

## ROY W. MORSE AWARD

Recognizes outstanding technical or professional accomplishments in Public Works. The winner of this award may be forwarded by the Chapter President to National as a nominee for the National Top 10 Public Works Leaders of the Year Award.

Roy Morse was a quiet force in industry, government and public works in the twentieth century. During the critical years of preparation and production of aircraft during World War II, Roy Morse served as Administrative Engineer for the Boeing Company. Under his personal direction, Boeing's Engineering Department grew from 300 to over 3,000 from 1940- 1949. Then, like his father before him, W. Chester Morse, Roy Morse served his native city of Seattle, first as Superintendent of Water, 1949-1955, and later as City Engineer and Chairman of the Board of Public Works, 1957-1971. Morse played an important role in the provision of essential public works facilities and services to Seattle during its growth in the post-World War II and World's Fair era.



Roy W. Morse 1906-2002

From 1955-1957, Roy Morse was the Director of the Technical Staff for the Secretary of the Interior. Using his enormous skill in developing consensus on difficult technical issues, he coordinated the policy positions of the 14 different agencies and bureaus. During this period, he served on President Eisenhower's Committee on Water Resources. In this capacity, he helped prepare the National Water Resources Policy Report in 1955.

In public service and the private sector, at the local and federal level of government, Roy Morse was enormously effective, and at the same time, admired. His sense of fairness and unimpeachable integrity, combined with an untiring pursuit of excellence and technical quality, contributed to making Roy Morse a model for an entire generation of public works engineers and administrators. He has been recognized by his peers for his many accomplishments. He is an Honorary Member of the Seattle Engineers Club, an American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow, and an American Water Works Association Life Member and Fuller Medal Awardee. He is a Past President (1958-59) of the Washington State Chapter as well as the parent (1965), American Public Works Association. As a leader of APWA, Morse helped initiate the Institute for Municipal Engineering. In 1992, he received ASCE's Civil Government Award. Roy was also one of the inaugural group of National Top Ten Public Works Leaders in 1960.

Roy Morse was a historian, as well as an important historical figure. He has contributed greatly to the development of public works history, in Seattle and generally. Under his auspices, *Public Works in Seattle: A Narrative History the Engineering Department, 1875-1975* was written and published. He is an avid local historian, himself conducting numerous oral histories of members in his community. In recognition of this important facet of his career, Roy Morse was named an Honorary Member of the Public Works Historical Society in 1993.

[Excerpted and edited from *An Interview with Roy W. Morse* – February 1994]

