

# Surge Protection Hall of Fame



**John Posey**

February 2009

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# John Posey

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## John Posey

Standards Champion and  
Lifelong High Voltage Arrester Expert

Besides being a valuable asset to the surge protection industry and an extraordinary arrester resource for many of us, John Posey can spot a spelling or grammar error from 10,000 feet even if the document is facing away from him. His involvement in standards before his retirement 15 years ago was very much appreciated by the generation of standards writers that followed him. As you can see from his resume, he spent his entire career with one company, Ohio Brass. An accomplishment worth mentioning in this day of job jumping by highly qualified and respected individuals. Even after retirement he continued to represent his lifelong employer for 13 more years in standards.

### **Words of Wisdom for Future Arrester Designers**

Prepare for changes in technology and in peoples goals. The world will change and you can help make it happen.

### **Career**

John received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 1950 and started his lifelong association with Ohio Brass Company as an engineer in the high-voltage laboratory. One of his first assignments was to design and construct an automatic 60 Hz sparkover test machine for the new line of surge arresters introduced that year by OB.

He served as the guidance radar operator for the Terrier missile project at the White Sands Missile Range during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953.



Upon discharge from the Army he returned to OB as a sales and application engineer for all utility products. He became Product Manager for surge arresters in 1968 and this product became his primary focus for the next 25 years. During his career he arranged and participated in many arrester seminars in South America, South Africa, Canada, Mexico and in the US. He was the standards coordinator for the IEEE SPDC for over ten years, English Editor of the IEC standard, and a mentor.

Active in national and international safety standards development, he was past chairman of the Codes and Standards Committee of NEMA (National Electrical Manufacturers Association), member of the IEEE Standards Board, and had received the IEEE Standards Medallion, NEMA Kite and Key award and the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Meritorious Service Award.

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He retired from Ohio Brass Company (Hubbell Power Systems) in 1993 as Marketing Manager but continued as a standards consultant to Hubbell until 2006.

## Education:

B. S. E. E. Purdue University, 1950

## Employment:

- **1994 to date** Private consulting,
- **1950 to 1993** Arrester Product Manager, Arrester Marketing Manager, Sales, Designer, and Test Engineer - The Ohio Brass Company, now Hubbell Power Systems

## IEEE :

- Life Senior member
- Member IEEE-Standards Association Standards Board, 1998, 1999, 2000
- Member – IEEE-SA Standards Review Committee, 1994 - 2000
- Member – Appeals Pool of Standards Board, 1998 – 2000
- Member – Standards Coordinating Committee SCC-10, 2001
- Standards Coordinator - Surge Protective Devices Committee, 1986 - 2000
- Member - Administrative and Standards Committee of IEEE Surge Protective Devices Committee, 1986 - 2000
- Member – Power Engineering Society Standards Coordinating Committee
- Past-Chair of Working Group on continuous revision of IEEE/ANSI C62.1

## During Consulting Years

- **I. E. C.:** U. S. Representative to Editing Committee for TC-37 Surge Arresters in Geneva in 1993 and 1995.
- Past member of US TAG for TC37 (Surge Arresters)

- Past member of Working Group 12
- **N. E. M. A** : Chairman of the Codes and Standards Committee 1998 - 2000, member 1965 – 2004, Vice-chairman 1991-1997 and 2001-2002.
- Member of the NEMA Standards Policy Committee, 1998 - 2000
- Past Chairman of the NEMA Surge Arrester Section, (three 2 year terms).
- **N.F.P.A.:** Member – National Fire Protection Association, sponsor of the National Electrical Code, NFPA-70

## Awards:

- IEEE Standards Medallion in 1990 for: " - - - excellence in standards development."
- NEMA Kite and Key Award in 1993 for: " - - - advancing the electrical industry through service to the Association and allied organizations."
- IEEE Surge Protective Devices Committee Distinguished Service in 1997
- American National Standards Institute Meritorious Service Award in 1998
- IEEE PES Working Group Award for Standard or Guide in 1999
- ("IEEE Std. 1243-1997, IEEE Guide for Improving the Lightning Performance of Transmission Lines")

## Other:

Village of Westfield Center, OH, Board of Public Affairs, member 1996 – 2002, president 2003-2007