Obituary: David J. Landon

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Published online: 18 January 2022

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David J. Landon

IIW President, 2020–2021

David Jay Landon, the IIW president elected in 2020, died on November 15, 2021, in Iowa, USA. He was a 1977 graduate of Bay Senior High in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and a 1981 graduate from LeTourneau University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering with a Welding emphasis. He was employed at Vermeer Corporation, a manufacturer of construction, industrial and agricultural equipment located in Pella, IA. He had worked for Vermeer for over 25 years where he had responsibility for welding engineering, metallurgy and welder training. He most recently held the role of manager of Welding Engineering.

David Landon was a profound believer in the role of not-for-profit and professional associations and the importance of volunteering to help their goals. As such, he was a member of the American Welding Society (AWS) and served on the board of directors from 2007 to 2017 and served as AWS President in 2015. He also contributed to the development of welding standards and manuals.

He entered the IIW community in 1997, when he initially joined commission XIII “Fatigue of Welded Components and Structures” and then followed different paths within IIW. These included scientific activities associated with structural integrity, and the education, training qualification and certification systems of IIW. In 2016, he became a member of the Board of Directors, where his keen insight, open mindedness and professional ethics were immediately recognized. In July 2019, he was selected by the General Assembly as President-elect and then confirmed as IIW President in July 2020. With this opportunity, he implemented changes to the organisation and its operation that will sustain in future years. With the onset of the pandemic, he guided IIW through difficult times that included two virtual annual assemblies and numerous cancellations of meetings and conferences. Through it all, the IIW organisation remained strong, maintaining both its membership base and the technical activity of its working units.

In performing his duties within IIW, Dave distinguished himself as one that had the ears to listen to everyone, the eyes with curiosity to see and understand and a mind to innovate and guide the organisation in productive ways. He developed sincere friendships within the community and strived to engage the younger generation within the welding community.

David Landon will be remembered for his passion for welding and his commitment to trust, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

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