

Donald R. McVittie

1930–2008



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It is with regret we report that Donald R. McVittie (1930–2008) passed away January 20, 2008 at his Seattle home. He was 77. Mr. McVittie was diagnosed several years ago with lung cancer.

At the request of his family, AGMA has created a memorial scholarship fund—the Donald R. McVittie Memorial Education Fund—to help fund the education of gear engineers. Contributions should be sent to the AGMA Foundation, 500 Montgomery Street, Suite 350, Alexandria, VA 22314 and designated for the Donald R. McVittie Memorial Education Fund.

McVittie is survived by his wife, Red, three children and four grandchildren.

Born in western New York, McVittie attended schools in Niagara Falls, NY and Portland, OR. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1952 with a BSE in Mechanical Engineering.

While attending Michigan, McVittie worked for a local engineering firm which specialized in paper mill processes and power generation. After graduation, he moved to Seattle and worked in marine engineering, designing, selling and manufacturing a variety of innovative auxiliary machines, mostly for the commercial fishing industry.

In 1962 he moved to Chile, where he supervised the design, procurement, construction and startup of an integrated fish production and processing operation in Iquique, on the north coast of the country.

McVittie joined The Gear Works—Seattle, Inc. in 1969 as executive vice president and was responsible for operations until his retirement in December, 1986.

In 1973 he helped form Gear Engineers, Inc., an engineering

corporation specializing in gear design, analysis of problem gears and computerized gear capacity studies. He was the principal engineer of the company since its organization, and in 1983 became its president.

McVittie was an active participant in the American Gear Manufacturers Association since 1972. His main interest was the Technical Division, where he served on many committees, including the Gear Rating, Wind Turbine Gearing, Inspection & Handbook, Epicyclic Enclosed Drives and Computer Programming committees.

He was President of AGMA in 1984–1985 and served as Vice President of AGMA's Technical Division from 1986 to 1991. In 1991, he became one of the original technical editors for *Gear Technology* magazine, and continued in that capacity until his illness.

McVittie received every possible award and recognition given by AGMA—the Technical Division Executive Committee Award, the Product Division Executive Committee Award, the Board of Directors' Award, the E. P. Connell Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award for service to AGMA. He was elected an honorary life member of AGMA in 1998. Additionally, he received ANSI's Meritorious Service Award in 1995 for his work in international standardization.

McVittie was a licensed professional engineer in Washington, and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society for Metals and the Society of Automotive Engineers.

A memorial service was held March 2nd at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Seattle.