
2006 PSPE Engineer of the Year

Presented to
Ernest U. Gingrich, P.E., P.L.S., F.NSPE



Ernest U. Gingrich P.E., P.L.S., F.NSPE of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was awarded 2006 PSPE Engineer of the Year. This award recognizes a PSPE

member who has made significant achievements in the area of: professional society activities; civic, fraternal, religious or humanitarian activities; professional and/or technical publications, papers, or patents; and, engineering during their professional career.

Mr. Gingrich retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) where he was employed for fifteen years. Prior to this he was employed by Michael Baker Jr., Inc., for fourteen years and for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for seven years. He is currently employed part-time by Light-Heigel & Associates in Palmyra and SITE-Blauvelt Engineers in Lemoyne. His primary experience is in hydrologic and hydraulic design, dam design, construction supervision and inspection.

Mr. Gingrich was born and raised on a farm in Juniata County about fifty miles northwest of Harrisburg. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Penn State, Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Columbia International University and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Penn State Middletown. He is a registered Professional Engineer and Professional Land surveyor in Pennsylvania. He has been a member of PSPE for 38 years where he served most recently as Immediate Past President. Before

becoming President, he served five years as Vice President Central Region and one year as President-Elect. In his capacity as President of PSPE, he was a delegate to the NSPE conference in Washington, D.C., Honolulu, HI and San Diego, CA. He also served as a delegate to the NSPE northeast regional meetings in Mystic, CN and Philadelphia, PA. He held offices of Director, Vice President, President and State Director for the Harrisburg Chapter of PSPE. He was inducted into the Order of the Engineer and was awarded the membership status of Fellow in NSPE. He recently received the 2006 Engineer of the Year award from the Central Pennsylvania Engineers Week Council.

Mr. Gingrich has been active in the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, (ASABE) for over fifty years. He actively participated in many national and regional meetings and has served on the Water Resource Structures Committee at the national level. Mr. Gingrich also served as President, Vice-President and Program Chair of the Northeast Society of Conservation Engineers and as President and Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Section, American Water Resource Association.

Mr. Gingrich's engineering career with the Soil Conservation Service. He gained experience in design and construction of small earthen dams. His experience with Michael Baker Jr., Inc., included highway design, supervising teams for inspecting dams, developing watershed flood control plans, and delineating 100-year flood plains. In his position with DER, he was Chief of the Project Inspection Section in the Division of Dam Safety, where he supervised inspectors of dams and report reviews for approximately 1200 dams.

In the Division of Dam Safety, Mr. Gingrich prepared and presented papers on the dam safety program in Pennsylvania, one of which was presented at the International meeting of ASABE in Chicago. He prepared his Master's paper on flood plain management as a part of a requirement for the MBA degree.

Mr. Gingrich and his wife, Lorene, reside in Lower Paxton Township, and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren and one step grandchild. One son is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado. Mr. Gingrich is a member of the Jonestown Bible Church, where he teaches Sunday School, and recently served on the Elder board, Missions Committee and Building and Grounds Committee. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Harrisburg Youth for Christ and the Lower Paxton Township Planning Commission, having served as chairman, and currently serves as Vice-Chairman of both organizations. He served on several other Committees and Task Forces as appointed by the Township Supervisors. He serves as the Judge of Elections for the Township's Precinct 27, a position elected by residents of the precinct. He has served several years on the Selections Committee for the Department of General Services as appointed by the Governor, and also served as its Chairman.

Mr. Gingrich believes it is important for engineers to interact with each other in their respective organizations. He also believes that engineers should take leadership roles, both in the organizations representing the engineering profession and in his/her surrounding community. Mr. Gingrich has found his experience quite rewarding, both in the engineering community and in the community in which he lives. ■