



Donald Heirman (1940-2020)

Don was born in Mishawaka, Indiana in 1940, and after graduation from Purdue University and with his active military duty in the Pentagon, he started his professional career with Bell Laboratories in 1963 in New Jersey. Upon retirement from Bell Labs, he started his own consulting business – Don HEIRMAN Consultants specializing in standards education and training in his discipline of Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), in which he remained active until his death.

He received his BSEE and MSEE degrees at Purdue University in 1962 and 1963, respectively. Upon receiving his BSEE in 1962, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserves. He immediately attended graduate school to earn his MSEE specializing in electromagnetic waves and propagation. He then started his active duty service at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA where he was responsible for predicting HF radio propagation for ship to ship and ship to shore use each day. During his two years of activity duty (1963-1965) he was on military leave from Bell Laboratories, as he started to work there in the fall of 1963. Don retired in 1985 after over 20 years of service with the rank of Commander.

At the time of his death, he was president of Don HEIRMAN Consultants which was a training, standards, and educational electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) Consultation Corporation, which he founded in 1997 after his early retirement from Bell Laboratories.

His activity in the EMC profession was extensive and started with his joining the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in the early 1970s. He joined the IEEE EMC Society and the local IEEE New Jersey Coast Section

activities. In 1980-1981, he was elected as the president of the IEEE EMC Society. From then on he has held multiple jobs in the EMC Society including member of its Board of Directors, Vice President for Standards (a position he held for many years until 2009), Chairman of the society's technical committee on EMC measurements (for over 25 years), and Chairman of the IEEE EMC standards committee (for over 17 years).

He also became heavily involved in EMC standards starting in 1983. In the United States, he was a member of the ANSI accredited standards committee C63[®] (EMC) since 1981, rising to Subcommittee Chairman and then to Chairman in 2006. His work there included developing standards on the construction of regulatory compliance test facilities (he authored a key standard on the construction of special test sites which is still used today after being first published in 1988), accurate RF emission measurements, and immunity of TV receivers to RF interference.

Internationally, he was heavily involved with the EMC related standardization of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and its Special International Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR). He started that commitment in 1984 with his first CISPR meeting in Australia and worked his way from Secretary and Chairman of a major working group responsible for EMC measurement instrumentation to the Chair of the overall subcommittee which included basic standards for measurement methods, measurement instrumentation, and statistical methods (the subcommittee was CISPR Subcommittee A which is responsible for the CISPR 16 series of standards). He later reached the highest office in CISPR becoming its chairman in October 2007. In parallel by virtue of his leadership in CISPR, he was named to the IEC Advisory Committee on EMC (ACEC) starting in 2001 and later Chairman in 2013. In recognition for his work in the IEC, he was awarded the Lord Kelvin Medal in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2008.

He also had leadership positions in other organizations such as his being President of the U.S. National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA). He also was a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. EMC Standards Corporation representing them on the USNC Technical Management Committee as well as a member of the executive committee of the Conformity Assessment Section of the American Council of Independent Laboratories. In the latter organization, he represented ACIL on the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) and the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) on its Testing and Certification Committee.