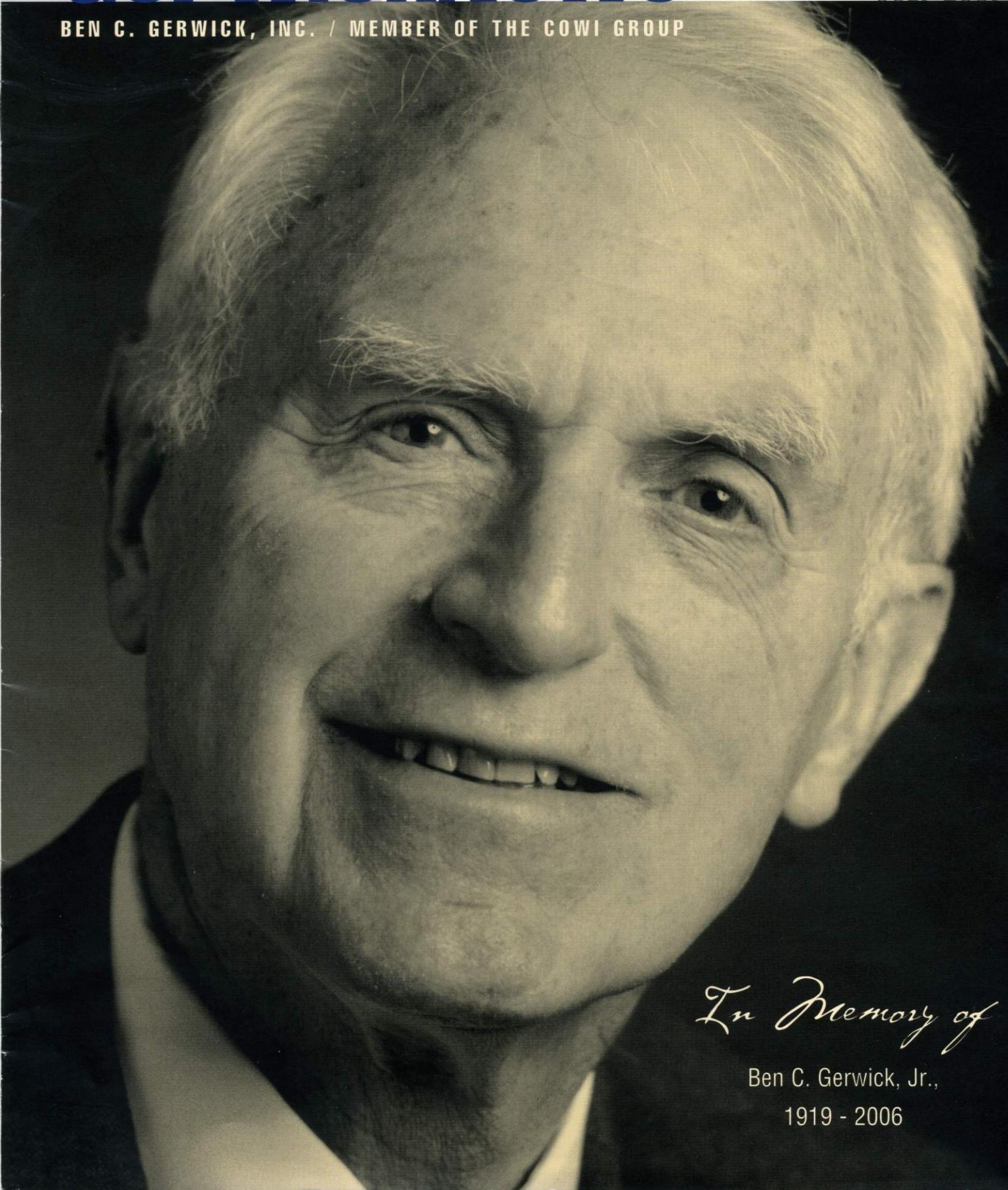


GerwickNews

JULY 2007

BEN C. GERWICK, INC. / MEMBER OF THE COWI GROUP



In Memory of

Ben C. Gerwick, Jr.,

1919 - 2006

In Memoriam

Robert Bittner, President and Dale Berner, Sr VP, CFO



Ben C. Gerwick, Jr., 1919 - 2006

Ben C. Gerwick, Jr. died peacefully at his home in Oakland, California on December 25, 2006 from complications of a lung infection at the age of 87. Ben was born on February 22, 1919 in Berkeley, and received his degree in Civil Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley in 1940. During his 6 years of service in the US Navy during WW II, Ben matured quickly to become the youngest Commander in modern US naval history as Commander of the attack transport USS Scania. His military experience taught him the importance of hard work and attention to detail, to which he added his own integrity, enthusiasm, insightfulness, and positive attitude, which were the hallmarks of his entire career.

Following the war, Ben entered Ben C. Gerwick, Inc., a marine and construction firm founded by his father in 1926, and in the early 1950s he became interested in the potential of prestressed concrete and converted the company's existing precast concrete manufacturing plant into the new technology of pretensioning. Early work was the development of prestressed concrete piles that the firm also installed. Later the firm developed the deflected-strand process for pretensioned bridge girders, the precast match-casting process, and pretensioned railroad ties. Overseas, the company participated in setting-up prestressed concrete fabrication plants in Kuwait and Singapore, and domestically in projects including the overwater extension of La Guardia Airport in New York. Ben was active in the Prestressed Concrete Institute, serving as its President in 1957, and in the International Federation of Prestressing, serving as its President from 1974 to 1978. The firm first merged with J.H. Pomeroy, and then in 1967, it became part of Santa Fe International, and Ben was given responsibility for international construction.

As a contractor, Ben participated in the construction of the marine precast concrete bridge piers for such major bridges as the Richmond-San Rafael, and the San Mateo-Hayward

*We have lost a great friend,
Teacher, colleague and inspiration.*

