



2024 NATIONAL INVENTORS  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

**Born:** Aug. 17, 1890

**Died:** Feb. 15, 1982

**Primary Connections:**

- Perfect Circle Corp.: Assistant Engineer; VP of Engineering; President, Chairman

**Education:**

- University of Pennsylvania: B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1912

**Key Memberships/Awards:**

- Automotive Hall of Fame: Inductee, 1988; Distinguished Service Citation Award, 1964
- Society of Automotive Engineers: Fellow, 1977; President, 1936; Indiana Section Chair, 1926-33
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers: Fellow, 1965
- Earlham College: Honorary Degree, 1965
- Indiana Institute of Technology: Honorary Doctorate, 1965

## 10 Things You Need to Know About

# Ralph Teetor

## Cruise Control

U.S. PATENT NO. 2,519,859

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1. Teetor was born in 1890 in Hagerstown, Indiana.
2. When he was 5, one of his eyes was injured in an accident with a knife, and within a year he lost his sight in both eyes.
3. Teetor developed a heightened sense of touch, hearing and memory that would benefit him throughout his career.
4. His father and uncles trained him to be a machinist at a young age.
5. At just 12, Teetor designed and built a 3 hp motor car capable of reaching a speed up to 12 mph.
6. During his presidency at his family's business, Perfect Circle Corp., the company became a major defense contractor.
7. Serving as president of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), Teetor became an influential supporter of automotive education. SAE International recognized his contributions by naming one of its most prestigious engineering awards after him – the Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award.
8. Earlham College dedicated the Ralph Teetor Planetarium in 1978.
9. When speaking about his lack of sight to veterans, Teetor said, "People will doubt your ability to do a job, but you must convince them that not only can you do that job, but also you can do it as well as anyone else."
10. Teetor was granted over 40 U.S. patents from 1923 to 1963.