

E. K. Campbell and the Creation of the Award of Merit

E. K. Campbell was a pioneering and highly respected member of ASHRAE whose vision and leadership helped shape the early direction of the Life Members Club. He joined the Society in 1920 and became a Life Member in 1945, later serving as the Club's first and long-standing Permanent Secretary-Treasurer, a role he held from its inception until his death on November 25, 1962.

Campbell was instrumental in transforming the Life Members Club from an informal gathering into a meaningful and enduring organization. He organized its first successful meetings and championed opportunities for Life Members to remain engaged with the profession. Recognizing the need for a lasting contribution beyond fellowship, he helped guide the Club toward establishing a purposeful initiative that would benefit the future of the industry.

One of Campbell's most significant contributions was his leadership in creating the Award of Merit, developed to recognize outstanding professors who encourage student interest and excellence in the fields of heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning. The award reflected his belief in strengthening the profession by supporting educators and inspiring the next generation of engineers.

Following his passing in 1962, the Life Members Club unanimously chose to honor his legacy by renaming the distinction the E. K. Campbell Award of Merit in 1963. This decision ensured that his dedication, leadership, and commitment to advancing engineering education would be remembered annually through the recognition of exceptional educators within the field.