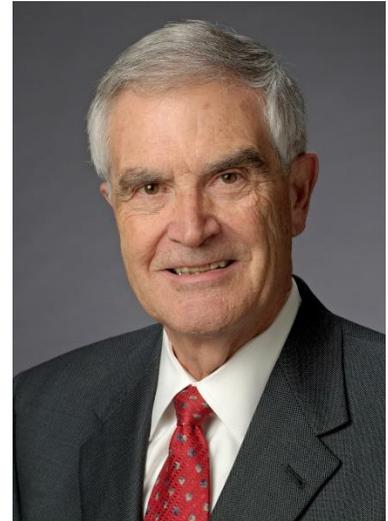


## ADMIRATION AND FOND MEMORIES AROUND AS WE SAY FAREWELL TO ONE OF ARKANSAS' MOST REVERED ENGINEERS

### L. CARL YATES, 1930-2018

What makes for a successful career is defined in countless ways, but what makes a career extraordinary is a unique balance of leadership, integrity, intelligence, and genuine love of purpose. These are the attributes that made Carl Yates' 62-year career more than just successful, but an extraordinary one that improved the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of Arkansas residents over many generations.

Born in 1930 in Roe, Arkansas, L. Carl Yates was just three years old when his family moved to Northwest Arkansas. After graduating from Elkins High School in 1948, Carl was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951 whereupon he completed officer training and served as a 2nd lieutenant during the Korean War. After his discharge in 1953, he remained active for many years in the Army Reserve with the rank of captain and attended the University of Arkansas on the G.I. Bill.



As an undergraduate he joined the Fayetteville engineering firm L.M. McGoodwin in 1956 and, upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1958, he joined the firm on a full-time basis. In 1966, the firm was incorporated as McGoodwin, Williams & Yates Consulting Engineers (MWY), and Carl was named as the company's president. From 2005 through 2018 he continued his leadership of the company as its chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

Carl spent the majority of his professional life dedicated to improving the lives of others and the environment. He was well-known as a pioneer for the engineering industry in Arkansas especially with regard to water and wastewater engineering. He was a tireless advocate for changes in regulation, specification standards, and legislation that would positively impact municipal water and wastewater systems and continually put client needs above his own. Many of the established engineers in the state counted Carl as a mentor and recognize his influence in the water and wastewater engineering field.

It was, to some degree, Carl's time in the military that honed his leadership skills and his ability to facilitate teamwork and communication. He completed Engineer Officer Candidate School and was assigned as a SCARWAF engineer (Special Category of the Army with the Air Force). As he noted in a 2017 interview for *Arkansas Professional Engineer*, "At the time I really didn't recognize it as leadership training. I just knew I had a job to do and I found a way to do it and learned how to work with people to get it done right."

Carl's leadership was a catalyst for MWY being a pioneer in the state for unique technologies such as being the first to use Ozone as a disinfectant in 1993 with the construction of the Clarksville Water Treatment Plant.

Among his most notable accomplishments in Arkansas was serving as a key engineer in development of both the Beaver Water District (BWD) and Carroll-Boone Water District (CBWD). The two water districts provide water to nearly 370,000 customers throughout Northwest Arkansas.

His passion for stewardship of the environment led to working tirelessly for many years on the ACEC/EPA Region 6 Liaison Committee to advise the Environmental Protection Agency on policy development. One of his most far-reaching accomplishments dates back to the 1970s at a time the EPA was not funding wastewater projects. Carl's willingness to challenge discrepancies in the EPA's funding approach led to a more defined

application method and the release of funding throughout the region. Carl also served on the Arkansas Policy Advisory Committee for Water Quality Management and Planning, for which, as chairman of the Standards Sub-Committee, he helped develop initial water quality management plans for Arkansas; and in 1981, on behalf of ACEC, he testified before the Water Resources Subcommittee of the U.S. House Public Works and Transportation Committee concerning revision to the nation's Clean Water Act.

Additionally, Carl devoted significant energy to the American Consulting Engineers Council for which he has served as state president and two terms as a national director; and he served as a long-term member of the International Ozone Association, including several years as a member of the board of directors.

In that same 2017 interview for *Arkansas Professional Engineer* he stressed he wanted his work and his firm to be known for always doing everything possible to champion water quality, "I think our clients value honesty above all else, and my goal, the company's goal, has always been to provide calm, assured guidance and a willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done right for them and the environment."

Carl's 62-year career was highlighted with numerous project awards and peer recognition, including the following:

- Alumni Distinguished Career Award, University of Arkansas College of Engineering, 2017
- Glen T. Kellogg Water & Wastewater Hall of Fame, 2015
- Lifetime Achievement Award for his demonstrative service and integrity to the engineering profession from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas, 2012
- Two-time selection in "Who's Who in Engineering" by the American Association of Engineering Societies, 2008 & 1997
- Distinguished Service Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas, 2008
- Inducted into the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame, 2004
- Engineer of the Year, Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers, 1998
- He was the first Arkansan named to American Consulting Engineers Council College of Fellows, an elite group of only about 200 members nationwide, 1985
- He was one of 19 charter members inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering in recognition of outstanding contributions to the civil engineering profession, 1981
- Engineer of the Year, Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers Northwest Arkansas Chapter, 1980
- Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas Associated General Contractors, 1979
- Life Member of both the American Society of Professional Engineers and the American Water Works Association
- Honorary Lifetime Member of the Arkansas Chapter of Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Society, University of Arkansas

Although we are saying farewell to Carl, his legacy and life's work will benefit generations to come.

***Services will take place:***

***Thursday, April 5, at Mount Comfort Church of Christ (3249 W. Mt. Comfort Rd., Fayetteville, AR)***

***Visitation at 1:00 pm***

***Funeral at 2:00 pm***

***Private burial to follow***