

Chuck Vest Elevated to Holoknighthood

October 27, 2008

In a knighting ceremony held in Springfield, Massachusetts Dr. Charles Vest, President of the National Academy of Engineering and President Emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was elevated to the level of Holoknighthood by Sir Vladimir of Kiev (Dr. Vladimir Markov), the last knighted member of the International Order of Holoknights. The brotherhood, founded by Dr. Hans Rottenkolber in 1988, to bring together as friends the top researchers in the field of holography, celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. The charter of the order promotes cooperation, hospitality, and friendship among holoknights and their countries. Members are selected not only for their technical leadership but also for their reputation for hospitality, openness, and assistance to others.

The ceremony took place during the Society for Experimental Mechanics International Symposium to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Holography <http://sem.org/PDF/08fTechProgram.pdf> which was organized by Holoknight Professor Ryzard Preputniewicz (Rich of Massachusetts). Dr. Vest was a keynote speaker in the conference; however, he was unaware of his selection until the final moment since this information remains a secret unknown outside the order before the knighting takes place.



Sir Vladimir of Kiev knights Chuck Vest. He was presented the sword of Charlemagne, which was used in the ritual, and a parchment proclaiming his new title, Sir Charles of Washington.



The sword of Charlemagne, used in the knighting service and presented by Vladimir of Kiev to Sir Charles of Washington, is engraved, "Sir Charles of Washington, Holoknight. The parchment was signed by nine other holoknights who attended the service.



Ten holoknights participating in the Springfield knighting service. Back row, left to right, Anand of Singapore, Malgorzata of Warsaw, Ichirou of Kiryu, Werner of Bremen, Charles of Washington, Front Row, left to right, Mitsuo of Tokyo, Vladimir of Kiev, Jim of California, Wolfgang of Berlin, Rich of Massachusetts.

Dr. Charles M. Vest is President of the National Academy of Engineering and President Emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At the University of Michigan he served as associate dean of engineering from 1981-86, dean of engineering from 1986-1989, when he became provost and vice president for academic affairs. In 1990 he became president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and served in that position until December 2004. He then became professor and president emeritus.

In July 2007 he was elected to serve as president of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE) for six years. He has authored a book on holographic interferometry, and two books on higher education. He has received honorary doctoral degrees from ten universities, and was awarded the 2006 National Medal of Technology by President Bush.

Held at the peak of the autumn colors in Massachusetts, attendees were treated to an explosion of color surrounding Springfield.