



Chester M. McKinney, former Acoustical Society of America (ASA) President, Gold Medalist, and winner of many US Navy and professional society awards, died on January 21, 2017.

Born in Cooper, TX, he graduated in 1941 from East Texas State Teachers College and taught high-school physics before serv-

ing in the US Army Air Corps (1942-1946) as a radar officer.

After World War II, Chester attended the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), earning a master's degree in physics under Robert Watson (1947) and a doctorate under Claude Horton (1950), while becoming the first graduate student at UT Austin's Defense Research Laboratory (DRL), now the Applied Research Laboratories (ARL:UT). After teaching at Texas Technological University (1950-1953), he returned to the DRL and soon became an expert in high-resolution sonar physics and engineering. His research focused on developing sonar for the detection and classification of undersea naval mines and on a wide variety of related subjects such as the backscattering of sound from the seafloor, the scattering of sound from mine cases and other targets, bottom mapping, and swimmer detection. His insight and pioneering research led to the new field of classification sonar, which enabled a sonar operator to distinguish naval mines from the numerous false targets found in shallow water. He also published many papers in *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* on the acoustic fields of transducers, especially the incorporation of reflector shapes to efficiently create narrow sound beams. He became a sagacious and insightful leader and was director of DRL/ARL:UT during formative periods of its history (1965-1980), which included developing a widely recognized science and engineering staff and a new building and research campus as well as a first-class underwater test facility at nearby Lake Travis. The history of DRL/ARL:UT pertaining to acoustics is summarized in a *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* article (23, 070014, 2015).

Chester joined the ASA in 1953, became a Fellow in 1958, and provided legendary service to the Society. His many contributions to the ASA included being a founding member of the Technical Committee on Underwater Acoustics and its first chair (1956), and he was instrumental in the establishment of three committees: Archives, Tutorials, and Public Relations. He chaired the local committee for the 1975 Austin meeting, where he proposed and implemented changes to meeting formats that continue today: the poster sessions, the plenary sessions for presentations and awards, and the Tuesday and Thursday evening socials. In 1989, he directed the first comprehensive census of the Society membership.

Chester married Linda Hooten in 1949, and their 68 years of marriage saw the birth of two daughters, Margaret Phoebe and Katherine Elizabeth, as well as five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

After retiring from ARL:UT, he served as liaison scientist with the Office of Naval Research in London, UK (1983-1984). In 2000, a new ARL:UT building was named in his honor. Further information on Chester McKinney is found on the Web links <http://acousticstoday.org/mckinney> and http://acousticstoday.org/asa_mckinney.

Selected Articles by Chester M. McKinney

McKinney, C. M., and Anderson, C. D. (1964). Backscattering of sound from the ocean bottom. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 36, 158-163.

McKinney, C. M., Harvel, K. W., and Ellis, G.E. (1972). Characteristics of line and disk underwater sound transducers in the near- to farfield transition region. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 51, 1076-1082.

McKinney, C. M., Hurdle, B. G., and Blue, J. E. (1992). A profile of the acoustics community in the United States and Canada, *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 91, 1169-1179.

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