

WILLIAM J. COLLINS, JR. RESEARCH PROMOTION AWARD



William J. Collins, Jr. was born May 26, 1915 in Iron River, Michigan where he lived and graduated from high school in 1931. He received a BSME Degree from Michigan Tech University in 1935. After working a year for Swift and Company as an engineer, he was employed by C. A. Dunham in the Research and Development Department in Michigan City, Indiana.

In late 1937 he joined Loeffler-Givens Supply Company of Oklahoma City as a consulting engineer. In 1941, Mr. Collins was employed by the Austin Company of Ft. Worth, Texas. In 1942, he joined the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, where he served until 1946 as a Lt. Colonel Reserve. Mr. Collins returned to Oklahoma City and established Collins Engineering Associates and served as CEO and President for thirty years.

Mr. Collins became a member of ASHVE in 1949, and served actively in the Society. He was the first editor of the Central Oklahoma Newsletter – The “Southwester”. He served as Chapter President in 1952, and introduced the ASHRAE diamond studded Past Presidents Pin, which continues today. By 1954, Society membership had grown to the point that it was difficult for the Society President to visit all chapters. This was the beginning of regional meeting. Mr. Collins chaired the first of these meetings. The regional meeting concept was added to the Society Bylaws in 1952.

In 1959, Mr. Collins was elected to a 3-year term on the Council of ASHAE. However, he was only able to serve part of one day, due to the merger of ASHAE and ASRE. That merger resulted in becoming ASHRAE. Mr. Collins was to serve 1-1/2 years on the ASHRAE Board of Directors as a RVC, was re-elected for a 3-year term, and was instrumental in the forming of Region VIII. From that point, he went on to become Society Vice President and then President.

In 1971, Mr. Collins and others from Region VIII were able to develop the Golden Gavel Award. From this program, he developed the PAOE system, which has developed into a major portion of chapter operations planning. In 1972, Mr. Collins was instrumental in developing the Research Promotion program (now Resource Promotion) that today is successful in financing a great portion of the research that ASHRAE conducts. The Society Board of Directors, in an effort to show gratitude to Mr. Collins, created the William J. Collins Research Promotion Award. This award recognizes the outstanding Chapter Resource Chair in Society annually.

Mr. Collins is a Presidential, Fellow and Life Member, as well as serving actively in Central Oklahoma Chapter. He has also served as a Trustee on the Foundation Committee, and as Chair of the Journal and Insights Committee. Mr. Collins has served as President of the Consulting Engineers Council of Oklahoma and is a Life Member. He is also a Life Member of the American Consulting Engineers Council and is a member of the Hall of Fame at Oklahoma State University.

Mr. Collins has received numerous ASHRAE awards including becoming a Fellow in 1966, the Distinguished Service Award in 1965, the Regional Award of Merit in 1978, the Andrew T. Boggs Service Award in 1993, the F. Paul Anderson Award in 1997, and The Distinguished 50-Year Member Award in 1999. The William J. Collins, Jr. Research Promotion Award was established in 1985 to honor the chapter research promotion chairman who excels in raising funds for ASHRAE research. In June 2003, the name of the award was changed to the William J. Collins Resource Promotion Award. The award “recognizes the Chapter Resource Promotion Chairman who excels in raising funds for ASHRAE. The award consists of a plaque with a medallion and a lapel pin.”