



Dr. Wendell H. Nedderman

Wendell H. Nedderman, Ph.D., is honored for nineteen years of dedication and support to the Corps of Cadets during his tenure as President of The University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Nedderman is a native of Iowa and was born in 1921. He graduated from Lovilia High School and earned a B.S. in Civil engineering from Iowa State University in 1943. From there he immediately joined the Navy and was sent to the U.S. Naval Academy's Reserve Midshipman's School. During World War II, Dr. Nedderman served as Engineering Officer aboard the Destroyers USS Patterson and USS Charles S. Sperry. By 1946, he had earned the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with six stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars.

After his discharge from the Navy, Dr. Nedderman took a position as Instructor of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M and obtained his Master's Degree in 1949. He obtained his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University in 1951 while on leave from A&M. His twelve year tenure at A&M culminated as Graduate Advisor of the Department of Civil Engineering and as Professor.

Based on his accomplishments, he was selected as the first Dean of Engineering at The University of Texas at Arlington. This faith was more than justified when he phased in five engineering B.S. programs by 1965; five M.S. programs phased in from 1966 to 1969 and UTA received authorization to commence the Ph.D. in Engineering in 1969. During the two year period 1967 to 1969, Dr. Nedderman actually held three positions simultaneously as a Vice President; Graduate School Administrator; and Dean of the School of Engineering. Recognition of his talents resulted in his appointment as Acting University President in November 1972 and official confirmation as University President in February 1974.

During Dr. Nedderman's tenure as University President, 21 Baccalaureate, 27 Masters, and 17 Doctoral degree programs were added. The value of the University Plant (land, buildings, improvements, equipment, and library books) increased from \$51,637,610 to \$279,969,268. Enrollment increased by over 10,000 students during his Presidency.

In 1976, Dr. Nedderman was inducted into the Scabbard and Blade Military Honor Society. He has always been a staunch supporter of the Carlisle Cannons Salute Battery and the Sam Houston Rifles. The Hall of Honor concept was fully supported by Dr. Nedderman and came to fruition during the 1980 Spring Semester. His steadfast belief in Corps traditions led to his participation in the development and execution of the Corps Advisory Council on January 21, 1981.

During both Desert Shield and Desert Storm Operations, Dr. Nedderman supported his students' commitment to their country. His guidance cut through red tape so administrative procedures dealt with each student on a case-by-case basis to ensure courses were completed with credit and next semester prepayments were refunded rapidly.

Dr. Nedderman resides with his wife, the former Betty Vezey in Arlington, Texas. They have four sons and seven grandchildren.

OBITUARY

Wendell Herman Nedderman

October 31, 1921 – May 8, 2019



Wendell Herman Nedderman, born October 31, 1921, in southern Iowa, died on May 8, 2019, in Frisco, Texas, due to reasons incident to old age. He was raised on a farm by loving parents, Walter Herman Nedderman and Fern Gray Nedderman. His first eight grades of school were in a rural one-room schoolhouse where there was emphasis on fundamentals, including reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling. There was also great emphasis on the importance of order, discipline, and responsibility.

He graduated from Lovilia High School in 1939 as class valedictorian. His formative years in the decade of the 1930s were marked by drought, dust bowl, and the Great Depression, all of which provided incentives to leave the farm.

After a freshman year at Albia Junior College, he entered Iowa State University in 1940. He graduated in 1943 with honors and a degree in civil engineering.

After graduation from Iowa State, Wendell enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Reserve Midshipman's School at Annapolis where, after four months, he was commissioned an officer with the rank of ensign and assigned to a destroyer, the USS Patterson. Most of his three years in the Navy were in the Pacific where he was in significant combat, including campaigns in the Marianas, Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He earned eight battle stars.

He joined the civil engineering department at Texas A&M in 1947 as instructor and rose to full professor within 10 years. During his 12 years with A&M, he earned a masters degree at A&M and a Ph.D. at Iowa State.

Wendell and family moved to Arlington in 1959 where he was the founding dean of the College of Engineering at Arlington State College, a position he held for 10 years. After four years as vice president of academic affairs, he was appointed UT Arlington president in 1972, a position he held until 1992. His tenure as president was marked by dramatic expansion of the university's size, scope, and ambitions. After retirement, he taught part-time in the College of

Engineering until 2004. By student vote, he received the College of Engineering's "Teacher Excellence Award" in 1997.

Wendell was a registered professional engineer in Iowa, Louisiana, and Texas. He was a consultant to Gulf Oil Corporation for over 30 years, and was a pioneer in offshore platform design in the 1950s and 1960s.

He was active in many professional and community organizations, including the First Christian Church of Arlington where he held virtually every layman position over a 40 year period.

Wendell received numerous awards including: the Texas A&M faculty "Distinguished Achievement Award," the Anson Marston gold medal from Iowa State for "achievement in the field of engineering," and the Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal from the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities for "leadership in learning." An endowed professorship in the UT Arlington College of Engineering bears his name.

In December, 1947, in College Station, Texas, he married Betty Ann Vezey, the daughter of a highly-regarded A&M physics professor.

Wendell was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 67 happy years, Betty Ann Nedderman in 2015. He is survived by their four sons and three daughters-in-law: Howard and Terri, John, Jeff and Faye, and Eric and Kimberly. There are many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One sister, Jean Henderson, lives in Ottumwa, Iowa.

The funeral will take place at First Christian Church of Arlington, 910 S. Collins St. Arlington, TX 76010 on Saturday, May 18, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. Burial will immediately follow the service in a family plot at Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington, Texas.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/arlington-tx/wendell-nedderman-8709874>