



## In Memoriam: Dr. Ray Donahue

### One man created an enduring legacy for Mercury Marine

Longtime Brunswick and Mercury Marine employee Dr. Ray Donahue passed away Oct. 10 at the age of 76.

On the day in 1972 when he brought a PhD in metallurgical engineering and some experience as a professor of metallurgy to his new job with Brunswick Corporation, Donahue may not have known all that he was destined to become. He ended his career as a world-renowned metallurgist, a Technical

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Fellow at Mercury Marine, a Fellow at ASM International, the recipient of numerous awards for his work, a valued leader with several metallurgical associations, and the holder of more than 60 U.S. and foreign patents for innovations in the fields of metallurgy and die-casting.

According to Mike Meyer, general manager of Plant 17 where Donahue worked until the day he died, “Dr. Ray”

also couldn’t have known the magnitude of the impact he would have on Mercury Marine and the people privileged to work alongside him.

“He was a high-speed and high-performance man who loved his family, his friends, and his work. His enthusiasm for his job never waned. He was always looking for improvements that could help Mercury Marine and the die-casting industry,” Meyer said.

Donahue applied both the curiosity and the procedural discipline of a great scientist to his work. He would observe, hypothesize, test, and draw dependable conclusions. “That’s how he co-invented MercAlloy. And that’s how he elevated Mercury’s reputation with metals and die-casting so much that other businesses now seek out and pay Mercury for our capabilities,” Meyer said.

Donahue boldly explored new ideas in his research and in the materials lab, according to Meyer, who recounted a wise expression that he learned from Donahue: *From our mistakes come the next great breakthroughs.*

These breakthroughs included Donahue’s development of better alloys for marine-engine applications, including

a low-copper aluminum infused with magnesium for strength and long-term corrosion resistance.

“Mercury Marine has evolved quite a bit over the past 45 years but, through it all, the one thing that remained the same was Dr. Ray,” Meyer said. “He helped set the foundation for much of what we do here today. Dr. Ray loved everything about the company and his passion and

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dedication were infectious. Dr. Ray will be sorely missed, not just for what he brought to the company, but because of the man he was.”

Donahue is survived by Dorthy, his wife of 53 years, and by two sons, two daughters, and 18 grandchildren.