



Walter LeFevre

November 23, 2009

Dr. E. Walter LeFevre, 77, of Springdale, died Monday, November 23, 2009 at Northwest Arkansas Medical Center. He was born July 29, 1932, in Eden, Texas to E.W.Sr. and Hazie D. LeFevre. Dr. LeFevre graduated from Eden High School in Eden, Texas. He earned a Bachelors and Masters of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Oklahoma State University. He served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant in Field Artillery during the Korean Conflict.

Walt LeFevre set the standard for all engineers to emulate in his lifelong service to the engineering profession. He was the Past National President of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), Past National Vice President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), former Dean and Civil Engineering Department Head as well as a faculty member for more than forty years at the University of Arkansas, member of the National Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), a delegate to the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and U.S. member of many other delegations to various foreign countries. Additionally he is a member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), and is a Past President of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. He has presented engineering papers worldwide and been a consultant to a number of countries. He also found time to serve his community as a Past President of Rotary, Past District

Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America and many other organizations. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Member, their most prestigious award, of ASCE for his lifetime of hard work for the engineering profession. Walt also served for more than 35 years as Senior Vice President of ESI, an engineering firm, in Springdale.

In 1981, Walt founded the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering (AACE) which has provided hundreds of scholarships for Civil Engineering students and support to the department. Through this example, other engineering departments within the College of Engineering have followed the formation of engineering academies.

In 1992, Walt, with the assistance of Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, established the Mack Blackwell National Rural Transportation Study Center (MBTC) and served as its Director for several years. MBTC, which is still going strong, has completed over 150 studies on transportation issues benefitting rural America.

As a professor for over forty-five years, he molded the lives of thousands of superb practicing engineers. He is held in the highest esteem by all who have benefited from his professorship. Walt LeFevre is regarded by the national engineering community as the backbone of engineering ethics. He helped produce two films and ethics courses which are used nationally by businesses as well as universities. Additionally he wrote over 200 refereed publications for the engineering industry. His national awards are too numerous to mention, but include Distinguished Service Awards from the American Society of Engineering Education, ASCE, NSPE, NCEES, AAES, Boy Scouts of America and a number of other engineering societies. He was recognized for his service at the University of Arkansas in 1971 by its highest distinction, "University Professor".

Among all of his accomplishments he was also a kind, gentle-hearted,

compassionate gentleman, a very dear friend and will be missed very much by his colleagues and friends. The engineering profession has lost a great leader who has given his entire life to the advancement of the profession.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Joyce LeFevre; 2 daughters, Terry Watson and her husband, Tom, of Denver, Colorado, Charmaine Stuteville and her husband, Eric of Durant, Oklahoma, 2 sons, George LeFevre and his wife Young Soon of Clarksville, Tennessee and John LeFevre and his wife, Angie, of Houston, Texas; nine grandchildren and spouses: Sarah and Mike Hayward, John and Kara Watson, Michelle Pierce, Robert and Tiffany Pierce, Jackson Stuteville, Amanda LeFevre, Chris LeFevre, Austin LeFevre and Zach LeFevre; and one great-grandson, Will Hayward.

The Memorial Service will be Friday, November 27, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Springdale with the Rev. Judy VanHoose officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday, November 25, 2009 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Sisco Funeral Chapel in Springdale.

Honorary pallbearers will be the University of Arkansas Civil Engineering Department, the Rotary Club of Springdale and the Springdale Planning Commission.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund, American Diabetes Association, First United Methodist Church of Springdale, 206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, Arkansas 72764 or any library.

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter LeFevre*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Walt must have made many friends. I consider our work together as a highlight of my career, and it was brief. We took an exam pre-testing the early discipline specific engineering fundamentals exams at NCEES in summer 1996. Walt and I got the same score (a very high score), and it far surpassed any of the 800 students who later took that same exam.*

Walt was fun to work with, and I miss him too. I hadn't realized that we shared our United Methodism as well as our engineering interests.

*Jon M. Rueck, P.E., BCEE
Silver Lake, KS 66539*

July 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *My mom and I send our deepest sympathy to Walt's family. We remember him fondly and will truly miss him at future ASCE events. He was a delight to be around. May God bless and strengthen you during this sad time.*

December 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Joyce,
Walt's death is a major loss to me. We were friends and we worked together on many professional projects. For two years you and Walt and Jan and I traveled and worked together as President Elect and President of NSPE. Walt's ethical approach to every aspect of our projects and personal work together was the epitome of what I hope I can emulate. I thank him for his guidance and mentoring during this time.

You and Walt will always remain in my heart. I hope your pain in his loss can be softened by knowing how much Walt contributed to his profession, and how those of us who were privileged to work with him gained from his example.

December 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to your family. Dr. LeFevre was one of the great professors at the U of A. He was an inspiration during my years in engineering school.*

December 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was very sad to hear of Walt's passing. He will be missed!*

December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I work with George at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital and it was a joy for me as he spoke so lovingly of his family. I'm sorry to hear of your loss and want you to know that you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.*

December 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ As a very young, inexperienced executive director of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors, I admit to being quite intimidated by Dr. LeFevre at my first few NCEES meetings. Yet he was so friendly and patient with me. His sense of humor was especially appreciated during NCEES meetings. Please accept my condolences.

November 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I extend sincere thoughts and prayers to your family. I knew Walt for more than 35 years. He was Dean when I recruited engineering graduates for Black & Veatch. We also worked together in ASEE & NSPE and shared stories about Scouting. In all ways, Walt was a dedicated professional. He was always helpful and worked hard to improve the lives of others. The world is a better place because of Walt's life!

November 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Joyce, Terry, Charmaine, George, & John - it has been a long time since Ross Street & Elmdale Elem School. I was very sorry to read about Walt's death.
We have been down your path... and I am passing on my condolences and those of the kids, Shawn, Craig, Robin & Kelly. May God continue His guiding hand upon you all in all your endeavors - remembering His Word - "In everything give thanks..."

November 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Walt was my classmate at TAMU. Over the past 55 years, I saw Walt only every 5 or 6 years. I have kept up with his professional life and accomplishments. I last saw Walt about 3 or 4 years ago when he was named a distinguished graduate of the Civil Engineering Department at A&M. He was a great member of the Class of 53 and we are saddened to learn of his death. My regards to his family.*
Dick Birdwell, College Station, Texas.

November 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM