



FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Names M. Lucius Walker Jr., Ph.D., P.E. as 2013 Distinguished Alumnus

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named the 2013 winner of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Now in its fifteenth year, the award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated adherence to the ideals of Tau Beta Pi (integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity) and to fostering a spirit of liberal culture on local, national, and international scales.

M.L. Walker Jr., Ph.D., P.E., *District of Columbia Alpha '57*, a professor emeritus of mechanical engineering and former dean of Howard University's engineering school, is the *2013 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus* and will be honored posthumously on November 2, 2013, at the 108th annual Convention to be held in Ames, IA. Tau Beta Pi President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., will present a commemorative plaque, and a \$2,000 scholarship will be given in Dr. Walker's name to a deserving student member of Tau Beta Pi.

Dr. Walker's selection as 2013 Distinguished Alumnus recognizes his lifetime achievements and commitment to engineering education. His ability to inspire and his contributions to developing young minds have created a new definition of a well-rounded engineering professional.

At age 15, Walker attended Morehouse College on a Ford Foundation scholarship. He later transferred to Howard University where he earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, as the engineering school's first summa cum laude graduate. He went on to receive a master's and Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University.

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Dr. Walker taught mechanical engineering for 44 years at Howard and served as associate professor, professor, department chair, and acting dean twice, from 1975-1977 and from 1978-1995, before retiring in 2002. His academic specialties include engineering economics and the applications of computers and computer networks.

During his time as dean he supported Tau Beta Pi and other honor and professional societies, vigorously promoted the inclusion of humanities and science courses in the engineering curricula, and championed a technical and liberal education through extracurricular activities. In addition, he has always encouraged student athletes to excel on and off the playing field. Under his tutelage, several student athletes and other engineering alumni have distinguished themselves through awards and successes in fields outside of engineering.

He was also a proponent of writing and his attitude led *The Howard Engineer Magazine* to garner many national awards. Dr. Walker also supported liberal culture through facilitating student visits to soup kitchens and to local K-12 schools to educate young students about the role of science and engineering in their daily lives.

At Howard, he co-founded two scholastic organizations that worked to increase the number of minority students in engineering. Walker was a co-founder and directed the Engineering Coalition of Schools for Excellence in Education and Leadership, an NSF-sponsored coalition of engineering schools at seven major universities. He also co-founded the Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering organization in 1991.

His concern for the human condition, and the need for compassionate engineers, extended beyond the university campus to national and international locations. He was instrumental in supporting Howard's collaborative, inter disciplinary Republic of South Africa Project, which sent student teams to South Africa to help improve local universities and advance living conditions.

Dr. Walker was the recipient of two notable awards: the 1988 black engineer of the year award from *U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine and Howard's distinguished alumni achievement award in 2008. In addition, Dr. Walker sat on the board of directors at Carnegie Mellon University, the nonprofit group Junior Engineering Technical Society, and the Center for Naval Analyses, a military-affiliated think tank in Alexandria.

He was initiated with the first class of DC Alpha Chapter members in 1956. His other affiliations included the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Pi Mu Epsilon, honorary national mathematics society.

In his nomination bio prepared by DC Alpha and Peter A. Keiller, Ph.D., *DC A '72*, he was cited for "insisting that understanding human challenges, relationships and values and the role of knowledge capital are important foundations for a young person's future."

A visual reminder of Dr. Walker's legacy can be found in the form of a two-story bronze sculpture, Elizabeth Catlett's "*Students Aspire*," in the new chemical engineering wing of the school of engineering that depicts a male and female engineer collaborating to physically lift and symbolically inspire new scientific and technological advances.

Dr. Walker has two children and six grandchildren. He greatly enjoyed transporting and observing his twin granddaughters at their ballet classes in New Orleans, LA.

For his innovative leadership, dedication to improving engineering curricula, and pioneering work in humanitarian efforts, The Association hereby recognizes M. Lucius Walker as the 2013 Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus. Dr. Walker passed away in June 2013.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 241 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 32 cities. It has initiated more than 545,000 members in its 128-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See www.tbp.org)