

W. Gene Corley

Rachel J. Detwiler



W. Gene Corley, PhD, PE, SE, and senior vice president of CTLGroup in Skokie, Ill., died March 1, 2013. He was 77.

In a career spanning more than 50 years, Corley was a pioneer of and one of the world's foremost experts in forensic structural engineering. Cited as the "preeminent expert on building collapse investigations and building codes" by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), he led investigations of the September 11, 2001, collapse of the World Trade Center towers in New York, N.Y., and the 1995 collapse of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Okla. He also served as expert advisor during the investigation of the 1993 fire at the Branch Davidian complex in Waco, Tex. During his career he evaluated numerous earthquake-, tornado-, and blast-damaged buildings and bridges; investigated distressed steel and reinforced and prestressed concrete structures; and designed repairs of parking structures, high-rise buildings, stadiums, silos, and bridges.

Corley was instrumental in the development of building codes and standards used around the world. A fellow of both ASCE and the American Concrete Institute (ACI), he served as chair of ACI Committee 318 Structural Concrete Building Code during the development of *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-95)* and *Commentary (ACI 318R-95)*. He was also a fellow of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Corley was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering in 2000 "for leadership in raising the standards of the engineering profession for construction of buildings and bridges."

Corley also served as president of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying for 2007–2008. He was a licensed professional engineer in 30 states. "Gene's legacy in the structural engineering profession is unparalleled. He was an innovative thought leader who consistently contributed generous amounts of his time and knowledge to the profession," said Jeffrey L. Garrett, president and CEO of CTLGroup. ■



Corley investigates the collapse of the World Trade Center towers in 2001. Photo courtesy of CTLGroup.