

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

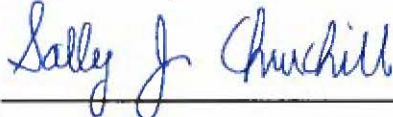
Richard E. Robertson, Ph.D., professor of materials science and engineering, professor of macromolecular science and engineering, and research scientist in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2018.

Professor Robertson received his B.A. degree from Occidental College in 1955 and his Ph.D. degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1960. He worked as a physical chemist at General Electric Company from 1960-70 and as a staff scientist at Ford Motor Company from 1970-86. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1986.

Professor Robertson's fields of expertise are the structure and mechanical properties of polymers and polymer-based fiber composites. He is noted for his early career work on the plasticity or ductile behavior of mainly glassy polymers, as well as for his later work on the fracture behavior and fractography of both thermoplastics and thermosetting plastics, and the stability and structural drift (physical aging) of glassy polymer structures. Also of note were his studies of the utility and methods for using fiber composites for crash energy absorbing structures and his study of wrinkle-free shaping for fiber composite structures of fabrics, a common method of handling continuous fibers. Professor Robertson served as director of the Macromolecular Science and Engineering Program from 1995-2000 and as the undergraduate program advisor for the Department of Materials Science and Engineering from 2005-18. He was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society in 1972.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Richard E. Robertson, professor emeritus of materials science and engineering, professor emeritus of macromolecular science and engineering, and research scientist emeritus.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2019