

The Association of Fertilizer and Phosphate Chemists awarded Charles C. Thornton their “Hero” award at the 16th Annual Regional Phosphate Conference in Lakeland October 16, 2001. The conference is sponsored by SME, ALCHE, AIPG, AFPC and FIPRA.

Charles Thornton joined the firm of Thornton Laboratories after graduating from Clemson College in 1940 with a BS in Chemistry. One of his major responsibilities was to develop both manual and mechanical sampling procedures for various commercial commodities, including fertilizer and fertilizer materials. Charles is owner and Chairman of the Board for Thornton Laboratories Inc. in Tampa, Florida, a 15,000 sq. ft. independent testing laboratory serving the phosphate and fertilizer industry, engineers, consultants, food processors, water treatment facilities, and private individuals. With over 30 chemists, analysts, microbiologists and field technicians, the laboratory is a NELAP accredited facility. Charles met his lovely wife, Jane, while they were both working at the laboratory. They currently reside in North Tampa.

He is a permanent Emeritus member of the American Chemical Society, was appointed to the Tampa Port Development Council in 1981 and was selected Man of the Year in 1984 by the Propeller Club of Tampa, a member of the AOAC (Association of Analytical Chemists), past consultant to the Florida Agricultural Research Institute (now the Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association), a retired NFPA certified Marine Chemist, an active judge for the American Orchid Society-Florida North-Central Region, a collector of rare minerals, and an avid wine enthusiast.

In 1964 Charles assumed the chairmanship of the Methods Committee for the Association of Fertilizer and Phosphate Chemists. As Chairman of the Methods Committee, he guided the publication of the three methods manuals, and the fourth edition is in the final stages of editing. This manual provides the phosphate

industry with standardized analytical methods for their product testing.