Charles M. Rampacek, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lyondell-Citgo Refining Company, Ltd. in Houston, Texas, has had a remarkable engineering career spanning 30 years. Progressing rapidly through the ranks of leadership at some of the nation’s largest oil refineries, his actions have had an impact on virtually every household within the United States.

Rampacek grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where his early years were shaped by his father, a metallurgist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines. He received a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Alabama in 1965. He went on to obtain a master’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Texas in 1967.

Rampacek began his early career at Exxon USA, first as a chemical engineer at their Baytown, Texas refinery and then rising through the management ranks at their Houston headquarters and California locations. Among his many responsibilities was the coordination of the supply of crude oil and the distribution of products from Exxon’s refineries during the Arab Oil Embargo during 1973-74. He also ran Exxon’s first cargo of crude oil from the North Slope of Alaska in 1976.

Rampacek left Exxon in 1982 to become a Senior Vice President for Tenneco in Houston. While there, he successfully led the construction and start-up of a $600 million expansion of Tenneco’s Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery. Transferred to Tenneco’s Natural Gas Pipeline business in 1989 as Executive Vice President, he led a major restructure of their business operations. He then became President of Tenneco Gas Transportation Company in 1992, a company of over 2,000 people and with annual revenues in excess of $1 billion. In early 1996, Rampacek left Tenneco to assume his present position as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lyondell-Citgo Refining Company, Ltd. Lyondell-Citgo is a privately held company that employs over 1,300 people and has annual revenues in excess of $2.5 billion. Over the last twenty months, Rampacek has led the construction and start-up of their $1.1 billion expansion, making it one of the largest and most profitable refineries in the United States.

Rampacek is involved in numerous civic activities. He is immediate past chairman of the Board of Directors of Boys and Girls Country of Houston, a home that provides residential care to children from families in crisis. He also serves on the board of Junior Achievement of Texas and is an annual fund raiser for United Way. He is a University of Alabama Distinguished Engineering Fellow and a member of UA’s Engineering Leadership Board. He also serves on the Engineering Advisory Council of the University of Texas.

He and his wife, the former Lois Klaus, reside in Houston and have two daughters.