

# Surge Protection Hall of Fame



**Donald M Worden**

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## Donald M. Worden

Standards Champion, Designer and Marketer of  
Low Voltage SPDs

Don Worden was a master at guiding standards development in the IEEE SPD. His leadership is matched by very few. When he retired from standards leadership 5 years ago, he left a legacy of published standards that may never be matched. Besides Dons tireless leadership to publish useful standards, there are very few people that can use humor as well as he. To this day, he can start and end each public speaking event with a line that will put you in the right mental state to listen and remember what he has said. A very useful tool in communications.

Don's career includes design and installation of industrial facility and broadcast station low voltage power distribution systems; aircraft ground power units; development of electromechanical devices and instrumentation for aircraft, missile, and industrial systems. In 1970 he discovered surge protection and along with that, a lifelong passion. The following 30 years focused on development, application and marketing of surge protection to resolve a wide spectrum of reliability needs and operational problems in low voltage power, communications, data, signaling and control circuits. Don says "All of it was interesting; most of it was fun."

### **Words of Wisdom for future surge protection engineers**

Find work that you enjoy and give it your full attention. Choose projects for which you have passion, even in difficult periods. Set realistic and measurable goals; evaluate your performance. Do not be afraid to innovate; progress frequently entails some risk. Learn from your



accomplishments and your mistakes; never stop learning. Honesty, humor and hard work will contribute significantly to your success. Work for the benefit of all parties - in the long run, you will gain more than you give in knowledge, personal satisfaction and friendships.

**Note:** Standards development and company projects have no room for those who participate solely to gain an advantage over their competition.

### **Education**

- Completed U.S. Navy Electronics School; Sea Duty aboard U.S.S. Columbus (CA74) and U.S.S. Iowa (BB61); Honorable Discharge following WW II.
- Graduated from University of Southern California with BE(EE) degree in 1952.
- Following Westinghouse Graduate Program he was transferred to the Los Angeles

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District Office where he also lectured in Electrical Engineering at the University of Southern California

- Graduate Study in Sales and Marketing at Syracuse University.

## **Standards Experience includes:**

- Past-Chair AIEE & IRE Student Chapter at USC followed by IEEE membership
- Low Voltage representative on the United States delegation which hosted the 1988 meeting of the IEC Technical Committee (TC) 37
- Past-member Accredited Standards Committee C62 Surge Arresters
- Past-member ASC C62 Low Voltage Subcommittee
- Past-member ASC C62 IEC Low Voltage Advisory Group
- Past-Chair of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) Low Voltage Transient Surge Suppressor Section (5-VS)
- Past-Chair NEMA Industry Development Committee
- Retired-Chair IEEE-SPDC Low Voltage Surge Protective Devices SC 3.6