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## Profiles in Science, Richard W. Hamming, 1987

Hamming, Richard W.

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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## BIOGRAPHY

### DR. RICHARD W. HAMMING

Dr. Richard W. Hamming, NPS computer science professor, and one of the country's most distinguished scientists, was named the first recipient of the Hamming medal by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The medal was established in 1986, named in honor of Dr. Hamming, for exceptional contributions to information sciences and systems.

Dr. Hamming also received the Emanuel R. Piore Award in September 1979, for "introduction of error-correcting codes, pioneering work in operating systems and programming languages, and the advancement of numerical computation."

In 1968, Professor Hamming was awarded the Turing Prize by the Association of Computer Machinery. This award recognized his contributions to computer science.

Professor Hamming worked at Los Alamos in 1945-46 doing atomic bomb calculations. He worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1946-1976. During that period he was an adjunct professor of statistics at Princeton University for three years. Since 1976 he has been Professor of Computer Science at the Naval Postgraduate School. He teaches courses on information and coding theory, simulation and modeling, calculus and a seminar on advanced computer science topics.

Dr. Hamming has mainly worked in mathematics and computing as applied to military and telephone research. He has published seven books and over seventy-five technical reports. He is best known for his work in coding and information theory (Hamming code), digital filters (Hamming spectral window) and numerical methods. His book, Numerical Methods for Scientists and Engineers, has been widely used for 17 years. His two most recent books are Digital Filters (1977) and Information and Coding Theory (1979).

In addition, he has served as president of the Association for Computing Machinery, as vice president of the mathematics section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and as served as editor of numerous computer science, mathematics and engineering journals.