

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

1987 - 1988

MR. JOHN J. POHL, JR.

Mr. Pohl, a native of Newport News, graduated from VPI in 1951 receiving a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He has worked for Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company since 1951 in all phases of nuclear ship construction engineering.

John served two tours of duty in the U. S. Army, rising in rank from Private to First Lieutenant. In 1955 he received a Nuclear Engineering Certificate from the Argonne Laboratories of the University of Chicago as part of the first graduating class of the International School of Science and Engineering. As a Nuclear Engineer at the shipyard he worked on several projects for the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the *Enterprise*. These included designing the foundation mountings for the main coolant pumps, the cooling coils for the primary shield water tank and the underwater eductor system.



As one of the country's first nuclear reactor plant operators (Westinghouse propulsion plant testing program in 1959), John became the group leader in charge of reactor plant and propulsion plant testing for all eight nuclear reactors on the *Enterprise*. He has continued his engineering career at the shipyard by working on the design for the next class of carrier; as an instructor in shift test engineers school; an instructor in NNSY&DD night school for reactor plant and propulsion operations; group leader in the engineering section of the radiation control department; nuclear coordinator for the bid proposal for the cruiser (DLGN36) bid package; and atomic power division staff supervisor. John presently works in engineering administration, specializing in nuclear engineering and propulsion plant equipment proposals.

Mr. Pohl is a very active member in many local organizations, including ASME, SNAME, the Propeller Club, and long term Treasurer of the Peninsula Joint Engineers Council. He has served on the board of these groups and was chairman of this event in 1979.

His outside the profession life is equally as busy with memberships in the Knights of Columbus, Mount Carmel Church, American Legion Post 255 and the James River Country Club. He has served as a volunteer for the United Way and U. S. Savings Bonds at the shipyard, an official for Special Olympics basketball, and a worker for local running events. He served for ten years as an AAU official for swimming in the State of Virginia including both local and state meets. He also helps officiate Junior Olympic swim meets.

John and his son, John III, live in Newport News in a house that he completely designed.