



Engineer of the Year
1991-1992

Charles "Chuck" R. Adams, P.E.

Mr. Adam's career of 44 years with Newport News Shipbuilding spans the entire era of naval nuclear propulsion plant development and application. During this eventful time in naval nuclear history, over 55 nuclear powered ships, involving over 75 reactors, were delivered by Newport News Shipbuilding. Mr. Adams is acknowledged as "the company manager" of submarine reactor plant system design and construction. His thorough understanding of the principles and practical aspects of naval nuclear power have earned him the respect of his peers and those he interfaced with in the Navy and government.

A native of Hampton, Mr. Adams graduated from the Shipyard's Apprentice School in 1951. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1954 and later attended the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory School of Reactor Engineering.

The keystone of Mr. Adam's professional career is his contribution to the 688, or Los Angeles, class submarine program, which has been recognized as one of the most successful naval procurement programs. Mr. Adams was a key member of the 688 team from the very beginning. He was initially responsible for reactor plant systems at the beginning of the design process, and ultimately spent three years as the Project Manager for all 688 Class Nuclear Construction Engineering. During his tenure with the program, 17 submarines were launched and keels were laid for three more.

Up until his retirement in October, Mr. Adams managed a group of senior technical people with developing the propulsion system for a new generation of advanced nuclear submarines beyond SEAWOLF. This project included a wide range of design issues including cost and producibility, safety and survivability as well as system, plant and overall ship performance.

Despite career demands, Mr. Adams has managed to devote considerable time to family, church and community. He is a Deacon of Temple Baptist Church in Newport news, where he is also past superintendent and a teacher in the Sunday School, Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Church Council. Mr. Adams has also done volunteer work with the Exchange Club, PTA, Boy Scouts, and Pony and Little Leagues. He has been an active member in the Eastern Virginia Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for over 30 years.

Mr. Adams and his wife Susan reside in Newport News. They have three children and five grandchildren.