Mr. John M. Fluke, Sr. joined the Naval Reserve at the University of Washington in 1931 and received his commission in 1935. He graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and went onto the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to earn his Masters in Electrical Engineering. Mr. Fluke was called up to active duty in November 1940 and was attached to the Electrical Section of the Bureau of Ships. He spent the next six years working closely with then Captain Hyman Rickover, and together they set up the Navy Class High Intensity Shock Program. Additionally, Mr. Fluke was also placed in charge of infrared detection and signaling equipment sub-section.

After World War II, Mr. Fluke resigned his commission as a Commander and went into the civilian sector. He launched John Fluke Engineering Company in 1949 in Connecticut and subsequently moved his business to Seattle in 1952. Mr. Fluke’s company specialized in electrical testing equipment, and is now a billion-dollar global business with branches in the fields of biomedical, networks, and calibration.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Fluke has chaired numerous boards including the Electronic Test Equipment Task Force, the Junior Achievement Fund Raising Drive, the Seattle Symphony Endowment Fund, the Seattle Area Industrial Council, and the Northwest Council for American Electronics Association.

Mr. Fluke also made significant contributions to the University of Washington. He endowed the first chaired professorship in the College of Engineering and was a major contributor to the construction of the Washington Technology Center, now known as Fluke Hall, which houses the University’s Nanofabrication Facility.

Mr. Fluke’s awards include the Navy Legion of Merit for his work in infrared detection and equipment development, the Gold National Leadership Award, the Howard Vollum Award, and the American Electronics Association Medal of Achievement. He has been named the Small Businessman of the Year, the Industrial Engineer of the Year, the Mountlake Terrace Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, and was named Seattle’s First Citizen by the Seattle-King County Board of Realtors. Mr. Fluke passed away on February 11, 1984, in Seattle, Washington.