1123 Terradyne Ct.
Andover, KS 67037
316-218-0249

LaRoux K. Gillespie

LaRoux K. Gillespie is a consultant and writer on manufacturing issues. He retired in 2006 as a second level Manager in Honeywell's Kansas City Division responsible for all plant product Quality issues and practices.

For 40 years LaRoux Gillespie balanced manufacturing production and research needs at the Kansas City plant. He and his staff were responsible for over 240 manufacturing research/process characterization efforts for a variety of precision parts and assemblies. In addition to directing $2 million of annual process development, and guiding new products into production, he also was active in plant environmental health and safety efforts.

LaRoux' technical efforts focused on developing better machining and deburring processes for precision miniature components (+/-0.0001 inch tolerances), and along the way he led purchased mechanical component, large part machining, miniature machining, robotics, flexible manufacturing systems, and computer aided process planning efforts. He developed the first mathematical theories of burr formation in metal cutting, has published more research on burr technology than any other person in the world, and has developed an engineering approach to solving burr problems based on data. He has written or edited 16 technical books (45 books total) and over 265 articles or reports on precision machining, deburring, and the development of young engineers, student engineers and other subjects.

After completing bachelor and master degrees in Mechanical Engineering at Kansas University LaRoux joined Kansas City's Bendix plant and immediately began researching machining and deburring. He returned to school in 1972 at Utah State University to earn a Manufacturing Engineering degree. It was there he developed his theories of how burrs form. He returned to Bendix to lead deburring and finishing efforts. In over four decades of research, application, and teaching LaRoux has become the leading authority on the full breadth of burrs and deburring. In addition to documenting how they form, how big they will be and how various cutting factors affect them, he has explored 124 burr removal processes, defined the economics of removal, developed training manuals and videos, compiled the known literature into easy to follow books and bibliographies, and led improvement efforts around the world. Some of his works have been translated into Japanese and others can be found in German, Chinese and Korean sources. LaRoux' work is distinguished by its industrial application. Everything he does is focused on how engineers, managers and shop owners can use the results. For 20 years he was a full time manager who still found a way to lead international technical deburring efforts. In 2007 he received his Doctor of Engineering degree from Meiji University.

LaRoux is a Fellow of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and has served in 56 SME local, regional and positions, including Director of SME, and in 2012 he served as the President SME. He was Chairman of the Board of Advisors for the Machining Technology Association of SME, and is a member of the University of Kansas' Mechanical Engineering Department's Advisory Committee. LaRoux has served as chairman of several local, national, and international conferences on deburring, is a frequent speaker on burrs, young engineers, motivation, and the future of manufacturing engineering. He helped organize and chaired the World-Wide Burr Technology Committee, an international team devoted to burr technology improvements of the $30 billion edge finishing industry. He is a world leader in metal finishing.

He is a member of Pi Tau Sigma, ASME, SME, and Toastmasters International. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Missouri and California, a Certified Manufacturing Engineer, an Able Toastmaster, previously a Chartered Engineer of I.E.T. – [formerly I.Prod.E.] (England) and a motivational speaker for college engineering students.

He has received 32 local, regional, national and international awards, including SME's Albert M. Sargent Progress Award, ASME's Arthur L. Williston Medal and Award, the Bendix Corporation's outstanding Technical Achievement Award, and an AlliedSignal Special Recognition Award. He is an Able Toastmaster and is listed in *Engineers of Distinction, Who's Who in Engineering, and Who's Who in Technology Today(1981).* SME named their Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award after LaRoux Gillespie for the year 1995. In 2011 Don State Technical University in Rostov-on-Don, Russia awarded LaRoux an Honorary Doctorate degree for his work in burr technology and in 2012 Kansas University's School of Engineering awarded him their Distinguished Engineering Service Award.

In addition to his engineering efforts, LaRoux trains production staffs for microscopic deburring of very high precision products.