

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### **William S. Crawford** Retired President & Chief Executive Officer, Memphis Light Gas & Water



#### Herff College of Engineering Experience

"The Herff College of Engineering gave me the opportunity to complete my degree requirements under difficult circumstances. Being married with four children and working full-time, the flexible course schedules and understanding and dedicated faculty were essential to my success. My degree allowed me to move up the corporate ladder at MLGW. Memphis is fortunate to have this outstanding college where men and women have the opportunity to excel in the engineering disciplines and hopefully establish careers in the Memphis area."

#### Professional History

Crawford began his forty-year career with MLGW working nights as a substation operator while taking classes at the Herff College of Engineering. After he earned his degree, he advanced to Standards Engineer, then to Purchasing Agent. He served as the first Labor Relations Director for MLGW in 1971, became General Services Manager/VP, VP of Construction & Maintenance and became the President & Chief Executive Officer of MLGW in 1991 until his retirement in 1996.

#### Significant Accomplishments

- Resolved MLGW's first labor strike in 1975
- First Chairman of the Memphis & Shelby County Groundwater Quality Control Board
- Helped establish the Ground Water Institute at the University of Memphis
- Established a strategic plan, the Quality Circles & Innovator Club, built new water lab and the Freeport Substation and lead MLGW successfully through a new deregulated gas environment
- Chaired United Way of the Mid-South's Campaign in 1996
- Member of the TVPPA Power Supply Committee
- Chairman of the Big Five
- Served as a member of numerous charitable and civic boards including Memphis Urban League, Christian Brothers High School, St. Francis Hospital, Chamber of Commerce, Herff College of Engineering and Fogelman Business College
- Herff College of Engineering's Outstanding Alumnus, 1993

#### Education

- Bachelor's of science degree in industrial technology, 1963, University of Memphis



# Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.