

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ernest Levert

PERSON

Levert, Ernest, 1954-

Alternative Names: Ernest Levert;

Life Dates: March 14, 1954-

Place of Birth: Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Residence: Highland Village, TX

Work: Dallas, TX

Occupations: Material Science Engineer; Welding Engineer

Biographical Note

Senior staff manufacturing engineer Ernest D. Levert was born on March 14, 1954 in Cleveland, Ohio to parents William and Gertrude Levert. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended Max S. Hayes Vocational High School. As a sophomore, Levert interned with NASA at the John H. Glenn Research Center. He graduated from Max S. Hayes Vocational High School in 1972. After working briefly as a tool and die welder at Club Products in Cleveland, Levert served a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and attended the U.S. Navy's Broaden Opportunity for Officers and Selection Training (BOOST) Program. Levert went on to graduate from Ohio State University in 1982 with his B.S. degree in welding engineering, specializing in robotic, laser-beam, and electron-beam welding.

In 1986, Levert joined Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control Division in Dallas, Texas where he worked on projects under NASA and the U.S. Department of Defense such as the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, Multiple Launch Rocket System, and the Army Tactical Missile System. Levert's division created and implemented the heat rejection system and the photovoltaic radiators for the International Space Station thermal batteries and crew areas for removing excess heat. He also developed a welding system of elbow tubing designed to carry coolant gases in radiators that are part of the Space Station. In 1996, Levert was appointed as the senior staff manufacturing engineer at Lockheed Martin. In this position, Levert continued to work on perplexing problems, like the case in 1996 when his development team ensured that the welding of the rocket motor and warhead of live missiles were secure and tamper-proof for international distribution. Throughout his career, Levert has developed standard policies and processes that provide structural integrity for many Lockheed Martin products. He has

also contributed to the following books, BSA Welding Merit Badge Book, American Welding Society Welding Handbook, and Sparking the Future: National Center for Welding Education and Training, published by the Welding Education Center in 2009.

In 2002, Levert became the first African American to serve as president of the American Welding Society. In 2006, he was the first African American elected chairman of Commission IV (Power Beam Processes) of the International Institute of Welding. Levert also became the first African American elected president of the Federation of Material Societies in 2007. He was honored with the Outstanding and Distinguished Alumni Awards from the Ohio State University School of Engineering in 2004 and with the NOVA Award for Outstanding leadership from Lockheed Martin in 2006.

Levert and his wife, Rhonda, have two children: Chantale and Ernest Jr.

Ernest D. Levert was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 29, 2013.

Related Entries

The Ohio State University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Max S. Hayes High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Wilson Junior High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

John D. Rockefeller Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

United States Navy [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197407 to 197807]

2nd Class Petty Officer

Lockheed Martin [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1954 to 1964]

Senior Staff Manufacturing Engineer

General Dynamic - Convair Division [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 198311 to 198610]

Welding Engineer

Ametek, Straza Division [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 198207 to 198310]

Welding Engineer

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) [MEMBEROF]

[from 1970 to ?]

Scoutmaster

American Welding Society (AWS) [MEMBEROf]

[from 1978 to ?]

President/Board Member/District Director

International Institute of Welding (IIW) [MEMBEROf]

[from 1999 to ?]

Chairman Commission IV

Federation of Materials Societies (FMS) [MEMBEROf]

[from 1999 to 2010]

President and Trustee

Ohio State University (OSU) [MEMBEROf]

[from 2002 to ?]

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