

**In Memoriam**  
**Henry F. “Hank” Gerdom**

Henry F. “Hank” Gerdom passed away on June 21, 2016, in Indianapolis at the age of 89. Professor Gerdom taught for over 30 years between the Purdue, West Lafayette and IPFW campuses. He came to IPFW in 1967 and retired in 1982 as Professor Emeritus of Manufacturing Technology. He received his degrees from Purdue University (B.S. 1951, M.S. 1953.)

Hank was known for his outstanding work at Purdue in the field of engineering graphics. He brought the state of the art Mechanical Drafting Design Technology Associate Degree program to IPFW, creating all the drafting diagrams and drawing plates so everything could be pre-printed for students to complete and submit. He organized a structure to keep track of information on all student assignments and implemented this across the spectrum of courses in the program.

He was very meticulous and kept the print-outs on stock room shelves organized so faculty knew exactly where to go and what to teach. The system that Hank developed is still being used to this day by the department. Hank also had many connections in local industry which helped him keep the program relevant and graduates in high demand.

Dr. Ed Messal, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering Technology at IPFW spoke of Hank, “He was a dedicated, well-organized, efficient and effective teacher. He really wanted students to learn. He had a great sense of humor. Once, his department chair complained about Hank’s printing expenses. Hank told him, ‘I am finding paper and supplies as cheap as possible. If I go any cheaper, it will come on a roll with perforations!’”

Hank was a Korean Veteran. He was also one of the founders of the computer drafting department at Magnavox (now Raytheon) in Fort Wayne. Hank leaves behind three sons, Martin Gerdom of San Diego, Calif., Andrew Gerdom of Carmel, Ind., and Bruce Gerdom of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and the mother of his children, Beverly Gibson of Thorn Cleveleys Lancashire, England. Private family services were held in Indianapolis. Memorial contributions may be made to [indyhonorflight.org](http://indyhonorflight.org).