

# The George Warren Fuller Award & Other Awards

Gene Hanson was the recipient of this year's Fuller Award. Gene has a long record of supporting the American Water Works Association and the Alabama/Mississippi Section following his choice of a career in the water works industry. He has represented the Birmingham Water Works and Sewer Board well, working diligently to bring value and leadership by example. Like many Fuller Award recipients, Gene worked his way up through the ranks, making important changes to his organization along the way. As with other recipients, he is a professional engineer having attended UAB at night earning a degree while working during the day.

He is extremely proud of his lovely wife, two children and his grandsons with whom he golf's and fishes. He is, without question, an extremely faithful member of his church.

This Section's 2009 AWWA Fuller Awardee started his career as an Engineering Aide in 1964. He often worked on weekends in those days with his co-workers in the drafting room solving problems. Gene was promoted to Chief Draftsman the following year, re-organizing the Drafting Department. He was instrumental in his organization's receipt of the "Steel Tank of the Year" design award in 1971. He worked as a resident engineer from 1972-1973 with oversight of the Carson Filter Plant's construction in Birmingham. He served as Assistant General Manager in charge of Engineering and Distribution from 1977 to 1996, and would later become General

Manager at the Birmingham Water Works. As an executive, he would often wonder why he could no longer seem to solve problems as easily as he could back in the drafting room days.

Gene holds membership in the American Water Works Association, the Water Pollution Control Federation, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Alabama Water Pollution Control Association, the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers, and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. This year's Fuller Awardee has served on AWWA's prestigious Standards Committee, served as an AWWA Director, and held the post of Chairman of the Alabama/Mississippi Section.

In every way this year's Fuller Awardee has demonstrated the values associated with and recognized by the George Warren Fuller Award. Congratulations to our 2009 Fuller Award Recipient, Gene Hanson!



Above, an unsuspecting Gene Hanson enjoys a moment with Gene Stallings. To left, Gene Hanson receives a standing ovation from his peers and guests.



To the left, William A. Sacra (retired, Cullman County Water) is recognized by AWWA Vice President Dee Bennett for 50 years of membership in the organization. Pictured above, three members received lifetime memberships as recognition of their work in the water industry. Recipients included William J. Hughes, Jr. of Bridgeport (AL) Utilities, Jerry A. Hammon of the Waterworks Board of Section & Dutton, and Charles C. DiLaura of Neptune Technology Group.