

In Memoriam



*Peter C. Tatnall
September 20, 1938–April 26, 2013*

Pete Tatnall was born in Worcester, MA. He received a degree in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in 1962; and after serving as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he began a career that would lead to his very unique insight into and thorough knowledge of the material we know as concrete. Beginning with Lehigh Portland Cement Co. in 1965, he moved from Operations Manager in cement to the concrete division to ready mixed precast concrete and, finally, into aggregate production, which collectively gave him experience with all the components and uses of concrete. In 1979, Pete joined Bekaert Corporation, where he harnessed his cement and concrete knowledge to manage and develop the use of steel fiber for reinforcement of concrete. Two years later, he moved to Novocon International, where he continued to work with steel fiber-reinforcement technology until his retirement.

Pete's thorough understanding of concrete and keen engineering mind provided him with the ability to design and adapt concrete technology, steel reinforcement, and field experiences for the purpose of improving standards and guidelines, as well as to educate the industry. His contributions to the American Concrete Institute (ACI) through committee work and Task Group documents were recognized by naming him an ACI Fellow in 1999. Pete chaired several committees until retirement and served as a Consulting and Voting member of ACI Committees 302, Construction of Concrete Floors; 360, Design of Slabs on Ground; 506, Shotcreting, as well as several 506 Task Groups; and 544, Fiber-Reinforced Concrete.

Pete joined ASTM International in 1983 and was instrumental in developing standards in both steel fiber-reinforced concrete and shotcrete. He served as Chair of ASTM Committee C09.42, Fiber-Reinforced Concrete, and Subcommittee C09.46, Shotcrete, from 1990 to 2001 and 2001 to 2008, respectively. Pete worked with ASTM Committee A01 to help write ASTM A820, "Standard Specification for Steel Fibers for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete." He was active as a member of Committees A01, Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys; C09, Concrete and Concrete Aggregates; and C27, Precast Concrete Products.

The American Shotcrete Association (ASA) began with discussions by a few industry activists—Pete among them—in the mid-1990s. His dedication to the founding and development of an organization that would improve and expand the use of shotcrete as a method of placing concrete was an important factor in ASA's birth and growth. Pete served as a Board member; Treasurer; and, in 2000, as President. His penchant for detail and order, practiced so well in his life and service, inspired his successors and contributed to the success of ASA. All who served and worked with Pete are better for the experience.

Pete's work lives on in several ASTM standards and ACI guidelines from the committees he led and served. His contributions and guidance to develop a better understanding of steel fiber-reinforced concrete and shotcrete are clearly recorded in committee annals and in many technical publications authored by him. Unrecorded, though well-known by his colleagues and associates, was his tireless support and patient teaching of concrete science to solve problems and improve our industry.

Pete lived in the Atlanta, GA, area since 1979 and retired there with his wife Mary Lou. He is also survived by three (adult) children: Lori Tucker, Lynn Ralph, and Leah Dennis. His dedication and service to the industry and to ASA were profound. ACI Fellow, founding member and past President of ASA, tireless advocate for the technology of concrete and shotcrete, great friend, mentor and advisor to many, Pete will be missed but not forgotten.



Mary Lou and Pete Tatnall at an annual high school reunion held in the Finger Lakes area. Eight graduates from KWHS met at Keuka Lake for over 35 years—all were engineers encouraged to pursue an engineering career by their Kenmore teachers

Donations in Pete's memory can be made to the Kenmore High Scholarship Fund—a fund designed to aide students in pursuit of a career in engineering with continued studies at an engineering college/university:

Kenmore West Alumni Scholarship Foundation
33 Highland Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14223
www.kenwestalumni.org