

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DANIEL K. REITAN**

Professor Emeritus Daniel K. Reitan, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, died in February 2014 in Fargo, North Dakota.

Professor Reitan was born on August 13, 1923 in Duluth, Minnesota, the youngest of five children. Living there provided an ideal boyhood of boating, sailing, ice-skating, ice-boating, and swimming in St. Louis Bay, Lake Superior. Dan and his brother Conrad enjoyed fishing in all the trout streams in Duluth and other streams between Duluth and the Canadian border.

After graduation from Duluth Central High, Dan attended North Dakota State University (NDSU) until his enlistment in the US Air Force in February 1942. He was a veteran of WWII, a navigator and radar expert on C47 cargo aircraft, serving as a Lieutenant with the First Allied Airborne Army in North Africa ferrying supplies for General Patton, the Normandy D-Day invasion to the final crossing of the Rhine River. He was in six battle campaigns in Europe from Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Remagen (The Battle of Remagen was a battle for control of the Ludendorff Bridge, one of two remaining bridges across the Rhine River in Germany), Belgian and French Forests, and what he called “Absolutely the most important battle of WWII, “Market Garden”. He labored on the ground as well as in the air, helping prepare equipment to “snatch” U.S. gliders and planes after they landed on farm fields and other unprepared places in perilous conditions. After the end of the war in Europe, he spent several months based in British Guiana flying war material from Europe via the Mediterranean and South Atlantic route to an airbase in Florida.

After his discharge from the military in 1946, Dan reentered North Dakota State University and graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering. He then took a position with General Electric. He later entered the Ph.D program at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

He was united in marriage to Marian A. Stemme of Fargo in a loving union of 62 years. They kept up their courtship during the war years while Marian was a stewardess with American Airlines on DC3 aircraft, the civilian equivalent of the C47 Dan flew in while in the Air Force. Dan and Marian had two daughters, Danielle and Debra. Marian died in 2009.

After Professor Reitan finished his Ph.D. studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he joined the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering, where he taught over three decades in the area of Computer Applications to Extra High Voltage AC and DC power Systems. He supervised the graduate theses of 51 Masters and Doctoral Students.

Professor Reitan was a modern pioneer in Wind Power for electric energy production. He constructed several small capacity wind power generator facilities, including one in northern Dane County and one on top of the 13-story UW-Madison Engineering Research Building. He was honored for his efforts in North Dakota by a Certificate that stated, in part, “ Your innovative spirit helped build the first utility scale wind turbine-generator facilities in North Dakota, making you one of our state’s wind energy pioneers.”

In 1956, the Wisconsin Electric Utilities Research Foundation donated a state-of-the art Westinghouse AC Network Analyzer to the University with capability of modeling the performance of large electric utility systems. Wisconsin electric utilities and others from around the US came to UW-Madison to use the Network Analyzer for studies of their power systems, including long range studies of expansion of their generation and transmission lines needed to supply future electricity demands in their areas. Faculty of the department used the Network Analyzer for education and research. Graduate students of several faculty members assisted in the utility studies and benefited greatly from participating in studies of real-

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world utility problems and utility long range planning.

Professor Reitan was the second Professor in his department to serve as Supervisor of the Network Analyzer Laboratory. He later became the Director for 15 years of the University of Wisconsin Power Systems Simulation Laboratory. He expanded the capability of the Network Analyzer by the addition of companion equipment for studies of DC transmission systems interfaced with AC power systems, equipment that he designed and constructed. This expanded facility was unique among Universities and had capabilities found in only a few places in the world.

Dan was the author or coauthor of 50 peer-reviewed technical publications and holds three international patents for control of transient stability in high voltage power systems. He is the author of one book on Electrical Engineering Laboratory Procedures and two books on Special Relativity.

Professor Reitan's talents were recognized in many forms. He was a consultant to many electric utilities. He received the "Outstanding Instructor Award" from the engineering student members of the Polygon Engineering Council. He was a member of numerous technical and honorary societies, a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and was further honored by receiving one of their IEEE Centennial Medals; he was cited in the Bicentennial Edition of "Wisconsin Men of Achievement"; listed in "American Men and Women of Science", "Who's Who in Frontier Science in the Midwest", and "Who's Who in America".

After he retired, Dan was named Emeritus Professor and moved back to Fargo, North Dakota, where he maintained an active life.

During retirement Dan Reitan wrote several physics books about time-space relativity and the possibility of human space travel. He maintained his interest in Wind Power. He was an extraordinary woodworker. He was physically active in his workshop, driving, grocery shopping, and mentally sharp, until his passing at age 92 from complications of pneumonia.

Dan loved flying as a private pilot. He acquired a home on nearby Pelican Lake in Minnesota and enjoyed water skiing until well into his 80s, driving his speedboat, and continuing to use his wood working facilities in his retirement home in Fargo. He often spoke about the many cars and motorcycles he had owned over the years

Dan truly was an example of a dedicated educator deeply caring for his students, the values of academic endeavors, and perpetual curiosity about the world. His students and colleagues will miss Dan.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Resolution Committee
Professor Emeritus Norbert Schmitz
Professor Emeritus Willis Long
Professor Emeritus James Skiles (Chair)

The Memorial Committee thanks Professor Reitan's daughter, Danielle, for providing much of the information about Dan's early life and military service. She also provided a copy of the obituary he wrote himself in anticipation of his eventual death. In accord with Dan's wishes, after Dan's death Danielle sent copies of his self-written obituary to Dan's list of selected friends, professional colleagues and former students.