



Robert kern generac

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Sam Roberts, an obituaries reporter, was previously The Times's urban affairs correspondent and is the host of "The New York Times Close Up," a weekly news and interview program on CUNY-TV. More about Sam Roberts

WAUKESHA, Wis., Nov. 9, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Generac Power Systems, Inc., (NYSE: GNRC) a leading global designer and manufacturer of energy technology solutions and other power products, today announced the passing of Generac founder Robert D. Kern at the age of 96. Kern passed away on November 8th.

After nearly five decades of incredible growth and leadership, Kern sold his company in 2006 to focus on philanthropy. Generac subsequently became a public company in 2010 and today is one of the world's leading companies focused on energy technology-related products and solutions.

"Bob's passing is a tremendous loss for the Generac family and the larger community," said Aaron Jagdfeld, president and chief executive officer. "His forward-thinking vision laid the solid foundation for what Generac is today. I had the distinct honor of working with Bob for nearly 15 years, and he continued to serve as a mentor to me and to others well into his retirement. He was a true entrepreneur in every sense of the word as his work ethic, tenacity, and innovative spirit are the embodiment and the defining characteristics that live on in our Company today."

Robert Kern, the founder of Town of Genesee-based generator manufacturer Generac Power Systems Inc., died Tuesday at the age of 96, the company announced today.

Kern started Generac in 1959 with five employees in a garage in Wales. An engineer by training, he spent the next several decades growing Generac into an industry leader, developing new products and creating new markets for the company's generator and engine technologies. Generac was the first company to commercialize portable, engine-driven generator sets.

In addition to local area giving, the foundation has been active in supporting many nationwide programs, causes, and organizations focused. Those include gifts to create the Mayo Clinic Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery to help improve patient's health care experiences, as well as the creation of the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network and education-related funding for programs such as Project Lead the Way.

According to a release from Generac, Kern started the company with five employees in a garage in Wales, Wis. An engineer by trade, he grew Generac into an industry leader by developing new products and innovating in the generator and engine markets.



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Generac was the first company to commercialize portable, engine-driven generator sets and the use of these technologies was expanded to other markets including permanently installed, emergency backup generators used to protect critical infrastructure, homes, and businesses around the globe, according to the release.

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