

# Walter A Elmore

October 2, 1925 – January 19, 2010

Husband, Father, Engineer, Teacher, Mentor, Humorist, Humble



Walt could have many labels attached to him, each one different, based on the scenario in which you met him. But no matter what label you choose, they all add up to one great man.

Walt began life in Tennessee but his work and life took him to many different places. Early on, he was an active Boy Scout, earning the rank of Life Scout. After high school, he volunteered for the Army Air Corps and became a navigator during World War II. He learned to navigate by the stars, and many times imparted his love of this to others. After his stint in the service, he went on to earn a degree in engineering from the University of Tennessee. This set him on the path of being a protection engineer. After receiving

his degree, he worked for Memphis Gas Light and Water, prior to joining Westinghouse Electric. At Westinghouse Electric, in Seattle, WA, he worked as an application engineer on power apparatus. Then he transferred to the Relay Instrument Division in Newark, NJ where he became one of the world's foremost power system protection experts. Teaching was a large part of his activities at Westinghouse, proctoring hundreds of customer schools in Newark and Coral Springs, as well as many in different countries. When schools were in Brazil, Walt and his co-teachers would sit at an outdoor cafe on Ipanema Beach drinking beer and Walt would say "now remember guys, when we get back to the plant don't forget to tell them how hard this school was to teach." Listening to him talk about his escapades while in Brazil or the Philippines was always entertaining. Walt's published papers and contributions to the Westinghouse (and later ABB) "Applied Protective Relaying" book are known by nearly every engineer who steps into the world of protection. Westinghouse Corp. recognized Walt's unique contributions and named an office building in Coral Springs in his honor.

From the early start in his career he was involved in the IEEE. His first meeting at the Power Systems Relaying Committee was in Denver, CO in 1957. From that time on, he dedicated much of his career and life to the PSRC and promotion of its activities. He was chairman of the committee from 1983 to 1984, after having led many working groups, subcommittees and other work within the committee. He always said that membership on this committee is a great honor. He was chairman of the Power Engineering Society's Technical Council in 1988. He was elected as an IEEE Fellow in 1983. Those of us that were part of the PSRC in the early 1990's had the pleasure of hearing his talk on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the PSRC in Williamsburg, VA. The script can be found here:

[http://www.pacw.org/issue/summer\\_2007\\_issue/the\\_guru/keynote\\_address\\_may\\_1997\\_to\\_ieeepsrc\\_williamsburg\\_va.html](http://www.pacw.org/issue/summer_2007_issue/the_guru/keynote_address_may_1997_to_ieeepsrc_williamsburg_va.html). In 1989 He was awarded the IEEE Medal for Engineering Excellence.

After retiring to outside of Roanoke, VA, Walt continued to enjoy all that life had to offer. His wife Jane was always his companion. For a unique peak into Walt's life, please visit this link: [http://www.pacw.org/no-cache/issue/summer\\_2007\\_issue/the\\_guru/walt\\_elmore.html](http://www.pacw.org/no-cache/issue/summer_2007_issue/the_guru/walt_elmore.html).

You can just imagine him in heaven will all his cohorts like Clayton Griffin, Lewis Blackburn or Bill Sonneman, having a good laugh, drinking martinis or beer, playing the back nine or shooting pool. We will all miss him greatly.

Walt is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jane Huey Elmore, three daughters, Robin Spicer, Jamie West and Laura Elmore, seven wonderful grandchildren, and two terrific son-in-laws. To honor Walt, his family requests donations to the leukemia-lymphoma society, [http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all\\_page?item\\_id=](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all_page?item_id=), as one of his grandsons was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

We will miss you.