

## In Memoriam

Dale A. Nelson, P.E., F.ASCE

\*12/14/1944 – †1/1/2019

The members of the Alaska Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) remember the truly significant contributions of Dale Albin Nelson to the Anchorage community, to Alaska, and to his engineering profession.



Growing up in Washington, Dale worked in his parents' logging and sawmill business, as well as at his grandparents' cattle ranch. He graduated from Washington State University in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and then accepted a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Richardson, fulfilling a dream to live in Alaska. Soon after, Dale married Elaine, and they were blessed with two children: Garth Nelson, a registered civil engineer, and Lesa Zimnawoda, an environmental scientist.

Committed to strong family values, Dale and Elaine have been wonderful role models who taught positive work ethic, compassion, and community involvement. Dale regularly attended his children's events, volunteered as a parent on his son's hockey teams, and taught Sunday school with Elaine. Dale was dedicated to working with youth and volunteered at Inlet View Elementary School where he enjoyed presenting the Alaska General Contractor's Tool Box program to young students in the fourth and fifth grades. An avid sportsman, Dale also found time for hunting, fishing, handball, and basketball.

Dale was a stalwart proponent of strong, quality engineering professionals. He distinguished himself as an active and influential member of ASCE. Dale assumed leadership responsibility within ASCE beginning in 1971, serving all positions within the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Branch and the Alaska Section, and as a Regional Governor and Director, earning respect and admiration from his engineering peers along the way. In October 1999, Dale was elevated to the ASCE Fellow status and he became a life member in 2009.

Dale played a pivotal role in advancing civil engineering through his dedicated service as chairman of the Pacific Northwest Council and Region 8. He served on the National

Infrastructure Policy Committee, the Committee of Professional Practice, and a host of other engineering and civic organizations.

In October 2018, Dale Nelson completed his three-year term as Director of ASCE Region 8, an elected position through which he served on the ASCE Board of Directors and guided more than 14,000 ASCE members residing in Region 8 in promoting and advocating for civil engineering in Alaska, Hawaii, the western United States, and in western Canada.

Dale served on numerous ASCE society committees over the last 40 years, always willing to contribute to and lead the development of our society and profession in Alaska and nationally.

Dale also served as an officer in the Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) and as the chair of the APDC Legislative Liaison Committee (LLC), never tiring to serve as a representative of his fellow professionals, providing insights and testimony to the Alaska legislature and state board of registration.

Being an active community member, Dale served and volunteered in the South Addition Community Council in the Municipality of Anchorage and on the Alaska Resource Development Council.

In 2013, Dale was appointed by Mayor Dan Sullivan as the Engineer Representative Commissioner for Anchorage Municipal Light & Power and served in that capacity for the remainder of the mayoral term ending in July 2015.

As a graduate of Washington State University, Dale served his Alma Mater on the Advisory Board for the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department. Dale always had time for the WSU ASCE student chapter and graduating CE students, many of whom he personally met and mentored.

In February 2018, the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature honored Dale Nelson for his leadership and energy in service to his engineering community and to the State of Alaska.

Dale is survived by his wife Elaine and their children Garth and Lesa with their families.

The number of Dale's contributions are really far too many to count, but Dale has been a role model and mentor for fellow engineers throughout our nation. Most of all Dale was a friend. His passing will leave a void that is not easy to fill. Always humble about his own contributions, I believe Dale's dearest wish would be that we continue to serve in our communities always putting the safety, health, and welfare of the public first.

On behalf of the Alaska Section of American Society of Civil Engineers.

Tor Anderzen, president