

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.**



For 39 years, Thomas J. Collins has served as a pioneer, a leader, and an educator to the structural engineering profession. He received his B.C.E. in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in 1965, his M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut in 1976, and his M.S. in Geotechnical Engineering from Kansas State University in 2003.

During attendance at Marquette University, Mr. Collins participated in the Army Reserve Office Training Program (ROTC). At graduation in June 1965, he was also commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and assigned to a ten week Engineering Officer Basic Course (EOBC) to begin in September 1965. From June to September 1965, Mr. Collins was employed by a mechanical contractor, Robert Irsay Company, preparing shop drawings and providing field engineering services at the Bethlehem Steel plant under construction in Burns Harbor, Indiana.

Following completion of EOBC, from December 1965 to January 1966, Mr. Collins was assigned as the Executive Officer of an Army company to train enlisted men in basic construction skills.

In February 1966, he was assigned as the Commanding Officer of a Concrete Mixing and Paving Detachment (39<sup>th</sup> Engineering Detachment). This was the U.S. Army's first unit of this type, making the transition to a ready-mix concrete plant, and slip-form paving, and was the first unit equipped with "commercial" equipment. Mr. Collins met with the manufacturers of the equipment before it was delivered for familiarization, and developed a training program for the 27-man unit. When the equipment was delivered, he trained the unit in the plant set-up and operation, and the mixing, handling, and placing of concrete. The unit was also equipped with a concrete laboratory, which Mr. Collins supervised, for testing aggregates, preparing trial mixes and testing hardened concrete. After training was completed, the detachment personnel and equipment deployed to Vietnam in September 1966.

In Vietnam, Mr. Collins' unit was attached to a construction battalion. Mr. Collins erected the 108 cubic yard per hour mixing plant, and provided concrete for road, bridge and building construction projects. He also provided technical advisory services to other units regarding concrete construction.

In February 1967, Mr. Collins was appointed quarry officer for the largest military quarry in the world. Mr. Collins supervised the drilling, blasting, crushing, and screening operations for over 100 men working around the clock. He also conducted reconnaissance investigations of potential quarry sites and initiated the development of a new satellite quarry operation for construction aggregate.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.**

In July 1967, Mr. Collins was assigned as the Battalion Civil Engineer. The assignment included supervision of draftsmen, surveyors, and geotechnical technicians. As part of the assignment, Mr. Collins conducted site reconnaissance, designed highway alignments, drainage facilities, and short span concrete bridges. He also evaluated existing highway bridges and drainage facilities as part of the reconstruction of a portion of Route QL-1. In August 1967, Mr. Collins left active military duty with an honorable discharge.

Mr. Collins returned to Chicago and in September 1967 began work as a structural engineer with the consulting engineering firm of Westenhoff and Novick, Inc. (W&N). It was at this job that he made his foray into the world of the engineer-diver when a supervisor at the company offered him the opportunity work to on a dam inspection project if he would take underwater diving lessons. He eagerly accepted the training and the unique assignment.

After completing the dam inspection project, Mr. Collins realized the importance of his engineering background in identifying the condition of underwater structural components. Collins spoke shortly thereafter about underwater inspections at the University of Wisconsin as a guest lecturer, sparking interest and concurrence on the importance of engineering assessments taking place underwater from many bridge owners who were present.

In 1972, Mr. Collins opened a regional office in New York City for W&N, and managed that office until 1976. He was responsible for all design and resident engineering work in that office for a staff that grew to ten engineers within a four-year period.

In November 1976, Mr. Collins resigned from W&N and joined Schumacher and Svoboda, Inc. as a shareholder and vice president in charge of the firm's structural engineering services. He remained with the firm until April 1979 when he left to start his own firm.

