

Pete Portanova, principal engineer/scientist, Launch, had worked at The Aerospace Corporation for more than 49 years before retiring in 2012. His prior employment was with Douglas Aircraft Company and TRW. His body of work included systems engineering, development, integration, operations and management assignments in Thor IRBM, Atlas ICBM, Titan III, Shuttle for Vandenberg Air Force Base, advanced launch vehicle systems studies, Pentagon assignment in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology), 1994 Space Launch Modernization Plan, and was the first principle director for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program. He also supported the National Reconnaissance Office. He earned an AS degree from the State University of New York, BS in engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, MS in engineering from University of Southern California, and Ph.D. from The Drucker Executive Management School, Claremont Graduate University, Calif.

In this podcast, listen to his inspirational talk describing his life from childhood on, as he worked through hardships to obtain the education which led to his exceptional career as scientist and engineer.