



ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

1986 - 1987

MATHEW J. THOMPSON III

Mr. Thompson, a 1950 Mechanical Engineering graduate with honors from VPI, is a native of Newport News and a graduate of Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School as a Hull Draftsman. Prior to attending VPI, he was a member of the United States Navy. After graduation he worked for the firms of James Posey and Associates, and Williams, Coile, and Blanchard before starting his own private consulting firm in 1954 of which he is now President. His firm practices in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, energy management, and general engineering.

Mr. Thompson's professional society affiliations include: Virginia Society of Professional Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, Consulting Engineers Council of Virginia, Inc. (served as State President), American Consulting Engineers Council, National Fire Protection Association, and the Building Code Officials of America.

He has lectured at VPI and ODU on Engineering Ethics and the Consulting Engineering Profession. He has served as a Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman for the Boy Scouts; is a Sunday School Teacher and Deacon at the Orcutt Baptist Church; and is a member of the Executive Board of the Metropolitan YMCA and the Newport News Branch YMCA.

Mathew Thompson is married to the former Blenna Howser. They have two children: Mark, who is a Mechanical Engineer Associate in his father's firm; and Hope, who is a teacher at Byrd Middle School in Henrico County.

The firm of Mathew J. Thompson III, Consulting Engineers, Inc. has provided engineering services for a number of significant projects. Among these are the Newport News Public Safety Building, Rouse Towers, Newport News City Hall, Central Fidelity Bank, and the Newport News Savings and Loan Association Building. Also included are the building complexes at Virginia Wesleyan College and Christopher Newport College. They have provided engineering services for over 100 public school buildings in this area.

Mr. Thompson's firm was involved in the design of the mechanical systems for one of the first public high schools to be air conditioned. The type of system utilized for that project (Kecoughtan High School) has proven to be one of the best solutions from a standpoint of cost of ownership and operation.

The Thompson firm has a large practice of mechanical and electrical engineering for projects constructed by the Department of Defense. The firm has recently completed design on the Combat Swimmer Trainer at Little Creek Amphibious Base. This involved the application of filtration equipment to maintain clear visibility of training exercises for sophisticated underwater military procedures.