

T.J. RODGERS
Founder & ex-CEO
Cypress Semiconductor Corporation

Thurman John “T.J.” Rodgers was a founder of Cypress Semiconductor Corporation at its incorporation on December 1, 1982 and served 34 years as the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer. Cypress was funded with a pre-money valuation of \$3.0 million in April 1983. The company celebrated its IPO at a valuation of \$270 million 37 months later in May 1986. During his tenure, Rodgers raised \$4.46 billion from investors, built Cypress to 7,500 employees and \$1.8 billion in revenue, and returned \$8.5 billion to investors, including \$3.0 billion in dividends and \$4.0 billion in stock repurchases. Rodgers also received 17 U.S. patents while at Cypress and was inducted into the Silicon Valley Hall of Fame.

Rodgers is a former Chairman of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) and was Chairman of solar power stalwart SunPower at its IPO, when the company was still a Cypress subsidiary. He is currently the CEO of Rodgers Capital LLC and serves as a director of several high-technology companies, including Enphase Energy (solar energy electronics), WaterBit (IoT-based precision agriculture), Enovix (advanced lithium-ion batteries), FTC Solar (utility-scale solar power plants), NexGen Power Systems (gallium nitride power transistors) and Solaria (high-performance residential solar systems).

Rodgers is a life-long libertarian who believes in “free minds and free markets,” the motto of the Reason Foundation, which he supports, along with the Cato Foundation and the Institute for Justice. He contributed numerous opeds to national publications [www.tjrogers.com/news], including the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, where one oped led to a prized possession, an unexpected congratulatory letter from Milton Friedman (attached).

Rodgers has received the “champion of Diversity” award by the California Association of African American Educators for 20 years of financial and personal support. The Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, also honored Cypress for contributing the most donated food per employee (over 1,000 pounds per person per year) for 20 consecutive years.

Rodgers was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on March 15, 1948 and played on two Wisconsin state-championship high school football teams. He was recruited to play football at Dartmouth College, where he graduated as Class of 1970 Salutatorian with double majors in chemistry and physics. He is currently a Trustee Emeritus of Dartmouth College, having served on the Dartmouth Board from 2004 to 2012. He received his Masters and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford University, where he patented the VMOS technology, which was commercialized by American Microsystems, Inc., only to be wiped out by technologies based on Moore’s Law. After that first Silicon Valley corporate experience, Rodgers said, “I trained for three more years under Silicon Valley icon Jerry Sanders at Advanced Micro Devices, before starting Cypress in 1982.”



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Dr. T. J. Rodgers
President and CEO
Cypress Semiconductor Corporation
3901 North First Street
San Jose, California 95134-1599

Dear T. J.:

I have been meaning for some days to congratulate you on your absolutely splendid article in the *Wall Street Journal*. If only we had a few more people like you with the courage to speak out and to express their views plainly without equivocation. But because you are so few, we value you all the more highly. Congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

Milton Friedman
Senior Research Fellow

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