



Photo credit: Veronica Weber, Palo Alto Weekly

# Frank S. Greene Jr.

## Semiconductor Memory Technology

U.S. PATENT NO. 3,654,610: Use of faulty storage circuits by position coding

**Inducted in 2026** Born: Oct. 19, 1938 Died: Dec. 26, 2009

### Primary Connections:

- New Vista Capital: Founder, established 1993
- Zero One Systems: Founder and President, established 1984
- Technology Development Corp.: Founder and President, established 1971
- Fairchild Semiconductor International Inc.: Research and Development Engineer; high-speed semiconductor memory systems, 1965-71

### Education:

- Washington University in St. Louis: B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1961
- Purdue University: M.S., Electrical Engineering, 1962
- Santa Clara University: Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, 1970

### Military Service:

- U.S. Air Force, 1961-65

### Key Memberships/Awards:

- Purdue University: Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Award, 2002
- Silicon Valley Engineering Council Hall of Fame, 2001
- Purdue University: Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineer Award, 1999
- Santa Clara University: Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award, 1993
- Washington University in St. Louis: Black Alumni Achievement Award, 1991

Frank S. Greene Jr. was a pioneering electrical engineer, inventor and entrepreneur in Silicon Valley. He developed high-speed semiconductor memory systems, including the fastest microchip then available for the ILLIAC IV supercomputer. As a leader who recognized the need for greater participation in STEM fields, Greene also was dedicated to mentoring the next generation.



**Full Bio:** <https://www.invent.org/inductees/frank-greene-jr>

### Things You Should Know:

- Greene was born in Washington, D.C., in 1938, and he grew up in St. Louis.
- He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1961.
- He was assigned to the National Security Agency, where his focus was high-performance computers.
- While working with Fairchild Semiconductor International Inc., he also earned his doctorate in electrical engineering from Santa Clara University in 1970.
- Greene was one of the first Black engineers in Silicon Valley.
- He collaborated with future Apple Inc. engineer Wendell Sander to invent the solid-state RAM device used in the ILLIAC IV.
- His innovative semiconductor technology reduced both waste and chip production costs.
- He taught courses in computer sciences and electrical engineering at several universities.
- He founded Technology Development Corp. in 1971 and co-founded the venture capital firm New Vista Capital in 1993.
- Frank S. Greene Jr. Middle School in Palo Alto, California, was renamed in his honor in 2018.