



Kenneth Manz

Inducted May 27, 2018

Paulding High School	1969
Purdue University	B.S. 1973

After graduating with distinction (3.76 gpa) from Purdue University as a mechanical engineer in 1973, Ken moved back to Paulding. Except for his college years, he has lived in Jackson Township all his life. Ken worked for 8 years in New Haven, IN; 15 years in Montpelier, OH; and 20 years in the family business in Jackson Township. He had two careers. The first 23 years as an engineer was highlighted by developing a test to improve truck radiators and developing refrigerant recovery and recycling equipment to protect the Earth's ozone layer. The last 20 years, he was an entrepreneur starting InSource Technologies, Inc. He retired from his full time job as President and CEO of InSource on December 31, 2016 and continues to work there part time and serve as board chairman.

ENGINEERING:

* International Harvester Motor Truck Engineering (1973 to 1981) at New Haven, IN. Ken discovered that serious flaws in truck radiators were caused by thermal cycling (temperature changes). He developed a lab test to duplicate the failures and used the lab test set-up to work with radiator manufacturers to greatly improve radiator designs.

* Robinair Division, SPX Corp (1982 to 1996) at Montpelier, OH. Ken became a world-wide expert in refrigerant recovery and recycling equipment for reusing refrigerants in vehicle and stationary air-conditioners. Previously, the refrigerants were blown to the atmosphere which damaged the ozone layer. He was named on 39 US patents. Under his technical leadership, the Robinair brand became the world leader in this type of equipment and remains so 29 years later. He worked with professional societies and manufacturing groups as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to write standards for equipment and recycled refrigerant purity. Ken earned an EPA Ozone Protection Award in 1993. Ken authored the book "The Challenge of Recycling Refrigerants" published by Business News Publishing (1995) for use by engineers and trade schools.

ENTREPRENEUR

* InSource Technologies, Inc. (1997 to 2016). Ken worked with family and friends to start a company 1/2 mile from his boyhood home and 1 mile from where he and his wife Gwen raised their family. The company started designing and building electronic products for Robinair. Soon it branched out to refrigeration products and wire harnesses and cables. After 3 to 4 years, the company began serving other original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) by engineering and building their products and sub-assemblies to their specifications. Approximately 200 employees work at one location 5 miles east of Paulding. InSource builds products that get shipped throughout the USA as well as to Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada, and China. Insource staff handle all functions of a design and build company and 40% of the office workers are engineers. InSource seeks to attract locally grown talent that can remain in the area and pursue a challenging career.

InSource builds products for Precision Planting used by Paulding County farmers on their planters and in their combines. They also build the wire harnesses and cables for Braun ambulances.

Ken learned to work growing up on a 56-acre farm in Jackson Township with his six brothers and seven sisters. His father, Elias, was a postal worker ending up as Paulding postmaster. His mother, Evelyn (Sauder), was a loving stay-at-home Mom. He had excellent teachers at Paulding including his first grade teacher Mrs. Beltz and his high school math teacher Mr. Forrest Albert. He married a church girl Gwen Steiner from Iowa 43 years ago and they raised five sons and five daughters. The sons along with three brothers and other family members are an integral part of InSource. The daughters all have worked at InSource, but have married and moved away or chosen other careers. Ken recognizes he is not a self-made man. He thanks God and Jesus Christ his Savior for everything he has and is. He appreciates all who have shaped and cooperated in his life to prop him up and have made him what he seemed to be.

Ken is pleased to be inducted along with his next-farm neighbor and cousin Tom Manz and with Brian Gorrell the son of his lifetime friends and auctioneer mentor Larry and Sherry.