

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William W. (Bill) Barnes

03/01/2017

Born as a leap year baby February 29, 1932 in a two- room house on a small farm in McNairy County, Tennessee just outside the small town of Selmer. Lived in that house (as modified) for 18 years with no indoor plumbing and no electricity for the first 16 years. Performing farm work including plowing with mules, chopping cotton with a hoe and harvesting crops by hand instilled an appreciation for hard work and the value of higher education.

Graduated from Selmer High School as valedictorian in May 1950. With a desire to be a mechanical engineer but with an academic scholarship in agriculture, graduated from The University of Tennessee in June, 1954 with a B. S. degree in Agricultural Engineering with a Power and Machinery major.

Worked as a project engineer in the Research Engineering Section of the Tractor and Implement Division of Ford Motor Co. from June 1954 until drafted into the Army in November 1954.

Served two years as an enlisted person in the U S Army until November 1956.

After release from active duty, joined the then Redstone Division of Thiokol Chemical Corporation January 16, 1957 as a junior engineer in Project Engineering. Supplemented education with selected graduate engineering studies at The University of Alabama of Huntsville.

Joined C. C. (Jack) Lee as an engineer in Program Management in February 1959. Continued through the ranks of Program Management as senior engineer, program manager, project director, peaking as Director of Programs for the Huntsville Division of the then Thiokol Corporation. Managed a wide variety of military and space programs as the Corporation changed ownership and name several times.

Retired September 29, 1995 after completion of planned transfer of programs to Thiokol's Utah Defense and Launch Vehicles Division (UDLV) as Huntsville Division was being closed.

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