



Dr. Jack R. Woolf

Dr. Jack R. Woolf, President Emeritus, Professor Emeritus is honored for a lifetime of distinguished service to the nation, the University, and support to the Corps of Cadets while President of The University of Texas at Arlington.

A native of Texas, he earned a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M. He enrolled in ROTC at Texas A&M and was in the Advanced Program while also serving in the United States Army Reserves. He entered active duty status in 1942, completed Officer Candidate School, and was commissioned in the Army Air Corps in 1944. He served as an Aviation Maintenance Officer and an Aviation Utilities Officer. His last assignment was as an Engineer Company Commander, Clark Field, Philippine Island. He left active duty in 1946 and resigned his reserve commission in 1953.

He obtained a Ph.D. at Purdue University in 1951 where he had been a Mechanical Engineering Instructor and Dupont Fellow since 1948. After five years as Engineering Supervisor with General Dynamics and as a Guest Lecturer at Southern Methodist University, he began to devote full attention to higher education. He was Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Research Engineer, and Assistant to the President at Texas A&M University in 1956.

He began an association with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in 1957 that has continued for 36 years. His outstanding service has been marked with significant achievements for which he has received numerous honors. He served one year as Dean, Arlington State College in 1959. During his tenure as President, he led the University through years of significant change and unparalleled growth. He orchestrated the smooth transition from two-year to a four-year institution. He elevated the college to university status, supervised the

transfer from the Texas A&M system to the University of Texas System, and was at the helm when the institution was renamed The University of Texas at Arlington in 1966. Throughout this evolutionary period, Dr. Woolf was a steadfast supporter of the Corps of Cadets. He supported the expansion of ROTC to a four-year program and saw the first eight cadets commissioned through UTA ROTC in 1961.

Dr. Woolf is a leading authority in the fields of heat transfer, thermodynamics, higher education, thermodynamics property relations and is well published in those fields. He has been a member of several technical and honor societies, military and civilian. He is the recipient of numerous honors to include: Outstanding Alumnus and Outstanding M.E. Alumnus, Purdue University; Arlington Man of the Year; Tarrant County Engineer of the Year; Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International.

President Emeritus Jack R. Woolf relinquished the Presidency in 1968 to continue as Professor of Engineering and to become Executive Director, Association of Texas Colleges and Universities. He retired from full time duties in 1989 but continues his association with the College of Engineering.

Dr. Woolf and his wife Martha, reside in Arlington. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

Obituary

Jack R. Woolf

June 10, 1924 — June 10, 2014

ARLINGTON — Jack Woolf, president emeritus of the University of Texas at Arlington, died Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at age 90.

Memorial service: 2 p.m. Friday in Wade Family Funeral Home Chapel, 4140 W. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington.

Interment: 11 a.m. Friday in Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington.

Visitation: The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials: May be made to the Woolf Endowed Scholarship Fund, Office of Development, the University of Texas at Arlington, Campus Box 19198, Arlington, Texas 76019-0198, or Faith in Practice, 7500 Beechnut St., Suite 208, Houston, Texas 77074.

He was born June 10, 1924, in Trinidad, Texas, to Jeff D. and Emily Mahaza Woolf. His grandmother Woolf's family settled in the Trinidad area just after the Civil War.

Jack Woolf entered Texas A&M College in 1941 and, in 1943, entered active duty in the Army and became a commissioned officer in the Air Corps. After more than three years' service, including a year in the Philippines, he re-entered Texas A&M and received B.S. and M.S. degrees in 1948.

On July 10, 1948, he married Martha Frazar of Strawn, and they were married for 65 years. Jack and Martha moved to Indiana, where he was an instructor and graduate student at Purdue University. On June 10, 1951, Purdue University awarded him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in engineering.

Dr. Woolf accepted a position as a research engineer with Convair (now Lockheed Martin) in Fort Worth. While there, he was involved in engineering education. In 1956, he accepted a professorship at Texas A&M in College Station. In 1957, he was named dean of the college at the then-Arlington State College, and the family moved to Arlington.

Following the death of President Hereford in 1958, he was appointed the second president and served in that position as Arlington State College was elevated to degree-granting status. During his presidency, Arlington State College expanded rapidly from an enrollment of 5,000 to 11,500. The campus site and improvements expanded dramatically, as did the faculty size and credentials. The first bachelor's and master's degrees were awarded. The governing board of the college was changed from the Texas A&M System to the University of Texas at Arlington.

On Sept. 1, 1968, Dr. Woolf resigned the presidency and was named president emeritus and university professor of engineering and higher education, retiring in 1989. In addition to his duties at UTA, he was a consultant to several universities and educational agencies. He was also the executive director of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities for more than 10 years.

Dr. Woolf received two very distinctive honors. The first was bestowed in 1964, when he was designated a "Distinguished Alumnus" of the College of Engineering of Purdue University, one of the first five to be so honored. In 1995, UTA named the first building built during his presidency Woolf Hall.

He and Martha traveled extensively in the U.S. and other countries. Jack was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. Family claimed first place in his and Martha's hearts.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha; daughter, Ann; and brother, Thomas.

Survivors: Sons, Charles Woolf and Dr. Mark Woolf and wife, Debra; grandchildren, Jordan Woolf and wife, Lauren, and Travis Woolf and wife, Katie; great-grandchildren, Nolan and Parker Woolf; sister, Lila Caraway; and several nieces and nephews.

<https://www.wadefamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/jack-r-woolf>