

Gerald H. Teletzke
2005 Outstanding Alumnus

Outstanding Alumni Gerald Teletzke graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 1945. He enlisted in the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program and served on active duty as an officer with the Army Corps of Engineers. After retiring from the Army, he enrolled at the University of Wisconsin -Madison in the College of Engineering where he earned 3 degrees, including a Ph.D.

After leaving Madison, Mr. Teletzke spent 3 years on the School of Engineering faculty at Purdue University. He supervised graduate student research, was active in a federally-sponsored solid waste study, represented Indiana in an air pollution study, and participated in a nuclear study.

According to his nominators, Mr. Teletzke's greatest accomplishments came during his career at Zimpro, Inc., a pollution control firm. "Gerald Teletzke, engineer and business leader, played a prominent role in advancing environmental progress in the 20th century," said Teletzke's nominators. "His career underlines the value of technology in solving the planet's challenging pollution problems." Mr. Teletzke worked for Zimpro, Inc. for nearly 25 years, 16 of those years as president. "During his 16 years as president, the company expanded rapidly from a small, research-oriented group to a major engineering and construction firm." The company expanded from 40 employees to approximately 600 and business expanded to Canada, Europe, and Asia.

In 1984, Mr. Teletzke received a distinguished service citation from the University of Wisconsin College of Engineering. He was awarded "for his contribution to environmental protection through the development of innovative waste treatment methods."

After retiring from his career at Zimpro, Inc., Mr. Teletzke worked as a consultant in the United States and internationally. In addition, the governor of Arizona assigned Mr. Teletzke the task of organizing and leading the state's Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Teletzke also found time for community service. He served on the Wausau Board of Education, on the board of the General Telephone Company of Wisconsin, on the board for the River Valley State Bank in Schofield, and was active in the Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce.