


HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Valley of the Giants—

Louis F. Polk (1903 – 1991)



Louis F. Polk

Louis F. Polk was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1903, and resided in the Dayton area for 80 years, prior to retiring in 1984 at Lake Forest, Ill. He was an outstanding, highly respected engineer, scientist and business administrator. He held several patents on revolutionary measuring instruments and related devices.

He was a former president and chairman of the board of Sheffield Corporation, which later became Sheffield Measurement (currently, Giddings and Lewis/Sheffield Measurement), and he was a director of Bendix Corp. in 1956, when Sheffield became a subsidiary of Bendix.

Under Polk's guidance, Sheffield gained international recognition for innovative advances in all areas of gaging in measurement sciences. In 1955, Sheffield built the Eli Whitney Metrology Laboratory—the first independent precision instrument factory in the country. In 1960, Polk was a United States delegate to an International Weights and Measurements Conference in Paris, which adopted a wave-length of light to replace the meter bar as the World's standard of length. In 1965, he headed a government Task Force dealing with differences in American and British systems of measurements, and he was able to bring about a suitable compromise.

*Polk was a 50-year member of
Dayton Engineers Club and
a Fellow of the American Society
of Mechanical Engineers ...*

Polk was an author of many books in the measurements field. He served as president of the National Tool Builders Association and of the American Ordinance Association. He was appointed by President Ford to chair the U.S. Metric Board. He received the American Standards Association's 1961 Howard Coonley Medal, and, in 1964, along with Allen V. Astin, was awarded the Astin-Polk International Standards Medal for his contributions to International Trade and Cooperation Through Standardization.

Polk was a 50-year member of Dayton Engineers Club and a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (of which he was a Director, 1954 – 56). He was chairman of the State Fidelity Savings and Loan Association for 27 years, and had served as a director of Winters Bank. He also served as a member of the Air Force

Logistics Command Advisory Board, and its predecessor, Air Material Command. In 1975, he received the Air Force Exceptional Service Award.

Polk was prominent in many Miami Valley Civic and Community activities, including Boy Scouts, Salvation Army,

United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Sinclair Community College Foundation, Dayton Art Institute, Miami Valley Hospital, Cox Heart Institute and University of Dayton.

Louis F. Polk has earned his rightful place on the roll of our VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!

EMTEC

The Edson Materials Technology Center

The Center of Solutions

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Manufacturing Solutions
Casting Technology Program
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Industry-defined Initiative



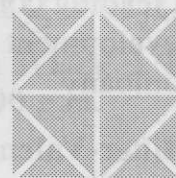
The David H. Ponitz Sinclair Center

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Reservations required

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