Collins Engineers, Inc. opened its doors in May 1979 with an expertise in the areas of structural and transportation analysis, design, and underwater engineering. For the first year, Mr. Collins was the sole full-time employee, employing only a small part-time staff. Throughout the first ten years after the firm was formed, Mr. Collins actively participated in and directed significant portions of the engineering office and field activities of the organization. Pioneering the role of the engineer as a diving inspector, Mr. Collins conducted thousands of underwater inspections nationwide, including bridges, waterfront facilities and water storage reservoirs. He has managed the design, planning and inspection of fixed and moveable bridge structures throughout the United States. His experience includes complex highway and railroad bridges, highways, cofferdams, revetments and remedial scour repairs.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.**

Now in 2004, celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Collins Engineers, Inc., Mr. Collins has gathered and retained professionals with diverse expertise in the planning, design, construction engineering and safety condition assessment of a large variety of civil engineering systems and related works both in the United States and overseas. The firm has grown from Mr. Collins in 1979 as the sole full-time employee to over 80 full-time employees in 10 offices: Chicago, Illinois; Kissimmee, Florida; Savannah, Georgia; Holland, Michigan; East Greenbush, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; Newport News, Virginia; Cudahy, Wisconsin; and Dublin, Ireland.

An ASCE Fellow, a Registered Professional Engineer in 29 states, a Registered Structural Engineer in Illinois, and a Chartered Engineer in the international community, Mr. Collins has served as an expert witness in cases involving damage to structures, provided testimony at National Transportation Safety Board hearings regarding bridge collapses, has authored papers and lectured on the inspection, scour assessment and repair of bridges, and has participated on numerous technical committees. He is also a Certified Inshore Hydrographer through the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping.

Mr. Collins' committee involvement extends beyond professional endeavors. From 1989 to 1996, Mr. Collins served on the Board of Directors and Executive Board, and held the post of Chairman of the Buildings and Ground Committee for Trinity High School in River Forest, Illinois.

The following pages detail Mr. Collins' accomplishments as a structural engineer and demonstrate his passion and commitment to the advancement of the structural engineering profession.

- A. Assistance in the development and inspiration of new members in the profession.

The following are quotes from employees and peers of Mr. Collins:

“When I was an intern, I asked Tom if I could buy an old drafting table that was at an offsite storage facility. Tom laughed and told me to take what I needed. I took it to graduate school and, to this day, it remains in my house.”

*John O’Leary, P.E., Project Manager, Collins Engineers, Inc.*

“I first heard about Tom’s tremendous professionalism in the late 1980s through my involvement in ASCE and the underwater diving industry. Now that I have worked with him for over a decade, I can truthfully say that the phrase ‘tremendous professionalism’ was an understatement.”

*Terence M. Browne, P.E., Regional Manager, Collins Engineers, Inc.*

“Having been with Collins Engineers, Inc. as it grew from just a few people to a now sizable organization, the thing I most learned from Tom is that with an unwavering will and relentless desire, your goals – to become a 100-person organization – can be achieved. A big part of this is Tom’s philosophy: “You can never have too much work,” and “You say that you can do it and then find a way to get it done.”

*Daniel G. Stromberg, P.E., S.E., Senior Project Manager, Collins Engineers, Inc.*

“As a young engineer who joined Collins in 1982, I was impressed with Tom’s commitment to quality engineering and lifelong learning. One of the first impressions I had of Tom was his insistence that every project be 100% accurate. After making several mistakes, he told me, “It is not a mistake until it goes out the door.” He then instructed me to redo my work, even though we had no budget left, because the client expects quality work. That attitude – do it right, no matter what the cost – has guided me throughout my career.”

*Daniel G. Cecchi, P.E., Executive Vice President, Collins Engineers, Inc.*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.

“One of Mr. Collins’ principles is that engineering skills and professionalism are critical to both employee and company development. Engineers are given significant latitude in their work and are strongly encouraged to be active in professional organizations, become licensed and continue their education. To further set the example, at a time in their careers when most engineers have passed by academic class work, Mr. Collins enrolled at Kansas State University to pursue a Masters in Geotechnical Engineering. It also because of Tom’s commitment that Collins Engineers, Inc. supports its staff in professional activities, including preparing papers and serving on technical committees.”

*Michael J. Garlich, P.E., S.E., Senior Vice President,  
Collins Engineers, Inc.*

- B. Performance on technical committee work or beneficial research that expands the knowledge of the profession.

