

MEMORIALS



WELDON FROST

1931–2017

By Weldon Frost

Edited by Stewart Chuber and Keith Kvenvolden

Weldon Goble Frost, 86, a retired petroleum geologist, passed away July 2, 2017, following the complications of pulmonary fibrosis. He enjoyed a wonderful life, rich with adventures, many enjoyable accomplishments, perhaps some mishaps and miscues, but filled with bountiful love. He was born January 28, 1931, in Kane, Pennsylvania, second child of Max Weldon and Elizabeth (Goble) Frost, who both became podiatrists. He was raised in small-town DuBois, Pennsylvania, and graduated from high school there in 1948. At the age of 16 and 17 he spent two life-changing summers working on the Manning Ranch near New Castle, Colorado. The Mannings taught him the agrarian way of life and the joy of accomplishment that comes from hard work.

He attended the Colorado School of Mines, at that time the world's foremost college of mineral engineering, on a full-tuition scholarship and graduated with honors on May 29, 1952. Four days later he went to work for Mobil Oil Corporation and had an excellent

37-year career there. He began working in Wichita Falls, Texas, then Venezuela (1953), Libya (1954), Penn State University (1955), Turkey (1956), French West Africa (1958), New York HQ (1958), Paris (1960), Libya (1964), Indonesia (1974), New Orleans (1977), and finally London (1981).

On a bright, sunny morning in 1968 he married Brenda Taylor, an ever-smiling English girl, and someone who was to remain the constant, profoundly enduring, love of his life. Together they produced, and she proudly raised, their lives' most treasured endowment: two fine sons, both born in Tripoli.

Survivors include that deeply loved, still-smiling-at-the-world-wife and best friend of 49 years, Brenda, #1 son Terrence Weldon Frost and wife René of Denver, and #2 son James Taylor Frost and wife Kate of New Smyrna Beach Florida, and three highly beloved grandchildren, Max, Jolie, and Hudson.

Weldon lived and worked on five continents and left his fingerprints on many of Mobil's largest, and many smaller, oil and gas fields. He was one of the few of his colleagues who had work experience in the fields of surface geology, subsurface geology, and seismic before becoming a supervisor and then a manager.

The exploration departments he managed were immensely successful in discovering commercial oil and gas deposits and developing greater geological understanding of the area being worked. His management style was to organize efficiently, using small teams to delegate and then later follow up, leaving him time to manage by walking around. He also appreciated the simple management principle of surrounding himself with good people, and listening to them. Weldon later founded and managed Frost

Energy Co., which he called "the largest energy company on Longboat Key."

Following retirement to Longboat Key, Florida in 1989, he busied himself with a production-sharing contract in Equatorial Guinea, petroleum exploration consulting in the United States and abroad, investing in oil and gas prospects, enjoying the beach, a bit of boating and some fishing, some golf and tennis, skiing and traveling, including semiannual trips to England and Spain.

Weldon was well known locally for writing many sometimes humorous, pithy or snarky letters to the editors of local newspapers, or to public servants, on any subject that he felt might benefit from his "down to earth" point of view. Weldon was a member of Longboat Key Kiwanis Club and chair of its Scholarship Committee for many years. He was also a 60-year member of AAPG.

On his daily morning walks he would tip his hat to the smiling passersby, men as well as ladies. One lady called him "the last gentleman on Longboat." Being an irredeemable dog lover, he carried dog biscuits for the many four-legged friends whom he would meet.

Throughout most of his life he enjoyed a long-lasting warm and stimulating relationship with several of his really good, long-distance friends.

Weldon Frost held an immense gratitude for having been given the "gift of life" by his parents so that he could experience such an incredible journey and live so well and so happily in so many places and with so many friends during this most exciting period of mankind's history. He felt blessed to have been able to acquire during his journey some meager understanding of our marvelously complex world on which we live ever so briefly within the incomprehensible vastness of an astonishingly complex universe.



DONPAUL HENDERSON

1946–2017

By Tim Trautman, Bill Wescott, Tom Harris,
and Joe Studlick

Donpaul (DP) Henderson was born in upstate New York on May 9, 1946. He grew up in a tightly knit family in Utica, New York with his mother (Althea) and three siblings (Coleen, Pamela, and Sharon).

After graduating from high school, Donpaul enrolled in the State University of New York at Binghamton. After two years as a chemistry major, he decided that college was not his immediate calling, so he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served from 1968 to 1972. During his time in the Navy, Donpaul saw a tour of duty in the Mediterranean on the USS Independence, followed by an assignment as hospital corpsman at Walter Reed Military Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. Donpaul often relayed stories of meeting national politicians as they underwent their annual physicals (most notably Hubert Humphrey – no need mention the procedure). After maturing during his military service, DP once again

embarked on his college career, enrolling in Utica College of Syracuse University in 1972 majoring in geology. He received his B.S. in 1974 and immediately started graduate school at Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) where he served as a teaching assistant and specialized in geomorphology under the supervision of the late Dr. Dale F. Ritter. He received his M.S. degree in geology in 1976. That same year, he began his professional career with Amoco Production Company in Houston, Texas.

Donpaul's career as a petroleum geologist spanned 36 years (1976–2013) where he established lifelong friendships and made numerous scientific contributions to various organizations, including Amoco Production Company, Sohio, Anadarko Petroleum, Res-Tech, Frontera Resources, Petrosolutions, Kerogen Resources, and Forest Oil. DP started his career exploring for hydrocarbons in east Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast with Amoco (1976–1979) and subsequently with Anadarko (1980–1993). Later, he became an early pioneer in unconventional resource plays, working in many North American basins, including the Green River, Powder River, Fort Worth, and Appalachians. Additionally, he spent time evaluating international opportunities in diverse countries, such as offshore Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, China (Bohai Bay), Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Georgia. However, his major achievement was right here in the United States. In 2006, as an integral member of a joint-venture team (Kerogen Resources and Fidelity E&P) he and his colleagues identified Bakken

oil potential in Mountrail County, North Dakota, which helped to expand this North American giant oil play. Donpaul was a member of professional organizations that included AAPG (Certified Petroleum Geologist), DPA, GSA, HGS, SEPM, and SPWLA. Furthermore, coworkers at many companies recall him as being a great mentor to the younger and less-experienced staff.

On a lighter note, throughout his career, Donpaul was involved in organizing a variety of social activities. While at Amoco, he and several colleagues formed a carefree group that labeled themselves "The Houston Oil Barons". They were known far-and-wide for hosting some of the most memorable "beer bashes" in the Houston area. Later, at Anadarko, he joined several of his coworkers in retaining "facial hair," branding themselves as HOGS (Houston Onshore Geoscience Staff). The group was proactive in planning many social gatherings with their petroleum industry counterparts. The get-togethers were enjoyable, providing a forum for networking, a break from hard work, and stress relief during industry downturns.

Donpaul will be remembered as a genuine friend to many, always being there in one's time of need. He was generous, constantly placing others' wants and desires above his own. No matter what life-hardships he faced, and there were many, he persevered, never blaming others, and constantly displaying an even temperament. Donpaul passed away on December 24, 2017, after a battle with kidney disease. He will be missed by everyone that crossed his path during his 71 years of living life unselfishly.