



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## **J. David Frank**

*Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 2018*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1967

*Retired*

Raytheon Aircraft Systems

Director of Aeronautical Engineering

David grew up in Dallas, Texas, with an interest in sports and old cars. He purchased his first car when he was 12 years old, for twenty-five dollars.

A high school career day conversation with a Dallas Power and Light engineer led him to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduating, he started his engineering career at Collins Radio Company in Richardson, Texas, in the High Power Transmitter Department, completing mechanical designs for the third and fourth generation of airborne high power VLF transmitters.

In 1972, David joined Electrospace Systems, Inc. (ESI), a small engineering company in Richardson, Texas. ESI designed, manufactured and installed communication systems in large aircraft for the United States Air Force and Navy. David was the Mechanical Engineering Department Head and a Program Manager as ESI grew from fifty to two thousand employees.

David became a VP of Operations after the company was purchased by Chrysler Corporation in 1987. The aircraft modification was relocated to Waco, Texas, and became Chrysler Technologies Airborne Systems (CTAS).

In 1996, Chrysler sold CTAS to Raytheon who combined it with the Raytheon E Systems Operation in Greenville, Texas. David was the Director of Aeronautical Engineer for Greenville and Waco.

While in Waco, he was involved in several civic organizations including; United Way, Downtown Waco Inc., and the regional airport advisory board.

David was a member of the Visiting Committee for the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at UT and a corporate supporter of Women in Engineering. With his wife, he established the J. David and Jean A. Frank scholarship in Mechanical Engineering.

David and his wife, Jean, have two children that are UT engineering graduates. A daughter, Kelly, BS Architectural Engineering, MS Biomechanics, and a son, William, BS Mechanical Engineering, MS Aerospace Engineering.

After retirement, David and Jean traveled for several years in their motor home, and enjoy time with their 4 grandchildren (Allison, Cara, Everett, Colin). David continues his hobbies of building stained glass and street rods.