JOHN F. JAMES



John F. James was born in Kiukiang, China, the son of an English missionary who worked in various parts of the world, and spent several childhood years in Hong Kong. Eventually the family settled in Bournemouth, a city on the south coast of the United Kingdom. Mr. James obtained his academic qualifications through Bournemouth Technical College and South Bank Polytechnic and was a Chartered Engineer.

In 1960, after completing his National Service commitment as a member of the Royal Air Force, he joined the firm of R. W. Gregory & Partners in London as a Design Engineer, in which position he was responsible for the design and supervision of all building services and structural work on major projects. He became a Partner of the firm in 1972 and remained in this capacity until 1991, when he became a Director and Partner in the London office of the Canadian firm, The Mitchell Partnership.

Mr. James was widely respected for his work in integrating mechanical and electrical building engineering services. Among his many designs were innovative systems for a $70 million sports facility in Saudi Arabia, cold storage facilities with requirements to –29°C, underground military complexes, and a deicing plant for British Airways. He was elected a Fellow of The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers in 1972 and was made a Fellow of the Institution of Hospital Engineers in 1982. He also served on the British Standards Institute Committee which developed specifications for expansion vessels using an internal diaphragm for sealed hot water heating systems.

Mr. James joined ASHRAE in 1979. After serving with distinction on a number of ASHRAE Standing and Technical Committees, in June of 1989, he was elected as a Director-at-Large of the ASHRAE Board of Directors. In June 1992, he was elected as a Vice President of the Society, the first member residing outside North America and the non-contiguous states and territories to become an ASHRAE officer and member of the Executive Committee. In January 1993, he was made a Fellow of ASHRAE. Using his broad contacts in the European HVAC&R industry, Mr. James served as an ASHRAE liaison there, assisting in the dissemination of technology to ASHRAE members and others throughout Europe. In 1993, Mr. James received the International Activities Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to enhance the Society’s image in the international community.

Mr. James passed away on June 29, 1993 while attending the Society’s 1993 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

The International Activities Award was established in 1983 to recognize members of the Society, both international and domestic, who have done the most to enhance the Society’s international presence or posture. The award was renamed the John F. James International Award in 1996. The award consists of a plaque and lapel pin.