The following is a list of Mr. Collins’ extensive involvement in professional societies and technical committees:

- American Society of Civil Engineers (Fellow)
  - Past President, Illinois Section
  - Past Chairman, Structures Division, Illinois Section
  - Past Chairman, Structures Group, New York Metropolitan Section
  - Member, Committee on Safety and Reliability of Bridges, 1976-83
  - Member Ports and Harbors Committee
  - Chairman of Ports 2001 Conference held in Norfolk, VA
  - Co-Author, “ASCE Guidelines on Underwater Inspections”
- American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (Member)
  - Past Member, Committee 15 – Steel Structures
  - Subcommittees on Rating, Repairs and Maintenance
- Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (Member)
- Transportation Research Board
  - Member, Committee A3606 – Structures Maintenance and Management
  - Chairman, Subcommittee A3C06(1) – Inspection and Maintenance of Underwater Components
- Marine Technology Society (Member)
- Society of American Military Engineers (Member)
- Advisory Committee Member on Waterfront Structures, California Lands Commission
- Institution of Engineers, Ireland (Chartered Member)
- International Congress on Concrete, Scientific and Technical Committee for Global Construction: Ultimate Concrete Opportunities (Member)

- C. Participation in the dissemination of acquired knowledge to members of the profession through publishing or speaking.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *America's Ports - Gateway to the Global Economy*. Editor, Proceedings of the Ports 2001 Conference.
- "Pile Jackets: Design and Performance Issues," with Michael Garlich, Proceedings of the Ports 1998 Conference.
- "Sign Structures Under Watch," with Michael Garlich, *Roads & Bridges* July 1997.
- "Underwater Evaluation and Repair of Bridge Components Manual," with Michael Garlich, FHWA, 1995.
- "Underwater Inspection of Bridges Manual," with R.J. Jarmakowicz, FHWA, August 1989.
- "Inspection Methods of Water Tanks and Reservoirs," *Public Works* January 1988.
- "The Wet Look," *Civil Engineering*, September 1987.
- "Inspection and Maintenance of Dam Dewatering Facilities," *Public Works* December 1982.
- "Investigating Bridge Scour," *Railway Track & Structures* April 1980.
- "Building Nomographs: The Poor Man's Computer," *Civil Engineering* December 1979.
- "Underwater Bridge Inspector," with James J. Powers, *Civil Engineering* March 1973.

**SPEAKING**

- Instructor, one-week Concrete Bridge Inspection Course, Northwestern University for Maricopa County, AZ.
- Principal Investigator for FHWA Demonstration Project 80, "Bridge Inspection Techniques and Equipment." In conjunction with the manual, Mr. Collins and co-author, Mr. Garlich, developed and presented a three-day course entitled "Bridge Inspection Techniques and Equipment." The course was presented to approximately 1,000 highway officials in 50 presentations nationwide during 1989 and 1990. The project received two awards for engineering excellence and is regarded by the Federal Highway Administration as one of the most successful demonstration projects to date.
- Principal Investigator for FHWA Demonstration Project 98, "Underwater Evaluation and Repair of Bridge Components." This training addressed the types of underwater repair methods that are available for rehabilitating underwater components. The training course defined how these repair schemes are designed and specified for the most effective results. The program included routine underwater repair techniques and also showcased new emerging repair schemes and repair methods borrowed from other related industries such as the offshore community. One very important element of this program was a comprehensive treatment of the design of scour countermeasures such as riprap replacement, mattresses, spur dikes, and channel improvements. Mr. Collins and Mr. Garlich presented this course to 20 state DOTs across the country, and the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Instructor, three-day seminar on "Underwater Bridge Inspection and Rating" at University of Wisconsin - Madison taught annually nearly every year since 1969.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.

- Seminars on “Underwater Bridge Inspection and Rating” at Marquette University; University of Missouri - Rolla; Institute of Technology, Triton College, Robert Morris College; and Wilkes College.
- Seminars on “Underwater Bridge Inspection and Repair” for Five State Departments of Transportation.
- Seminars on “Bridge Inspection, Rating, and Repair” for Technical University of Nova Scotia at four locations in Canada.
- “Role and Responsibility of the Engineer-Diver in the Assessment of Underwater Concrete”; International Congress on Concrete; Dundee, Scotland; 1999.
- “Worldwide Diver Training for Professional Engineers”; International Congress on Concrete; Dundee, Scotland; 2002.

