



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

John A. Leone '56 EMS

John A. Leone is chief executive officer and owner of Bonney Forge Corporation, an industry leader in manufacturing steel and specialty engineering products for the energy industries with operations in Pennsylvania, Texas, Italy, and China.

Leone entered the industry while an undergraduate working as a “roustabout” for Texaco in the Osage oil fields in Oklahoma. After earning his degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (PNGE), Leone joined Gulf Oil as a field engineer in Venezuela, and was promoted to foreman and then project manager of the design and construction of offshore production platforms. Upon returning to the U.S., Leone joined Taylor Forge as manager of application engineering.

After earning an MBA from Northern Illinois University, Leone was named Managing Director of Gulf+Western's Energy Products Group in Brussels in 1976. Leone returned to Pennsylvania in 1980 as president of Gulf+Western's Bonney Forge Division and acquired the company in 1984.

Leone is a life member of the ASME and a PVF Industry Hall of Fame selection. He was awarded an honorary

doctor of humane letters degree at DeSales University. At Penn State, Leone received numerous awards and honors, including the Stahl Distinguished Achievement Award in PNGE, EMS Centennial Fellow in 1996, the Penn State Alumni Association's Alumni Fellow Award in 2009, and Philanthropist of the Year in 2015. A member of the University's Elm Circle, he served as commencement speaker for the College of EMS in 2013.

Leone's support at Penn State dates back to the first gift to the Department of PNGE in 1984. In 2010, the University named the department *The John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering*. Their philanthropy covers a broad spectrum and includes gifts for undergraduate scholarships in PNGE, theatre and dance, and athletics, which includes the John and Willie Leone Family Strength and Conditioning Center.

Leone is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association. He and his wife, Dr. Annette Rickel, a professor at Weill Cornell Medical School, reside in Fla. and N.Y. He has four children, six grandchildren, and a stepson.