

# Point Beach native is 2022 Crystal Eagle Leadership Award recipient

James A. Shoemaker honored by ASHE for contributions to the health-care industry

BY ALISSA DELEO  
THE OCEAN STAR

**POINT PLEASANT BEACH** — James A. Shoemaker, a Point Pleasant Beach native who now resides in Burlington Township, is the American Society for Health Care Engineering [ASHE] 2022 Crystal Eagle Leadership Award recipient.

Each year the distinguished ASHE Crystal Eagle Leadership award recognizes one outstanding ASHE member for their excellent leadership qualities, innovation and overall contribution to ASHE and/or the field of healthcare engineering and facility management.

Mr. Shoemaker was presented with the award during ASHE's 59th annual Conference and Technical Exhibition that took place from July 17 to 20 in Boston, Massachusetts.

"I was overwhelmed, I just thought it was great — I didn't expect it," Mr. Shoemaker said of receiving the honor which is considered

ASHE's lifetime achievement award.

Mr. Shoemaker described the conference as a "marvelous experience" with 3,700 people in attendance.

[ASHE] of the American Hospital Association celebrates the outstanding contributions by members to improve the health care physical environment with its annual member awards, according to a release sent to The Ocean Star.

"Jim has been a dedicated, consistent leader in the ASHE community, and we're grateful for the innumerable contributions he's made to our organization and health care facilities over the years," stated Deputy Executive Director Chad Beebe, AIA, CHFM in a release. "ASHE would not be where it is today without his influence," he added.

As a longstanding member of ASHE since 1981, Mr. Shoemaker has served on the ASHE Advisory Board on multiple occasions and was president in 1994.



JAMES A. SHOEMAKER

"It was nice meeting people from all over the country," said Mr. Shoemaker about his many years with ASHE.

"They actually helped me to grow and learn things about hospital engineering. I learned so much more by networking with people," he added.

Mr. Shoemaker has been a constant fixture at the ASHE Annual Conference for decades, serving as an ASHE ambassador by welcoming and offering support to new conference attendees, states the release.

After graduating from Point Pleasant Beach High School in 1951, Mr. Shoemaker went on to receive a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland. He then served in the United States Air Force for 24 years.

After retiring from the Air Force, Mr. Shoemaker pursued a Master's Degree in management and supervision from Central Michigan University.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1980, he began working for the New Jersey State Department of Health reviewing hospital plans as a mechanical engineer.

Throughout his career in healthcare, Mr. Shoemaker

worked at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills for 15 years. He also served as a trustee of the Point Pleasant Beach Education Foundation for 20 years.

Now retired from an exceptional career as a health care facilities professional, Mr. Shoemaker remains active and engaged in ASHE affairs and most recently served on the Senior and Fellow Taskforce in 2021.

Mr. Shoemaker told The Ocean Star, "I was just trying to be kind to people and trying to help people. I never realized what an impact it was making on people until I got this award."

#### ABOUT ASHE

With more than 12,500 members, ASHE is the largest association devoted to professionals who design, build, maintain and operate hospitals and other health care facilities.

ASHE members include health care facility managers, engineers, architects, designers, constructors, infection control specialists and others.

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