



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

L. Benjamin Houston, Jr., P.E.
Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 2018

BS ME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1958
MSME, Southern Methodist University, 1965

Managing Director (Retired)
TDIndustries

“Ben” Houston is a past director, president, and current shareholder at TDIndustries, where he has spent 53 years involved in such projects as the UTSW Bed Tower; 28 Level Methodist Outpatient Hospital in Houston, Texas; Cowboys (AT&T) Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and the 60-level Bank of America building in Charlotte, among hundreds of others. TDIndustries is an employee-owned mechanical construction service and facilities company with corporate offices in Dallas. TDIndustries has annual revenues of \$600 million, and 2,400 TDPartners, with offices in Austin, Houston, San Antonio, Richardson, Dallas, Fort Worth, Denver, and Phoenix. TDIndustries practices a Servant Leadership, Employee Ownership philosophy and has been recognized by FORTUNE magazine as being one of the “100 Best Companies to Work for in America” for the past 21 years – one of only 13 companies on the list all 21 years. Mr. Houston is licensed as a professional engineer, an air conditioning contractor, and carries a master plumbing and master electrician’s license in Texas.

Prior to working with TDIndustries, Mr. Houston was assigned to the United States Naval Support Activity complex in Naples, Italy, ranked as Lieutenant where he was assistant officer in charge of construction of six, 6-to-11-story buildings. Mr. Houston has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Texas in Austin, class of 1958 and a Master of Science degree in Engineering from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Mr. Houston is a graduate of the United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps

Officers’ School in Port Hueheme, California, and both Harvard and Stanford Courses for Presidents.

Mr. Houston was listed as one of the top 25 newsmakers of the year in 2000 by Engineering News Record. In 2002, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Center for Simplified Strategic Planning and was named the National Associated Builders and Contractors “Contractor of the Year.” He received the Inaugural Engineering News Record Texas and Louisiana Legacy Award in 2014.

Mr. Houston is a past member of TDIndustries Board of Directors; the PPC Electrical Contracting and Service Board of Directors in Milwaukee; and the SSR Consulting Engineers Board in Nashville. Mr. Houston also served on the Advisory Board for the University of North Texas’ School of Community Service in Denton, Texas, and is a past member of the University of Texas’ School of Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board in Austin. Mr. Houston is a member of the Salesmanship Club of Dallas where he is a past member of the camp board, and is a past President of National Association of Builders & Contractors.

Mr. Houston is a member of the Highland Park Methodist Church and chairman of the Methodist Hospital of Dallas Advisory Board. He was married to his wife Sally for 57 years and has two sons – Scott and Louis.

For over five years, Ben and Sally sponsored scholarships for women entering the School of Mechanical Engineering.