



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Ronald P. Hughes, P.E.

Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 2016

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1970

Principal Fellow (Retired)

Raytheon Company

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in January 1970, Mr. Ronald Hughes began his career in the government products unit of Texas Instruments (TI) in Dallas, Texas. In 1997, that portion of TI was acquired by Raytheon Company. Mr. Hughes retired from Raytheon after 41 years of combined service as a principal fellow in October 2011. Over his career, twenty-nine years were spent with the Missiles Systems business unit and twelve with (land) Combat Systems.

While associated with the missiles business unit, Mr. Hughes served as the airframe and mechanical systems design team leader for the Extended Range Guided Munition (ERGM), Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW), and Javelin Missile programs. He also served as the design manager for a proprietary program, the production engineering manager for the High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) program, and the supervisor of mechanical design and analysis for the HARM program.

In the combat systems business unit, Mr. Hughes supported several soldier night vision programs, including the Thermal Weapon Sight product line as a senior mechanical systems design engineer, product qualification test director, and department chief engineer. He also served as the mission system integrator contracting officer technical representative between two major Raytheon business units on a vehicle active protection system development program.

From his first day on the job, he was a practicing mechanical design engineer and remained in the technical path throughout his career. He saw the importance of continuing technical career development through relevant engineering graduate courses from The University of Texas at Arlington, Southern Methodist

University in Dallas, and company-based training, such as that which led to becoming a Six Sigma Specialist. In all of his endeavors, Mr. Hughes was focused on meeting customer requirements across the entire product enterprise, from the government contracting officer and technical personnel, the manufacturing and supplier base, his managers and co-workers, and, most importantly, to the service men and women that were depending on the product working as specified when called upon.

In April 2012, Mr. Hughes was awarded the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Aerospace Design Engineering Award “for demonstrated excellence in the design, integration, development, and production of weapon system airframes and mechanical subsystems in missiles, and for the promotion of disciplined design processes”. Areas of expertise include structures, packaging, materials and military environments.

From 1983 to 1986, he served as an industry representative on The University of Texas at Austin Department of Aerospace Engineering Visiting Committee, including one year as chairman. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas, a member of AIAA, and the Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma engineering honor societies.

He resides in Euless, Texas, with his wife, Charlotte, where they raised two sons and are enjoying two grandsons. In retirement, Ron finds great fulfillment and satisfaction substitute teaching math and science at two local private secondary schools where he promotes at every opportunity the virtues of engineering as a career. There, he has acquired the reputation as “the sub who teaches” and the moniker “rocket man”.