bridges, and the construction of the concrete North Sea platform-the Ninian Central. He was also proud to have developed the Soldier Pile and Tremie Concrete, SPTC, a slurry wall construction technique for deep foundations. As a consultant, he participated in the development of several subsequent major offshore concrete oil platforms in the North Sea, of the floating concrete structure Ardjuna Sakti for cryogenic gas storage, and of the first long-span cantilever segmental bridge in the United States. His work on offshore platforms led to the expansion of prestressed concrete to offshore structures for the Arctic and Subarctic to resist sea ice and icebergs. He was a consultant on major prestressed concrete bridges in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, as well as in the United States. His work has included prestressed concrete offshore terminals and floating bridges.

In 1971, he joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley as a Professor of Civil Engineering. Concurrently, he set up a specialized consulting engineering practice, continuing the former construction company's name of Ben C. Gerwick, Inc. As a professor at Berkeley (Professor Emeritus professor from 1989 to 2006), and in his many lectures to students and professional groups, he stressed the inculcation of a creative and innovative attitude in addressing engineering and construction challenges. He authored over 200 technical papers and several books, including the widely used textbooks "Construction of Prestressed Concrete Structures," "Construction of Marine and Offshore Structures," and his most recent narrative biography, "The Bridge Beyond."

Among Ben's honors and awards were membership in the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Construction. He received Honorary Membership in the Concrete Societies of Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Norway, and France as well as Honorary Membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Concrete Institute, and the Prestressed Concrete Institute. He was presented with the Freyssinet Medal from the international Federation of Prestressing (FIP), and the Medal of Honor from the Prestressed Concrete Institute. He was honored with the "Golden Beaver" Award for Engineering from the Heavy Construction Industry, the Distinguished Service Award from the Deep Foundation Institute and the Outstanding Projects and Lifetime (OPAL) Award from ASCE. Ben was also voted one of the top 125 engineers of the 20th Century by ENR.

In 1999, Ben reflected on what he considered to be the most important element in his then successful 54-year career in construction and engineering. It wasn't about all the awards and recognition he had received over the years or even the exciting projects in which he had been involved. The most important thing for him was the contacts and friendships he had had with people that were dedicated to and enthusiastic

