Raymond F. Decker

Dr. Raymond Decker is Chief Technology Officer of Thixomat/nanoMAG, LLC and Adjunct Professor of Materials Science and Engineering of The University of Michigan. He also is a member of the Board of Managers of QuesTec Innovations, LLC. and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1980. He earned his B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees In Metallurgical Engineering at The University of Michigan.

His technical specialty is alloy and process design coupled with application – practiced in Nickel-Based Superalloys, Maraging Steels, Thixomolding® of Magnesium alloys and bioabsorbable Magnesium implant alloys to fix human bone trauma. During his 71 year career, Ray has uncovered key discoveries and holds patents in these fields. To apply the Magnesium technology, Ray co-founded and co-led the entrepreneurial start-ups of Thixomat, LLC and nanoMAG, LLC.

As a US Army Ordnance Lt, Ray was called to active duty during the Korean War, serving at Watertown Arsenal and at US Army Headquarters in LaRochelle France. Following PhD graduation, he served at International Nickel (INCO), LTD from the level of Research Engineer up to Corporate Vice President of Technology. This was followed by 4 years as Vice President of Research at Michigan Technological University - then entry into the entrepreneurial world in 1986.

As to the Technical Societies, Ray joined TMS in 1950 and has stayed active since then. With TMS, he served on the Planning Committee and the TMS-IMD Magnesium Committee. He was elected Fellow in 2021, received the Robert Mehl Medal in 1973, was noted with the TMS-IMD Best Magnesium Application Paper in 2018 and was honored by the TMS-IMD R.F.Decker Symposium in 2021. Throughout his career, TMS has been Ray's Technical Learning Machine.

Further to Technical Societies, Ray also Joined American Society for Metals (now ASM International) in 1950, becoming Fellow in 1970, ASM International President in 1987-88 and Chairman of ASM Materials Education Foundation in 2007. Even today, this Foundation and its Teachers and Student Camps remain an active passion for Ray.