

Reflections about Alexis Voorhies, Jr.

L.E. Swabb, Jr., *vice president of Exxon Research and Engineering—*

“He was one of the key figures in bringing petroleum processing technology from its infancy in the 1930s to its present level of maturity and sophistication. Many of us learned the science and the art of industrial research from Alex Voorhies.”

Roger W. Richardson, *professor emeritus and dean emeritus of LSU College of Engineering*, in nominating Alex Voorhies for the Murphree Award which he won in 1977 –

“This award is merited by Mr. Voorhies’s record of both fundamental applied research in petroleum refining and petrochemical processing, and his contributions to the development of innovative processes and to the education and training of scientists and engineers.”

Edward McLaughlin, *professor and chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering at LSU-*

“In the field of hydrocarbon processing, Alexis Voorchies Jr.’s contributions are landmarks in the path of progress. In particular, his work on coking of catalysts was ahead of its time. The number of patents awarded to him, which flowed from his work at Exxon, is a testimony to his intense activity in the field.

“At LSU he continued working productively for many years and was instrumental in establishing catalysis as a prime area of departmental research and teaching interest”

J.A. Polack, *professor of chemical engineering and director of the Audubon Sugar Institute-*

“Alex is remarkable for many things: his innovative thinking, his sustained productivity, his patents, his publications, his excellent teaching, and his many contributions to those associated with him. In many ways, he is a catalyst, and his traits of high activity, high selectivity, and his superb activity maintenance are those qualities found in valuable catalysts.