



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

The Honorable Charles E. McQueary, Ph.D.

Charter Member

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1962
MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1964
Ph.D., Engineering Mechanics, The University of
Texas at Austin, 1966

Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (Retired)
U. S. Department of Defense

Charles E. “Chuck” McQueary was born in Gordon, Texas (Pop. 404). He graduated from Gordon High School as valedictorian of his class of eight in 1958. As the first in his family to attend college, he enrolled in mechanical engineering at UT Austin in the Fall of 1958 and continued graduate studies through the award of his Ph.D. During his time at UT, he was fortunate to work with Dr. Lyle G. Clark, his Masters and Ph.D. theses advisor. Chuck served as a teaching assistant while pursuing his graduate studies. While at UT Austin, Chuck was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma, Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi.

In 1966, Chuck began his career at AT&T Bell Laboratories, which provided a unique opportunity to work for a premier research and development organization. During his 21 years at Bell Labs, Chuck focused on work for the Department of Defense, including Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, underwater acoustic systems, and fiber optic communication systems. In 1971 he began a two-year assignment of ABM development on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, and in 1973 he began two years of oceanographic research in Wales, United Kingdom. In 1987, Chuck transferred to AT&T in North Carolina to become vice president, Navy systems. The business unit was acquired by General Dynamics Corporation in 1997, and Chuck joined GD as president of Advanced Technology Systems, remaining until his retirement in 2002.

Chuck was appointed by President George W. Bush to be the nation’s first Undersecretary of Science and Technology (S&T) in the Department of Homeland Security, which was established in 2003. S&T was responsible to lead the effort to use our nation’s scientific and technological resources to help protect the homeland. In 2006, Chuck was appointed by President Bush to be Director, Operational Test and Evaluation for the Department of Defense, and senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense and the Congress on appropriate testing of some 300 major weapons systems.

Chuck retired from the government in 2009 and served five years as a board member of an international corporation. He continues to have an active role in the local community in Greensboro, North Carolina, including board chair of the Gateway University Research Park, board member of the YMCA, The First Tee of the Triad, and the Greensboro Redevelopment Commission. Chuck served for many years on the UT Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee. He also served as a board of trustees member for the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University.

Chuck is forever grateful for the excellent educational opportunities afforded by his time at The University of Texas at Austin.