D. Responsibility for noteworthy and innovative structural designs.

- While with Westenhoff & Novick in New York City, Mr. Collins directed the evaluation of the Park Avenue Railroad Viaduct, a four-track elevated structure approximately one mile long that included two passenger stations. The structure, built in 1896, consisted of a steel trough floor system spanning steel longitudinal girders atop steel columns. The study included an evaluation of the load-carrying capacity of the structure relative to the various types of rolling stock operating over it; review of various repair options and alternate conventional and fixed rail systems; noise studies along the viaduct corridor; and life-cycle cost analysis for alternate rehabilitation schemes.

As a result of Mr. Collins' recommendations, emergency repairs were initiated and shoring was installed under portions of the structure. He then led the design of twin, 120-foot span, two-track through girder railroad bridges at the site. The project included phased construction to keep one of the country's most heavily traveled commuter rail lines leading to Grand Central Terminal in operation. One of the new bridge superstructures was built on a temporary run-around location and rolled into its final position over one weekend. Mr. Collins also directed the design of repairs to the remainder of the mile-long structure, including steel repairs and foundation strengthening, and he managed the resident engineering services for the repair and replacement of the structures.

- While with Schumacher and Svoboda, the U.S. federal government and various states mandated the inspection of all dams. Mr. Collins conducted the above water and underwater inspections of the Oregon River Dam and the Kankakee River Dam, both concrete dams with heads of 8-10 feet and over 300 feet long. The Oregon River Dam was found to be severely undermined and in danger of failure. Mr. Collins directed an emergency breach analysis to determine the threat to downstream occupants and structures, and oversaw emergency diversion and repair operations.
- In 1980, after forming Collins Engineers, Inc., Mr. Collins was the project engineer for the preparation of design drawings for the rehabilitation of 19 commuter railroad stations in the Chicago area for the Regional Transportation Authority. The work consisted of field inspection and survey, and preparation of design plans and specifications for the repair, extension, and new construction of platforms, walkways, stairways, lighting, and other utilities.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.**

- Also in 1980, Mr. Collins was the project engineer for the study of the rehabilitation of the LaSalle Street railroad station in Chicago. The station consisted of approximately 12 tracks carried on a steel and masonry supporting structure approximately 2,000 feet long. The project included a field inspection of the substructure, superstructure, and overhead canopies; determination of the live load capacity; development of alternate repair, rehabilitation, and replacement schemes; comparison of the alternates using life-cycle cost analysis techniques; and preparation of a detailed engineering report, complete with cost estimates and recommendations.
- In 1981, Collins Engineers, Inc. was selected for the first of a series of task order agreements with the U.S. Navy for underwater facility assessments throughout the world. These contracts continue today. The work included underwater inspections of timber, steel, concrete and masonry structures, evaluation of load-carrying capacity of the structures, documentation of existing conditions, and preparation of engineering reports complete with cost estimates and recommendations for repair. The task order contracts included more than 1,000 structures. Under these task order contracts and individual contracts with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Collins and his firm have designed repairs to piers, bulkheads, and other waterfront structures, and provided construction inspection and construction support services to facilities across the United States, as well as in the Caribbean, South America, Australia, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Mr. Collins has also directed emergency evaluation services for the Navy following hurricanes and vessel damage.
- From 1987 to 1990, Mr. Collins was the Principal Investigator for the development of a three-day course on bridge inspection for the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The course — Demonstration Project 80, “Bridge Inspection Techniques and Equipment” —concentrated on the factors that had recently contributed to bridge failures in the U.S., including access using under-bridge inspection equipment, ultrasonic inspection of fracture critical connections such as pins and hangers, underwater inspection techniques, and scour investigation techniques including sub-bottom profiling using low frequency sonar and ground penetrating radar. As part of the project, a 105-page manual on underwater inspection and scour detection was developed, and the course was presented 50 times to departments of transportation throughout the United States. The project received two awards for engineering excellence and is regarded by the Federal Highway Administration as one of the most successful demonstration projects to date.
- From 1995 to the present, Collins Engineers, Inc. has been inspecting and designing repairs for ancillary highway structures – overhead sign structures, high mast lighting towers, and mast arm signal structures – for the departments of transportation of the states of Illinois, Virginia, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Kansas, Iowa, and Florida. Mr. Collins has participated in these projects developing scopes of work, conducting limited inspections, training inspectors, and providing

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.**

quality control/quality assurance services. The projects have included the development of inventory and database systems, the preparation of manuals, field inspection of over 14,000 sign structures, non-destructive testing of structural components using dye penetrant, magnetic particle and ultrasonic techniques, and preparation of repair drawings. As a result of this work, Collins Engineers, Inc. was selected by the Federal Highway Administration and National Highway Institute to develop and deliver a course – Inspection and Maintenance of Ancillary Highway Structures – in Summer 2004 providing training and maintenance of ancillary roadway structures.

