

**Walter H. Sanderson**  
*Businessman/Entrepreneur*  
**Inducted July 27, 2002**

Walter H. Sanderson was born in Fulton, Missouri, the sixth child in a family of eleven. He attended high school and college at Lincoln University. He taught for two years and also took flight training before going to the Ordnance Plant in St. Louis as a supervisor in 1943. While there, he replaced the World War I machine gun belt-loader with a more efficient type of machine.

In 1956, the Walter H. Sanderson Manufacturing Company was established, making speakers and other parts for the radio and television industry. In 1968, the company began making parts for the telephone industry, as well as the Ford Motor Company. With a larger facility, purchased in 1968, Sanderson Industries, Incorporated was able to expand their clientele to include companies like Western Electric, Zenith Radio, Caterpillar, Xerox and IBM. In the mid 1970's, the company expanded further into automotive stamping by increasing business with General Motors, Ford and Chrysler assembly plants. This was the step that propelled Sanderson Industries into becoming a high-volume contract manufacturer. In 1985, Sanderson Industries moved to Atlanta, Georgia and is currently operating out of two 70,000 square foot facilities, employing over 200 associates. They ship parts nationwide as well as internationally. The company received the Ford Motor Company's, Q! Preferred Quality award as well as the QS 9,000 certification, which is a worldwide standard of quality.

Mr. Sanderson served as President of the Chicago South Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Pullman YMCA and was a board member of the Chicago Boys Club. Currently, he is an advisor to the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, a director of the Georgia Industry Association and a member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. He is member emeritus of the National Defense Executive Reserve of the United States Department of Commerce. The United States Department of Commerce Office of Minority Business Enterprise bestowed the National Award of Achievement on Mr. Sanderson in 1972. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. In 1992, Walter Sanderson was awarded the prestigious Presidential Citation from NAFEO.

Walter and his wife Doris have been married for over 55 years. They have a son, Rory, who is CEO of Sanderson Industries and a daughter, Teresita Rousseau, a graduate of Howard University Law School.