

American Society of Civil Engineers – Virginia Section

WILLIAM J. THOMPSON
MEMORIAL AWARD

The Outstanding Civil Engineering Graduate award at each of our state engineering colleges is given in the name of William J. Thompson by authority of the Virginia Section Board of Directors 1977-78.

William J. (Tommy) Thompson, 67, President Elect (First Vice President) of the Virginia Section, died July 19, 1977 unexpectedly while visiting near his boyhood home in Hinton, West Virginia.

A Life Member of ASCE, Thompson gave many years of service to the Virginia ASCE. He served as Norfolk Branch President in 1972 and programmed ASCE's activities at the Joint Engineering and Technical Society meetings in Hampton Roads, Virginia. For four years, Thompson chaired several state committees and served as Third, Second and First Vice President of the Virginia Section.

Born in Princeton, West Virginia, Thompson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1937 from West Virginia University.

Thompson entered the U. S. Navy in 1940 as a Lieutenant (j.g.) and retired in 1966 as Captain.

Serving 26 years as an officer in the Civil Engineering Corps, Thompson held a number of independent commands in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of major shore facilities, with related administrative and management functions, for the U. S. Navy. These commands included the Area Public Works Office, Chesapeake, Washington, D.C., 1961-1964, and Public Works Center, Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 1958-1960. During World War II, Thompson was Executive Officer of the 9th Naval Construction Brigade at Iwo Jima. He was Executive Officer of the 41st Naval Construction Regiment during the occupation of Japan.

After retiring from the U. S. Navy in Washington, D.C., Thompson moved to Norfolk, Virginia in 1966 where he joined Tidewater Construction Corporation and served as Head of Engineering for the design of industrial and heavy construction projects for paper mills, chemical plants, cement plants and waterfront structures until 1969.

Thompson continued in construction from September 1969 to December 1969 with Doyle & Russell, Inc. as a Project Manager. The development of the Great Port of Hampton Roads lured Thompson to the Norfolk Port and Industrial Authority where he became Chief Engineer for Norfolk International Terminals.

During the Virginia Port Unification Plan in 1972, Thompson accepted an appointment as Director of Maintenance and Engineering for Maritime Terminals, Inc., operators of the Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) for the Virginia Port Authority.

Thompson was considered one of the moving forces in the development of NIT as one of the most dynamic general cargo terminals on the east coast. Thompson retired on June 30, 1977.

Thompson held Professional Registration in Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Florida and Texas.