



Biography

William H. Swanson is a retired chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Raytheon Company. Swanson served as chairman and CEO of Raytheon from January 2004 to March 2014, at which time he stepped down from the role of CEO. He retired from the company in September 2014, finishing a 42-plus year career with the company.

During Swanson's tenure as CEO, Raytheon's sales grew 26 percent, its stock price and dividend each increased three-fold and company debt was virtually eliminated. He also strengthened Raytheon's culture with a focus on core company values, ethics, diversity and the customer, while transforming the company's community engagement by championing corporate responsibility, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and armed services support.

Swanson joined Raytheon in 1972 and held a wide range of leadership positions, including manufacturing manager of the company's largest operation, president of Electronic Systems, chairman and chief executive officer of Raytheon Systems Company, and president of Raytheon.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Swanson is member of the NextEra Energy, Inc. Board of Directors and chair of its audit committee, and he is active in the field of education as chairman of the California Polytechnic State University Foundation Board of Directors. Swanson is also chairman emeritus of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership and vice chairperson emeritus of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Board of Directors. He was a member of the Department of Defense's Defense Business Board and served as honorary chair of MATHCOUNTS®.

Swanson is chairman emeritus of the Aerospace Industries Association and is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is a former member of the CIA Officers Memorial Foundation Board of Advisors and the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Selected as Outstanding Industrial Engineering Graduate in 1972, Swanson was also recognized as the Honored Alumnus from California Polytechnic State University School of Engineering in 1991. He received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the American Association of Community Colleges in 2013. Additionally, he was awarded the Semper Fidelis Award from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, and Aviation Week and Space Technology's Laurel Award for his "significant contributions" to the aeronautics and propulsion field. Swanson was also named the "California Manufacturer of the Year" by the California Manufacturing and Technology Association, and is a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (United Kingdom).

In 2019, Swanson was recognized with the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest honorary award the Secretary of the Navy can confer on a Department of the Navy civilian employee. Swanson has also received the Navy League Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Award, the NDIA James Forrestal Industry Leadership Award, the John W. Dixon Award from AUSA, a Diversity Best Practices CEO Diversity Leadership Award, the Institute of Industrial Engineers' Captains of Industry Award, the Six Sigma Premier Leader Award from the International Society of Six Sigma Professionals, a Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship, and the Kennedy Greenway Vision Award.

A native of California, Swanson graduated magna cum laude from California Polytechnic State University with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. His graduate work was performed in business administration at Golden Gate University. He has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Pepperdine University and an honorary Doctor of Science degree from California Polytechnic State University.