

Man of Year for Aiken County; Man of Decades for CNTA

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Aiken Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Man of the Year is a man CNTA knows well and man well worth getting to know.

Walt Joseph, currently 89 years old and with the energy of two men half his age, has spent his life serving his country in the military and working at the Savannah River Site. He is passionate about our nation and the field he believes has been a contributor to our nation's success.

"Very few people recognize that SRS made a major contribution to this nation and to the world in terms of avoiding World War III and winning the Cold War," he said while thinking about the importance of SRS. "Savannah River is one of the reasons the Soviets could not keep up with our technology and basically went bankrupt trying."

Joseph and his wife, Paula, moved to Aiken from Penn State in 1954 so Joseph could pursue his career in the nuclear field. At this point, he had already served in the military and finished his master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Joseph first began work at Savannah River Laboratory, where he stayed for 12 years. "We did some pioneering work on the effects of radiation on structural materials and had a lot of fun with it," Joseph commented with a smile.

When Joseph realized he could not discuss his job with anyone except those he worked with and those at other nuclear sites, he requested a



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Walt Joseph standing outside of the SRS Heritage Museum.

transfer from the laboratory to the plant.

He explained, "I decided that while I loved the science and technology, I liked people more."

Joseph received the transfer to the plant and from there he had a very busy career. He worked in many positions, from running transportation to doing research in equipment engineering.

Through all his job appointments, one thing remained true about Joseph – he loved his field of work. His main piece of advice is for one to "have a job that you think is fun."

However, even when he was done working at

the site, he felt his job was not yet finished.

"I think it's important to the community to understand the site in terms of what it has done in the past and what it's capable of doing in the future," Joseph said. "The site has made an enormous contribution to the community, the country, and the world. I think it's important that local people understand this and revel in it - take pride in it - support it in all of its various aspects."

In the early 2000's, Joseph and some others realized that SRS was missing something that most other nuclear sites have – a heritage mu-

seum. In 2003, plans began to form to create a heritage foundation for the site he had spent a career serving.

Joseph said, "I think the site has potential for continuing this kind of progress into the foreseeable future, and to do it, it really needs support from the community, so I hope that the museum is able to help build that kind of support."

He has put in countless hours of work into the Savannah River Site Heritage Foundation, and his work has not gone unrecognized. In 2017, Joseph was chosen to be Aiken Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year.

When thinking about being the recipient of the award, Joseph said, "I had not thought of myself as being a candidate for that kind of recognition, and in spite of my surprise, I had the presence of mind to ask XXXX to join me on the stage."

While Joseph likes to remind people that he was not the only person working on the project, he is still honored to have been acknowledged for the museum and foundation.

"It was great. I was flattered and delighted – not only for myself but for the people who work with me to make all of this possible. It was a validation that people thought that what we were doing was worth doing," Joseph said.

Even accomplished and ambitious men like Joseph can question their enthusiasm.

"Being an enthusiast, you always wonder a little bit if your enthusiasm is misplaced," Joseph added with a laugh. "It was nice to find that other people shared the enthusiasm."

CNTA's Annual Edward Teller lecture is Oct. 18

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The 27th Annual Edward Teller lecture will be on Oct. 18 at the USC Aiken Convocation Center, 375 Robert M. Bell Parkway in Aiken. CNTA sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture and Banquet as a public outreach, which is named for the famed nuclear pioneer who played a key role in advancing nuclear science during World War II.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. with tickets at \$50 per person, which includes a cash bar reception from 6-6:45 p.m. beforehand. In addition, a private speaker reception will be from 6-6:45 p.m. with tickets at \$65 per person. Tickets at either level can be purchased by contacting the CNTA office at cnta@bell-south.net or (803) 649-3456, or by purchasing them online at <http://c-n-t-a.com/tellerman.htm>. Ticket deadline was Oct. 1.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Jose N. Reyes, Jr. Dr. Reyes is the co-founder and CTO of NuScale Power. He is the co-inventor of the NuScale small modular reactor with over 110 patents granted or pending in 20 countries. He is an expert on nuclear plant scaling, passive safety, and testing. He is Professor Emeritus and former head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering at Oregon State University (OSU). He was the OSU principal investigator for the Westinghouse AP600 and AP1000 design certification test programs. He is also an ANS Fellow

and Member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Edward Teller was a native of Hungary and came to the United States, as did many other Jewish scientists escaping the advancing armies of Nazi Germany. From the earliest days of the Manhattan Project, Dr. Teller was a central figure in the design and production of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons materials. He considered the teaching of theoretical physics at several universities his primary occupation. Dr. Teller was the "father of the hydrogen bomb" and convinced President Truman of the need for that weapon given Soviet advances in that direction. President George W. Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in July 2003. Dr. Edward Teller died at his California home in September 2003 at age 95.

Dr. Teller presented a public lecture in Augusta, GA, in 1992 and allowed CNTA to name its annual lecture and banquet in his honor. The Annual Edward Teller Lecture and Banquet is CNTA's largest community outreach activity. The audience primarily consists of community leaders, elected officials, and nuclear professionals. Some high school and college students also attend courtesy of corporate and college donors.

Notable presenters have included authors, industry leaders, Senators, Congressmen, nuclear medicine pioneers, national laboratory directors, and many others, all with an impressive list of accomplishments.

CNTA's mission, vision, value

The work of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness is marked by the mission of educating the public about the value of nuclear technology. The organization is a place for the community of nuclear scientists and those who support nuclear technology to work together to raise awareness for the applications of nuclear technology. CNTA sponsors events, supports students through scholarships and readily informs the public at city hall meetings and schools.

Mission

CNTA serves to educate the public by providing objective information on the value of nuclear technology with respect to our health, economy, environment and national security.

Vision

CNTA will become the recognized avenue for the collective engagement of its members in increasing the awareness and support of nuclear technology and its benefits to the public.

Value

Through inclusiveness and engagement, the CNTA organization and its volunteers create an influential and credible voice to provide the public with factual, objective information on nuclear subjects. CNTA also provides for leadership/mentoring opportunities for its members' personal and professional growth.