

1987 Engineer of Distinction



H. LeRoy Henderson

B.S. General Engineering, TPI, 1953

M.S. Theoretical & Applied Mechanics, University of Illinois, 1956

Manager, Systems Technology Division
Rexham Aerospace and Defense Group, Inc.
Huntsville, Alabama

Citation

H. LeRoy Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in General Engineering from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in 1953, receiving the Howard Scholarship Award as well as the Engineering Award. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps Reserve and, following a short period as a Staff Engineer in the Alcoa, Tennessee, facility of the Aluminum Company of America, served two years on active duty, including tours at the White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, and in the Philippines. He earned a master's degree in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at the University of Illinois in 1956 and joined the UI faculty as an Instructor in the Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Department.

Mr. Henderson joined Combustion Engineering's Chattanooga Division in 1957 as a stress analyst in the newly formed Nuclear Components Department. He made original contributions as well as compiling, editing, and producing their Analytical Standards Manual.

The majority of his engineering career (1962-1986) was spent as a charter member of a centralized support group for engineering design and analysis at the Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) near Tullahoma, Tennessee. He advanced to Manager of this Branch while employed by successive services contractors: ARO, Inc., Pan Am World Services, and Schneider Services International. Mr. Henderson was instrumental in establishing pressure system engineering standards and chaired the first design coordinating committee to standardize engineering criteria, graphic symbolism, and technical approval procedures. He was directly involved in the design and analysis of several state-of-the-art engineering test facility systems, co-authored reports on pressure system design and certification, and co-invented a flexible swing link nozzle to provide variable wind tunnel test conditions.

He retired in 1986 to accept a position as Systems Technology Division Manager with New Technology, Inc. in Huntsville, Alabama. This company was recently purchased by Rexham Aerospace and Defense Group, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Rexham Corporation.

Mr. Henderson served as National Chairman of the Professional Engineers in Industry and Vice President of the National Society of Professional Engineers. He is a past State President of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, having received their Young Engineer Award in 1965 and President Citations in 1975 and 1982. Mr. Henderson served as a director in the Arnold Post, Society of American Military Engineers, and as President of the Arnold Chapter of the National Management Association. He is a member of the Society for Experimental Mechanics.

Mr. Henderson served as President of the Tennessee Tech Alumni Association and Chairman of the Board of Engineering Advisors, of which he has been a member since 1972. He is a charter member of Congressman Jim Cooper's Technical Advisory Committee. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi honorary societies. Mr. Henderson served on the Franklin County Regional Planning Commission, the Franklin County Board of Zoning Appeals, the Winchester Appeals Board, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, and the AEDC Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. He is listed in Who's Who in the Southeast and was named in 1985 as a Distinguished Alumni of Tennessee Tech. He is a member of the United Methodist Church in Winchester.



LeRoy Henderson receives congratulations from TTU President Wallace Prescott