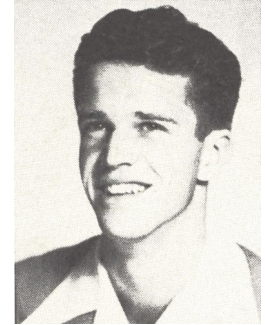




# Mr. Jerry L. Hayes

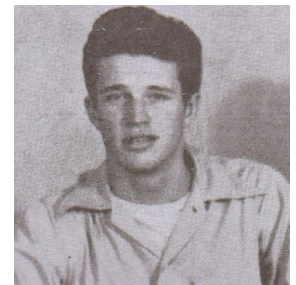
## Class of 1946



I wish to thank the committee and its Chair, Janice Ashley, for this honor. I especially want to thank Hall of Fame member George Gianopulos, TUHS '45, for his excellent efforts in nominating me.

I was born in Taft in 1928 and went through all of the schools. My sister, Betty, was a graduate of the Class of 1942 along with Pete Gianopulos. We lived out on Standard Oil Company leases.

I had a very busy and fun high school experience. Sports and Block T were fun. Music with the trombone was uplifting, as well as vocalizing with the dance band. I owned a car! As a senior I was Student Body President and a Master Councilor in DeMolay. These provided me leadership and public speaking skills. Latin and French gave me a language and vocabulary foundation. English classes proved to be very valuable for the writing needs I would encounter. The excellent education I received at TUHS proved invaluable and provided the knowledge base that would carry me through college and onwards in the military and civilian job market.



Student Body President, 1946

Summer jobs were abundant during WWII, where older males were off to war. I held several jobs starting at the Ford garage when I was still 13. I learned the value of hard work and perseverance.

Upon graduation I entered Taft JC. I needed to sharpen my science skills to get into UC Berkeley's engineering schools and I needed the money to go. I quit all of my extracurricular activities and got a full time job at the Honolulu Oil Company as a janitor and switchboard operator. I worked from 3:00—11:00 p.m. The evenings were slow at the switchboard allowing me time to study. Taft JC instructors were very competent and the smaller size of the classes gave me a tutor-like experience.

I was accepted into engineering at Cal and joined the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. My friend Bud Conners, TUHS Class of '45, was President of the fraternity and a mechanical engineering student as well. We became roommates, took many of the same classes and studied into the wee hours of the morning just to keep up with the pace. I Graduated from Cal in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

As the Korean War was going on, I got a draft notice almost immediately upon graduating. I went into the Air Force and became an officer. I attended technical school in Biloxi, Mississippi, from there I went to Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico where I was indoctrinated into the ways of the atomic bomb. I was sent to a secret base where I was put in charge of a laboratory team deep in the earth testing the fusing components of the A bomb before being assembled into the bomb. Because I was the electronics officer, I was also called upon to disarm the bomb when something went wrong during the final assembly testing process by other crews. That was a harrowing experience.

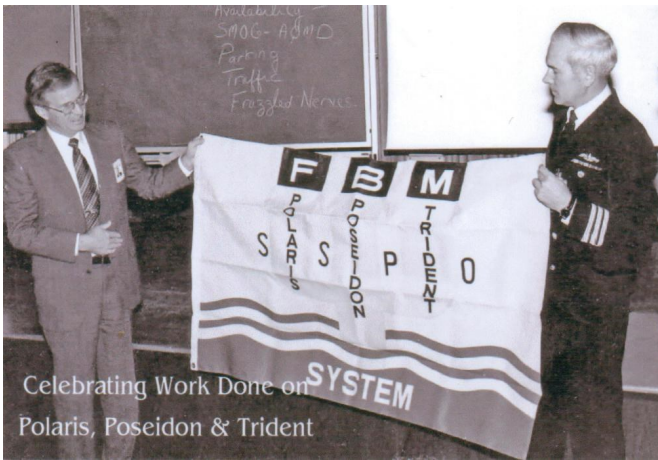


His Years in the Military



I left the Air Force after three and a half years. While, at the time, I felt that I had been forced into military service, the training and experience afforded me was priceless. It landed me an excellent and challenging job as a civilian electronic scientist at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Corona, California. One assignment was to investigate why missiles tested “O.K.” before being sent from the factory to a Navy ammunition depot but, when tested there, failed the tests. My report found several flaws in the testing processes. One was the measurements being made in the factory didn't match the measurements being made at the receiving site. I saw a lack in regard to the periodic calibration of the test equipment being used and no effort to assure the same measurements at both sites matched. So Washington (the Navy) authorized me to

create a formal test and measuring equipment calibration program. To accomplish this, the Navy Metrology Engineering Center (MEC) was established. I was the technical director.



Celebrating Work Done on  
Polaris, Poseidon & Trident  
SYSTEM

We supported all electronic and mechanical measuring equipment used by the Navy and Marine Corps and their contractors. It required skills and innovation in science, mathematics, statistics, chemistry, physics and writing. From a Navy perspective, our defense posture depends on the reliability of our weapon systems, and their reliability is related to the reliability of tests and measurements and agreement of measurements at thousands of sites, dependent upon calibration.

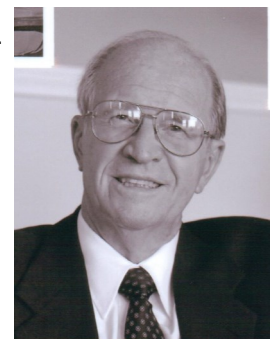


Member Emeritus, MS Association

I was selected by the National Academy of Science to oversee a periodic review of the calibration and standards portion of the National Bureau of Standards in Washington and Boulder, Colorado. I also was one of the founders of two technical societies, only the Measurement Science Conference and the National Conference of Standards Laboratories. The National Bureau of Standards in Washington helped put them on their feet and the Navy has been a strong supporter to this day.

After 30 years of federal service to the Navy, I formed a consulting firm, Hayes Technology. The work kept my mind active and gave me the satisfaction of contributing. I retired again two years ago at age 83. When I look back, I was continuously employed for seventy years. It was a great ride!

I married Gretchen Lowentroun, who I met at Cal, in November of 1951 just before the Albuquerque assignment. Life has been good to Gretchen and me and our 62 years together. I thank God for her presence in my life. We have two children, four grandkids and three great grandsons.



The Consultant. Early 2000s

We thank God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Growing up in Taft and going to schools like Taft Union High School launched me on a path that I never imagined would be so rewarding. For all that, I am grateful. For this honor, I am grateful. I will cherish being a member of the Taft Union High School Hall of Fame.