

# Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

## **Alex G. Drapes, P.E.**

Montana Professional License Number 1538PE

- \* Graduated from Great Falls High School in 1942 and attended Montana State University; Prior to final exams, he was asked to join the United States Army (1943-1945); Fought in the European Theater during World War II; Captured during the Battle of the Bulge and confined as a prisoner of war in three Nazi concentration camps; Awarded two Purple Hearts.
- \* California Institute of Technology; Pasadena, California – B.S. Degree, Engineering, 1949
- \* Worked for five years as staff engineer for VanTylingen, Knight, & VanTylingen, an architectural firm based in Great Falls.
- \* Founded Drapes Engineering in Great Falls in 1954. Partnered with William “Bill” Kilby to provide mechanical and electrical design services for numerous projects throughout Montana. Mentored and sold the firm in 1992 to the group of engineers that formed Gordon Prill Drapes (GPD).
- \* Engineer for public schools in Great Falls, Harlem, Brockton, Lame Deer, Lodge Grass, Big Sandy, Choteau, Cascade, Miles City, Bozeman, Babb, White Sulphur Springs, Centerville, Glendive, Glasgow, Browning, Terry, Missoula, Highwood, Plains, Helena, Malta, Geraldine, Box Elder, Lakeside, and Kalispell.
- \* Engineer for numerous telephone switching facilities owned by Mountain States Telephone; numerous additions to Malmstrom Air Force Base and Glasgow Air Force Base; and numerous health care facilities, banks, airports, motels, churches, TV studios, libraries, swimming pools, and private residences.
- \* Engineer for new and remodel projects at Montana State University in Bozeman: Breeden Fieldhouse (received a national award for the arena lighting system), Creative Arts Complex, Sherrick Hall, Ryon Labs, Bio-Science Complex planning, Heating Plant upgrades, and Kappa Sigma Fraternity.
- \* Engineer for numerous complex projects: Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, Agriculture Ministry in Saudi Arabia, Fish Hatcheries in Alaska, Life of Montana Building in Bozeman, Metcalf Building in Helena, Montana Capitol House of Representatives remodel in Helena, University of Montana primary electrical and heating systems in Missoula, MSU Northern heating plant and Cowan Hall renovations in Havre, and Eddie’s Supper Club in Great Falls.
- \* Served on Montana State University President’s Advisory Council; Great Falls/Cascade City-County Planning Board; and Great Falls Deaconess Medical Center Board of Directors.
- \* Eagle Scout and Boy Scout leader; Member of DeMolay, degree of Chevalier; Choir member at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation for 40+ years; Member of the Great Falls Symphony Choir.
- \* Member of Montana Society of Engineers (MSE); National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE); American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Inducted November 7, 2012

Presented by the Montana Society of Engineers  
A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

