



History Section

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Israel A. Naman-President ASRE 1956



Israel was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, but at an early age moved to Houston Texas after a very brief period in Nacogdoches. Other than short leaves for education and service to his country he has lived in Houston Texas most of his life.

After completing elementary school in Houston, he attended and graduated from San Jacinto High School and then went on to Rice University, receiving a BS in mechanical engineering. After attending Rice, he attended the University of Illinois where he was granted an MS in mechanical engineering. He then returned to Houston in 1940 to spend a year working with 'Chief' Taylor in his consulting office. In 1941 the war called and he spent four years in the Navy Yard at Puget Sound working on the air conditioning and ventilating of navy vessels.

After the war, I.A. returned to Houston, working for a short time in the office of Raymond Jenkins. At the same time to make ends meet, he was an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Houston. In 1947 he had developed enough business to give up the teaching and devoted full time to his consulting office which still operates under the leadership of Thomas Barrow, Jr.

One of the most prominent accomplishments in the history of air-conditioning was I.A.'s design of the AC system for the Houston Astrodome in the 1960's. Thru the years, Israel was the President of ASRE in 1956, served on the board of Houston Industries, as a guest lecturer at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as a teacher at the University of Houston and at Rice University, and in leadership roles in technical societies. He is an ASHRAE Fellow and Life Member of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

I.A. Naman, now 91, enjoys traveling the world, including a world cruise taken last year. He resides part-time in Houston and part time at his ranch in Milano, Texas.

Special Note: Information taken from HAR – February 1961 as well as ASHRAE Journal June 2009, 'Domed Stadium Air-Conditioning Design'.