

# Matthew Lee Elam

Matt was born in 1970 and graduated 3rd in the NHS class of 1988 with a 4.1 average and is the youngest inductee to date. In his senior year Matt received a nomination to West Point from Congressman Tony Hall. At the academy Matt belonged to the karate and boxing teams and was an active participant in the Navigators, a Bible-based support group for the military. In 1992 Matt graduated in the top third of his class with a BS in mechanical engineering and a 3.4 average, was presented an academic wreath for excellence, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

In his army career, Matt completed global and local construction projects, often resulting in savings of thousands of dollars for the government. He served in Oman completing multi-national aircraft hangers and was chosen to participate in the Partnership for Peace exercise in Poland to promote teamwork and camaraderie with other nationalities. In Haiti his team was rated best of 8 teams for construction efforts during Operation Restore Hope. All his projects were completed with no work-related accidents or lost-time injuries. Matt is currently a captain in the Illinois Army National Guard.

In 1996 Matt was hired by General Electric to participate in their junior executive program and worked as GE-Lighting production manager until August, 2000. In 1997 he was the recipient of the GE Management Award and in 1998 he was certified Six Sigma Quality Leader. As production manager he was responsible for a \$14 million, 3-shift operation with 140 workers. Currently he is global manager for Veeder-Root (Danaher Corp.). Matt is married with 3 children, is active in his church and Promise Keepers.

In response to being nominated for the Hall of Fame, Matt wrote, "The faculty and the education I received from Northridge provided me with a firm foundation and the necessary tools to excel. My family and church provided the moral character and support to continue to grow spiritually, personally, and professionally. Always remember that the road to success requires a lot of maintenance and is continually under construction. However, through hard work, persistence, and determination, anyone can be successful in whatever they wish to achieve."