



2023 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: May 30, 1900

Died: March 4, 1989

Primary Connections:

- The Ohio State University: Adjunct Professor of Metallurgy, 1967-71
- Tennessee A&I State University (now Tennessee State University): Dean of the School of Engineering, 1957-59; Professor of Metallurgy, 1953-56
- Duriron Co. (now part of Flowserve Corp.), 1922-53

Education:

- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1922

Key Memberships/Awards:

- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee, 2020
- Dayton Urban League: Distinguished Community Service Award, 1983
- American Society of Metals, Dayton Chapter: Citation for Meritorious Contributions to the Science of Metals in the Field of Corrosion Resisting Alloys, 1953

10 Things You Need to Know About

James A. Parsons Jr.

Durimet 20 Stainless Steel Alloy

U.S. PATENT NO. 2,185,987

1. Parsons was born in 1900 in Dayton, Ohio.
2. He received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, but turned it down because his father, his high school guidance counselor and Duriron founder Pierce Schenck, for whom Parsons' father worked, all feared for his safety at a time when there were no Black midshipmen.
3. When Parsons received the Harmon Foundation Award for his advances with rust-resistant/noncorrosive metals, his gold medal was presented by NIHF Inductee Orville Wright, and NIHF Inductee Charles Kettering gave the address for the event.
4. He was president of the National Technical Association from 1935-36.
5. Parsons received an honorary doctorate from Wilberforce University in 1941.
6. At Duriron, he was a supervisor for the production of metal alloys for use with smokeless powder and special materials for the Manhattan Project from 1941-45.
7. When Parsons retired from Duriron in 1953, the Dayton Daily News reported that Duriron was probably the only company of its kind with an all-Black laboratory staff (led by Parsons).
8. He was added to Dayton's Walk of Fame in 2007.
9. Parsons had eight U.S. patents.
10. Passionate about education, Parsons served from age 73 to 80 as an instructor at an occupational training center in Dayton.