

MEET OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS.....

Gene Koski

Many of us have known Gene Koski for our entire careers. I met him in the early 1970's. I enjoyed working with him on a variety of projects throughout my career. I always considered him knowledgeable and fun to chat with, but few of us are familiar with Gene's background. He grew up in Mount Vernon, New York. During his senior year at Davis High School, he won two gold medals in track at the Annual Westchester County Track Meet. He attended MIT on a scholarship and was part of the class of 1943. He took accelerated classes in engineering and graduated six months early. His dual degrees are in Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering. He began his career at Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, California. He was a charter member of the Santa Monica ski club. Gene managed to take off from his position three times to work as an extra in films in Hollywood. It was a thrill for him. He was docked pay at his \$1.10 per hour position as a junior engineer. The women on the assembly line were making three times his pay, so they often paid their share on dates. He joined the US Army and served in Europe. He was an excellent athlete and served in a unit that assisted in the physical rehabilitation of injured soldiers as well as physical enhancements for front line troops.



When he returned from Europe, he felt that a technical career was not financially rewarding. He had a natural personality for technical sales with his gift for gab. After he left the Army, his first position was with Eugene J. Brandt. He sold HVAC systems in New York City. He continued his education at NYU. He received a master's degree in mechanical engineering and an MBA from that school.

He moved on to the air filter business with Connor – No Draft. They had a line of carbon filters. He was promoted to a supervisory position with Associated Thermo-products. He became familiar with Cambridge filters and Barnaby Cheney carbon filters. His tremendous knowledge of products and applications has been a resource to many active engineers in North Jersey. His big break came when they split the territory for the firm and he became owner and president of Associated Air Products in New Jersey.

On a personal basis, Gene has been married for 57 years to the same woman. She handles the inside portion of the business. Gene still makes sales calls and assists designers. The couple comes to work every day and enjoy their time. They have two sons that are graduate engineers, but have left the area. Gene expects to have his first grandchild arrive next month. He took up skiing in 1942. He has won numerous gold medals in ski association races held at ski resorts. He remained an active skier until two years ago. His favorite spots are Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Snowbird in Utah. These places are for the committed skier and not for snow bunnies. He ventured to Europe many times. He has had many falls, cuts and bruises. He remembers them with a laugh. "If you didn't get banged up, you never really enjoyed skiing". He also enjoys a trip to Las Vegas every once in awhile. His favorite hotel is the Venetian. Gene always enjoys a cold glass of beer, lively conversation and a funny joke.

He has been an ASHRAE member for over fifty years. When asked about changes in ASHRAE, he said he misses the dances. They were major events and often there was a party after the party. It was a committed group of members that were able to mix business with pleasure. He has seen mergers and acquisitions in the filter industry that confuse all of us. Basically, there are now very few manufacturers. He has watched as the "use of filters changed from protecting coils to protecting people." Gene is something special and many of us have benefited from working with him for a long time. Thanks again Gene for your continued active membership in ASHRAE.

Bob Daly
Chapter Historian