



News Release

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IISRP ANNOUNCES PASSING OF FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO JAMES MCGRAW

HOUSTON, Texas, USA - 10 June 2020 - With great sadness, the International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers announces that James McGraw, former Managing Director and CEO of the IISRP, passed away on June 8th, 2020 in Houston, Texas. The company extends its sincerest condolences to his family in this difficult time and expresses its enduring gratitude for his decades of leadership and inspiration.

“We are deeply saddened by his loss,” said Juan Ramon Salinas, actual Managing Director & CEO of the IISRP. “Jim was a visionary leader, who had a true passion for the Rubber Industry and an exceptional commitment to our Members. His energy, drive and leadership will be missed.”

He was born on June 27, 1949 in Louisville, Kentucky. Jim graduated from Corydon Central High School in 1967. From 1972-78 he was a medic in the Indiana Army National Guard. In 1975 he earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Purdue University and in 1985 a MS in Engineering Management from the University of Louisville.

Jim began his 40-year career in 1975 in Louisville as an American Synthetic Rubber Corporation (ASRC) and during his 23 years at ASRC Jim held various assignments all of which included compliance management.

Jim McGraw served the International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers, Inc. (IISRP) for 36 years, both as an IISRP chair and active committee member while employed by ASRC and subsequently as both Deputy and as Managing Director and CEO for over 17 years.

Jim has tirelessly traveled the world to support current members and recruit new ones. During McGraw’s tenure, membership has expanded to include upstream companies affiliated with IISRP and agents and distributors. More recently, he added members from subsidiaries and joint ventures of producer members.

Under his leadership, IISRP developed single-product manufacturing benchmarking exercises, the life cycle assessment project, and enhanced statistical exercises. His focus on the future led to the Strategic Direction Initiative, designed to take IISRP into the next decade. Jim’s passion for the industry throughout his career has been evident in his dedication to the mission of IISRP.



Jim managed complex, multi-year scientific research to meet members' safety and health needs. This research, conducted at renowned international universities, was presented to agencies around the world through published Proceedings following periodic scientific symposia which McGraw organized.

He began his transition into retirement in 2015 and was advisor to the IISRP Executive Committee.

His publications include numerous proceedings of the IISRP's annual general meetings and scientific proceedings of IISRP Symposia. Jim was recognized for the "Best Paper of the Year Award" by the Southern Rubber Group of the ACS Rubber Division. He was a keynote speaker at many industry international conferences during his career, all in furthering IISRP's members businesses.

One of his greatest joys was traveling the world with his wife Pat, he also loved working on his family's farm in Corydon, cooking, wood working, collecting HO scale trains, and restoring his 1966 Super Sport Chevelle.

Jim is survived by his wife of 42 years, Patricia; mother, Alma; brothers, Mike, Roger, Tom; sister, Jeanie; numerous nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, James "Jack" McGraw.