



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Richard Lee Walton

Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 2007

BSME, The University of Oklahoma, 1950
MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1955

President
Walton Manufacturing

Richard Lee “Dick” Walton was born March 1, 1928 in Oklahoma City, OK, the only child of Mary Spencer Walton and Loren Lee Walton. He passed away on November 6, 2010. Dick’s mother was a well-loved teacher in the Oklahoma City Schools. His father was an attorney and later a salesman and a manufacturer. Dick attended Classen High School in Oklahoma City.

Dick graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1950. He was named outstanding Ordinance Officer in the ROTC and was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, in which he served several years as treasurer.

His first job out of college was with Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corp in La Rochefoucauld, France and in Mannheim, Germany. In 1955, Dick received a master’s in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, where he was an assistant professor. Later he did graduate work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1956, Dick joined his father in Walton Manufacturing Company in Dallas. The company designed and made products for the automotive and lighting industries for several years. Eventually, the firm became one of the premier manufacturers of exercise equipment. Dick and his wife, Carolyn, worked together at the company for 33 years.

Dick retired in 1988 when the firm was sold. He and Carolyn celebrated 50 years together in March of 2010. Throughout his business career, Dick was active in First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, where he and Carolyn met and were married. He was a deacon and an elder, and served in many church capacities and offices throughout his life. He lent his financial and leadership skills to numerous committees and church projects, and volunteered as an assistant treasurer of the church for several years. He was president of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Foundation and served several terms on the Board of Grace Presbyterian Village. He also served as a trustee of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

Dick was a member of the Chancellor’s Council of The University of Texas at Austin. In October 2007, he was named to the Mechanical Engineering Department Hall of Fame at The University of Texas at Austin. In retirement, Dick continued his church-affiliated activities. He also served as treasurer of the Board of Glen Lakes Homeowners’ Association, where he and Carolyn moved in 1995. Dick always kept up with his friends from junior high through college and beyond. His steadfastness, fairness, loyalty and genuine concern for people will be his legacy.