

CEG

In Memory

Armand H. Gustafarro 1924 - 2003

The Consulting Engineers Group Inc.



It is with great sadness that The Consulting Engineers Group, Inc. announces the passing of Armand H. Gustafarro. "Gus" passed away on Sunday August 3, 2003 of an apparent heart attack at his home in Glenview, Illinois. A memorial service was held on Thursday August 7, 2003.

Gus was born on July 6, 1924 in Conneaut, Ohio. It was here, close to the shores of Lake Erie, that Gus developed his love of fishing and the outdoors. This love continued throughout his life as evidenced by his frequent fishing trips on Lake Michigan and his beloved yearly treks to Gunflint, Minnesota.

In 1941, Gus entered the engineering college at Ohio State University. Two years later his studies were interrupted when he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He flew combat missions over northern Africa in a B17 named the Ordinance Express. During this time,

Gus lived in Casablanca and loved to recount stories of his adventures in the city and the rest of Morocco. In 1946 Gus returned to Ohio State and completed his degree in civil engineering. He then went on to Yale University where in 1951 he received a Master of Engineering degree. In 1987, Ohio State presented him with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Gus, as many of you know, was an internationally recognized expert on the fire resistance of reinforced and prestressed concrete. His amazing breadth of knowledge certainly did not stop at the boundaries of fire resistance. He had a working knowledge of cement chemistry. He knew basic materials including cements, aggregates, admixtures, fibers, steel reinforcement as well as some of the newer reinforcing materials such as carbon filament. He was a fine structural engineer and well versed in all types of repair procedures. He was a master at diagnosing problems related to materials issues or engineering mechanics. During his years with CEG, Gus conducted hundreds of construction related investigations in the United States and overseas. He remained active at CEG even after his "official" retirement in 1995. Gus would like to boast that in retirement he was down to 40 hours a week.

Gus began his engineering career in 1954 when he joined the Portland Cement Association. He left PCA in 1956 to

manage a new plant for Vulcan Materials that manufactured girders for 50 bridges on the Illinois Toll Road. He returned to PCA in 1959 and eventually headed the fire research laboratory in Skokie.

During the formative years of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), Gus was most instrumental in creating the technical committee structure. He was PCI's second chairman of the Technical Activities Committee, which governs the work of a broad range of technical committees. For PCI, Gus authored the 81-page manual entitled "Design for Fire Resistance of Precast Prestressed Concrete." He also prepared a 256-page manual for the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute entitled "Reinforced Concrete Fire Resistance." All told he authored more than 60 technical papers dealing with concrete technology, prestressed concrete and fire resistance.

In 1979, the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute bestowed their highest award to Gus – the PCI Medal of Honor.

Gus was also an authority on the quality control of ready-mix and precast concrete. He wrote the "NPCA Quality Control Manual for Precast Concrete Plants" for the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA). The manual along with Gus' inspection and grading system became the basis for the NPCA certification program.

The American Concrete Institute also recognized Gus'



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contributions. He received a Seminar Speaker of the Year Award in 2000. He frequently conducted ACI seminars on Troubleshooting Concrete Problems. In 1981 he received the Alfred E. Lindau Award for pioneering contributions in the development of rational design methods for determining fire resistance of reinforced and prestressed concrete. In 1992 the ACI Chicago Area Chapter gave him the Henry Crown Award for outstanding contributions to the cement and concrete industry. He also wrote ACI's first Concrete Craftsmen Series booklet "Slabs on Grade".

In addition to his expertise on fire resistance and the behavior of structural concrete systems in general, Gus was also an authority on the performance of ordinary concrete such as slabs on grade, walls, pavements and foundations. He was scheduled to lecture at the thirtieth annual World of Concrete to be held in Orlando in February 2004. He inaugurated their first seminar program in 1974 and was the only faculty member to have participated in all of the 29 educational programs given since. The WOC typically draws more than 70,000 participants and features a very large exposition of concreting materials, services and equipment as well as offering up to 85 morning seminars over a period of five days. Gus and another lecturer usually talked on Basics of Concrete Floors on Ground. It was not uncommon for their seminars

to draw 500 or more participants. Gus also taught Concrete Basics and Troubleshooting Concrete Cracks. It is hard to say exactly how many contractors and tradesmen he reached but considering the other topics he covered at WOC it must be in excess of 30,000. And many of those passed along important points to others. Those efforts have markedly improved the quality of ordinary concrete construction, which benefits all of us.

At CEG, Gus was our technical supreme court. If we had a question or concern about an unusual problem we would often run it by him for his advice. You will never meet anyone who was more intellectually honest than Gus. To him everything he said or wrote had to be as strictly accurate and correct as he could make it. No compromises. And he warned prospective clients who wanted him to look into their problems that he would be calling it as he saw it. Most got the message that if they were looking for someone to shade things in their favor; he probably wasn't going to be their man. He was a perfectionist about accuracy and other things as Millie, his wife of 45 years, can attest. But he was never annoying about that and people almost universally accepted it.

Gus seemed to have lived Rudyard Kipling's counsel, which was to be able to walk with kings but keep the common touch. Whether he was

talking with a judge in a courtroom or with a concrete worker using a trowel both knew instinctively that they were hearing from someone who knew what he was talking about. He had that amazing quality about him; he commanded almost instant respect from strangers at all levels and that probably was due in part because he showed respect for them.

Gus received numerous awards throughout his career, a few we have mentioned here, but we should remember that the awards were not what was important to Gus. He worked because he loved to work and thought he might have something to contribute. He loved his country, his family, his friends, and his colleagues. He loved fishing and the outdoors. These were the things that were important to Gus.

We all know that there are an infinite number of people who arrive and leave this Earth over time. Only a very few make lasting contributions. Fewer still make a really big difference. Gus was one of those. All of us should be pleased that he passed our way.

Gus was a colleague, co-worker, mentor, friend, and member of our CEG family for 32 years. He will be missed. He will never be forgotten. His wife Mildred; her daughter Carol VanTine; a brother Bill; and three sisters, Louise Candela, Julia Napoli, and Joanne Kap-sansis survive him.

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