



Ben Meyer
Class of 2013

Ben Meyer graduated with honors from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1957. He received a Kiwanis Club scholarship, played football all four years and was named team captain in his senior year. He also was on the track team, baseball team and boxed in the annual smoker. When the Feather Plunge was built, he was a diver on the first swim team.

Following his graduation from OHS, Benny enrolled at Chico State College and played football there during his first two years. He earned an overall GPA of 3.03 and was awarded his BA degree in mathematics with a minor in physical science.

1961 marked the beginning of a long and highly successful career in technology. Ben was first hired by NASA, Ames Research Company and began as a Systems Programmer for two scientific computers and ended up as supervisor of a Systems Program Section supporting four computer systems. He also wrote application programs for the Explorer XII Satellite. Benny's System Programming section installed a new hybrid computer system (the 3rd in the nation), two years before the official software was available.

In 1965, Ben worked at Mellonic's Chilton Industries, a Sunnyvale, CA company that generated all the software in support of the United States Air Force (USAF) Satellite Control Facility. He began as a Programmer and ended up as Project Manager and then Program Manager of a huge project to add four new and more complex Air Force Satellites. This time he was in charge of 135 employees and he swore he'd never manage again.

1972 saw Ben moving to work for The Aerospace Corporation in Colorado where he worked in support of an Air Force ground station satellite called the Defense Support Program (DSP). The satellites used infrared detectors to detect missile launches and report them to NORAD as the major part of the Early Warning Missile Defense Support Program. He was also Test Coordinator for nine launches of new DSP satellites. After two years, Benny became manager of the Colorado Field Office.

Ben's office was awarded outstanding employee of the year awards twice for having had the potential of saving the USAF millions of dollars.

While in Colorado, Ben was the key player in developing new solutions for the USAF and was the resident expert in reviewing satellite data and discovery events. Most of the DSP program was classified secret; however he was involved with interfacing to other programs and special testing and held three levels of clearance above Top Secret.

In 1989, Ben began working for IBM in Boulder, CO. His division was later sold to Loral and finally to Lockheed Martin. IBM was the software contractor for DSP. Benny was again named Test Coordinator and received the Golden Circle Award, which was the highest award available to technical personnel. He was the only IBM employee to win this award in their first year of employment.

One of Ben's responsibilities at IBM was to review all documents delivered to the USAF, especially for potential security violations. He credits his English teacher at OHS, Mrs. McBride for giving him the broad knowledge to edit documents.

Following his storied career in the technology world, Ben has given countless hours to his favorite civic organizations. Having been an avid stamp collector as a youth, he joined the Aurora Stamp Club and served as president for two years. He also played softball for many years. After buying a new home in Colorado, he served as president of the Homeowners Association and president of the Arapahoe Youth Baseball League and coached baseball and football for five years.

As an avid hunter and fisherman, Ben, began volunteering at the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and has volunteered there for over fifteen years. While there, he was assigned to also work for the National Information Agency and was able to assist in a Bighorn Sheep Transplant Operation.

Other commendations bestowed on Ben came from the Colorado State Division of Wildlife and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for his outstanding volunteer work at the Denver Summit of the Eight, where his contribution helped bring the city of Denver to the forefront in the eyes of the Nation and World.

Ben and his wife reside in Aurora, Colorado.