- Over the years, Collins Engineers, Inc. has worked with the City of Chicago on several occasions playing a role in the maintenance and rebuilding of the city's infrastructure. Such projects include:
  - Hundreds of improvement projects on the riverfront including the Riverwalk.
  - Construction engineering support during the reconstruction of Wacker Drive.
  - Design and installation of decorative lighting mountings on 11 bridges along the Chicago River.
  - Design of temporary shoring and structural analysis for the rehabilitation of the Chicago Skyway.
  - Construction engineering services for the Millennium Park project.
  - Emergency response during Chicago's 1992 Big Flood in the city's freight tunnel system.

Mr. Collins continues to actively participate in, or direct, select engineering projects, but primarily is concerned with the management of other engineering managers and providing quality control/quality assurance services for selected projects. The following lists Collins Engineers, Inc.'s award-winning projects.

**NATIONAL AWARDS**

- **1997 American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., NSBA/AISC Prize Bridge Competition:** Award of Merit for the Pulaski Road over I-55 SPUDI
- **1990 American Consulting Engineers Council, Engineering Excellence Competition:** Award of Special Merit for FHWA – Bridge Inspection Techniques – Demonstration Project No. 80. Mr. Collins was the Principal Investigator for development of this three-day course and the accompanying manual.

**REGIONAL / LOCAL AWARDS**

- **2003 American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** State Finalist Award for the development of a comprehensive structure inspection manual for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
- **2003 Consulting Engineers of South Carolina, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Engineering Excellence Award for the Statewide Sign Structure Inspection for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.

- **2003 Consulting Engineers of South Carolina, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Honor Award for the Meeting Street Rehabilitation for the City of Charleston.
  - **2003 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Honor Award for the Reconstruction of Metra's Lake Street Bridge.
  - **2003 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Honor Award for the Reconstruction of Sinissippi Dam for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources.
  - **2002 The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** State Finalist Award for the WisDOT Structure Inspection Manual.
  - **2001 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Merit Award for the Repairs to Waterfront Facilities at the U.S. Naval Academy.
  - **2000 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Merit Award for the Chicago Architectural Bridge Lighting Project.
  - **1999 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Merit Award for the Design of a New 135<sup>th</sup> Street High Level Bridge.
  - **1998 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Merit Award for the Kemper Arena Expansion.
  - **1997 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Merit Award for the Relocation and Rehabilitation of the 135<sup>th</sup> Street Historic Swing Bridge.
  - **1996 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Merit Award for the "CTA's Lake Street Bridge Replacement."
  - **1995 Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Engineering Excellence Awards Competition:** Honor Award for the "Pulaski Road Single Point Urban Diamond Interchange over Interstate 55."
  - **1990 American Society of Civil Engineers, Illinois Section Awards:** Honor Award for "FHWA – Bridge Inspection Techniques – Demonstration Project 80." Mr. Collins was the Principal Investigator for development of this three-day course and the accompanying manual.
- E. Service as a prominent spokesperson for the profession during its interaction with the public and/or government.
- In 1977, Mr. Collins was appointed a member of the Illinois Department of Water Resources Dam Safety Advisory Committee. Mr. Collins was the private sector structural engineering representative. Over the next two years, the committee wrote the dam safety regulations for the State of Illinois. Over 25 years later, those regulations, with some modifications, are still in effect.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.**

- In 1992, Mr. Collins led the underwater documentation efforts as part of the failure investigation following the sinking of the Lacy V. Murrow Floating Bridge (I-94) over Lake Washington, in Seattle, Washington. The bridge, which was more than 1,000 feet long, sank in about 200 feet of water during a storm. The field investigation utilized a carefully selected suite of complementary investigation techniques, including: hydrographic survey, sidescan sonar, color sonar imaging, inspection using remotely operated vehicles, and diving to inspect the wreckage and collect material samples. This investigation and engineering report were performed for the Washington State Attorney General.
- Mr. Collins has also participated in the inspection and documentation of conditions following three major bridge collapses in the United States. In 1989, he led the underwater data collection activities at the US 51 Bridge over the Hatchie River in Tennessee, for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), documenting the condition of the failed structure and the channel bottom in the area. The collapse resulted in the loss of six lives. He directed the preparation of exhibits for public hearings and testified at those hearings.

