsibility for the four installations that Union Carbide operated for the Department of Energy—the gaseous diffusion plants at Oak Ridge and Paducah (Kentucky), the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Mr. Hibbs is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Chemical Society, the American Nuclear Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Tau Beta Pi Association. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Tennessee Manufacturers Association, the Maryville College Advisory Council, the Board of Engineering Advisors for the College of Engineering of Tennessee Technological University, and the Committee of Visitors of the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University; serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of East Tennessee,

the Knoxville Red Cross, the Tennessee Council on Economic Education, Valley Fidelity Bank, and St. Mary's Medical Center. He is a participant in the Governor's Ambassador Program for Tennessee's Industrial Development. Additionally, Mr. Hibbs is the recipient of a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Eastern Illinois University.

He is a former member and treasurer of the Knoxville International Energy Exposition Board of Directors, (producer of the 1982 World's Fair), a past president of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Board of Directors of Oak Ridge Associated Universities, the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, and the Tennessee Energy Authority, and served as the 1973 chairman of the Knoxville Region Savings Bond Campaign. He is a former member of the Atomic Energy Labor-Management Advisory Committee, the Tennessee Industrial and Agricultural Development Commission, and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Chancellor's Associates. He is a past Chairman of the Tennessee Construction Users Council.



Roger and Mary Jane Hibbs pose with TTU President Arliss Roaden (left) and Dean Leighton Sissom