



Photo courtesy of Trane Technologies

Reuben Trane

Lightweight Convactor Radiator

U.S. PATENT NO. 1,764,187: Radiator

Inducted in 2026 Born: Sept. 13, 1886 Died: Sept. 5, 1954

Primary Connections:

- The Trane Co.: Co-Founder, President and Board Chair, 1913-54

Education:

- University of Wisconsin-Madison: B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1910

Key Memberships/Awards:

- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Hall of Fame, 1997
- ASHRAE: Lifetime Member, 1951

Mechanical engineer Reuben Trane began making advancements to heating and cooling technologies early in the 20th century, providing reliable comfort for homes and commercial buildings around the world. With his innovations and business leadership, The Trane Co. became an industry giant. More than a century later, the brand remains a leader.



Full Bio: <https://www.invent.org/inductees/reuben-trane>

Things You Should Know:

- Trane was born in 1886 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and his father, James Trane, was an immigrant from Norway.
- After graduating from high school, he spent a year working as a plumber's helper at his father's plumbing company.
- At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he was a member of the 1907 champion freshman crew team, and in his senior year he earned the position of varsity captain.
- He co-founded The Trane Co. with his father and sister in 1913.
- To build a well-educated salesforce, in 1925, The Trane Co. established a first-of-its-kind graduate training program, recruiting engineering graduates from prominent colleges and universities to receive intensive training in engineering, HVAC system design and sales.
- During World War II, The Trane Co. supplied more than 1 million products to support the U.S. and its allies.
- Trane served on the University of Wisconsin's Board of Regents and in 1945, he was one of the original members of the board for the university's Gifts and Bequests Council — the organization that would become the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association.
- A dedicated philanthropist, Trane raised money for organizations including the La Crosse Home for Children.