In 1989, Mr. Collins led the underwater data collection efforts for the NTSB following the collapse of a temporary bridge over the Miami River near Cincinnati, Ohio which resulted in the loss of one life; and in 1993, he directed an investigation of the remaining portions of a railroad bridge near Mobile, Alabama for the NTSB. The bridge was struck by a barge and resulted in the loss of more than 50 lives.

- From 1995 to the present, Collins Engineers, Inc. has had a series of task order contracts with the U.S. Coast Guard to inspect and evaluate lighthouses and other marine structures throughout the United States. Mr. Collins has personally participated in the inspection and design of repairs to the Carysfort Lighthouse, Sombrero Key Lighthouse, Hillsboro Lighthouse, Georgetown Lighthouse, and Charleston Lighthouse. These projects included design of repairs to steel, timber, and concrete components, painting, and electrical improvements. The work also included evaluation of contractors' proposals, review of shop drawings, and final inspection.
- Mr. Collins has been a strong advocate for Qualification Based Selection, and the use of engineer-divers for underwater inspection services. Throughout his career, he has worked closely with ASCE, ACEC, and many governmental agencies in order to improve the level of quality in underwater inspections of our nation's infrastructure. He has been continuously active on technical committees in which he has been able to champion the need for better inspection guidelines.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD NOMINATION  
THOMAS J. COLLINS, P.E., S.E.

- Mr. Collins has consistently sought to acknowledge and strengthen the role of the profession in both public interaction and in working with government. One aspect of this is his careful and considered response in very public projects, such as several investigations of bridge failures. His comments to questions in hearings, and his overall demeanor project a professional image in support of civil engineers everywhere.
- He has also been a strong proponent of the place of the licensed civil engineer in conducting structural assessments of our nation's infrastructure. To this end, he has volunteered to serve on various committees that promulgate regulations, such as the California Lands Commission's Waterfront Structures Committee, and provided written comment to proposed federal regulations.

F. Service as an educator in structural engineering.

- In 1971 and 1972, Mr. Collins, as a part-time, adjunct professor, taught Heavy Construction Methods, and Soils and Foundations at Lake County College in Grayslake, Illinois.
- In 1982 and 1983, Mr. Collins, as a part-time, adjunct professor, taught Construction Management and Construction Cost Estimating at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois.
- Mr. Collins has been the instructor of a three-day seminar on “Underwater Bridge Inspection and Rating” at University of Wisconsin – Madison, which he has taught annually nearly every year since 1969.
- Principal Investigator for FHWA Demonstration Project 80 “Bridge Inspection Techniques and Equipment.” In conjunction with the manual, Mr. Collins and Mr. Garlich developed and presented a three-day course entitled “Bridge Inspection Techniques and Equipment.” The course was presented to approximately 1,000 highway officials in 50 presentations nationwide during 1989 and 1990. The project received two awards for engineering excellence and is regarded by the Federal Highway Administration as one of the most successful demonstration projects to date.
- Principal Investigator for FHWA Demonstration Project 98 “Underwater Evaluation and Repair of Bridge Components.” This training addressed the types of underwater repair methods that are available for rehabilitating underwater components. The training course defined how these repair schemes are designed and specified for the most effective results. The program included routine underwater repair techniques and also showcases new emerging repair scheme and repair methods borrowed from other related industries such as the offshore community. One very important element of this program was a comprehensive treatment of the design of scour countermeasures such as riprap replacement, mattresses, spur dikes, and channel improvements. Mr. Collins and Mr. Garlich presented this course to 20 state DOTs across the country, and the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Seminars on “Bridge Inspection, Rating, and Repair” for Technical University of Nova Scotia at four locations in Canada.