

RICHARD LANE

Richard “Rick” Lane graduated Valedictorian of the Coleman High School Class of 1962. He received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas Tech University in 1967 and his M.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1969. His graduate school research project involved outgassing of plastics in space craft and was sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Keep in mind this was during the height of the space race; and of course, we all remember a specific accomplishment NASA made in July of that same year.

Following graduation, Rick served in the military from 1969 to 1971. He attended Officer training in St. Belvoir, Virginia, where he received commission as 2nd Lieutenant, ranking 3rd in his class. He was stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas where he worked on computer systems for combat companies. He was discharged in 1971, receiving a Meritorious Service Award.

Rick then began his 32-year career at 3M Corporation in Brownwood, Texas. He started out as a shift supervisor, working a different shift every week. Over the next 6 years, he was a process engineer, then general supervisor of the converting area overseeing 105 employees. He was then promoted to Superintendent of Manufacturing at 3M Guin Alabama Plant where he held that position for 4 years.

Rick returned to Brownwood as Plant Supervisor for 2 years and then held the position of Plant Manager in Brownwood for the next 7 years. During these 7 years, the plant set corporation records for productivity and for safety without a major injury. The Brownwood plant received many awards and grew jobs under Rick's management. In 1991, he was promoted to Division Manufacturing in St. Paul, Minnesota. He worked on reflective products used in license plates, road signs and pavement markings.

In 1994, Rick was promoted to International Manufacturing Manager and relocated to Brussels, Belgium where he was manager of 3M plants in Germany, France, Italy, and the Netherlands. Afterwards, he was promoted to Manufacturing Director, executive level at 3M at St. Paul, Minnesota. He spent 7 years managing 3M businesses around the world, including China, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela. Rick retired from 3M in 2003 and did engineering consulting for an additional 2 years. Rick's life has been characterized by high achievement in his education, his military service and his profession along with high moral standards and a dedication to his family.