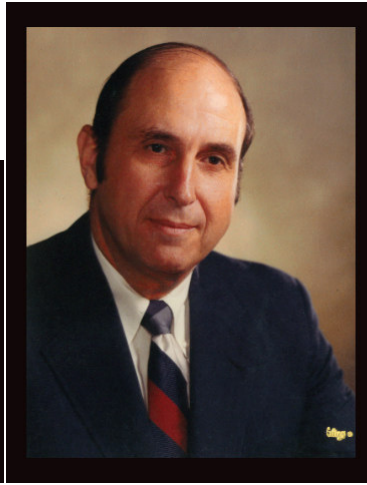


*In Loving Memory of John Leighton Read, Jr.
August 26, 1921 – November 29, 2009*



John Leighton Read, Jr., born in Colony, OK on August 21, 1921, died on November 29, 2009, in Palo Alto, CA.

He is survived by his sons and their wives, J. Leighton Read, III and Carol of Palo Alto, CA, and Timothy Thomas Read and Lee of Roswell, GA; his five grandchildren, Travis and Haley Read of Palo Alto, CA, Katie Read of Charlottesville, VA, James and Leighton Read of Roswell, GA, other loving family and countless dear friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Margaret eleven weeks earlier and second son, James Andrew Read (1954-1978) and his four sisters, Katherine, Mary, Betty and Eleanor.

John was a graduate of Norman High School (OK) and earned his B.S. in Geological Engineering at Oklahoma University where he was also President of the OU chapter of the KA fraternity. His studies were interrupted by service in the Army Air Corps, where he served as a B-17 navigator in Italy, surviving 35 missions over Eastern Europe. After graduation, he earned a M.S. in Geology at Stanford University in 1950. He was married to Mary Margaret Tillery of Tulsa, OK for 61 years. John and Mary Margaret lived in Palo Alto, CA during his graduate studies. He began his career in Tyler, TX as a Field Geologist for Amerada Petroleum, Manager of Exploration and Production of W.H. Bryant Interests, and then an independent consultant in oil and gas exploration and production. He published articles on his work in the AAPG Bulletin and other leading publications. He served as President of the East Texas Geological Society and was a Legion of Honor Member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

John and family moved to Houston, TX in 1967, where he continued his work as an independent geologist, exploring in the Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountains, Gulf Coast, West Texas, New Mexico and California. He and Mary Margaret were active in a number of tennis organizations, and he was a founding director and regular player in the World Oilman's Tennis Tournament.

He began another adventure with Mary Margaret when they moved to Santa Fe, NM in 1992 where they greatly enjoyed old and new friends and the historic desert mountains. Their latest move was a return to Palo Alto, CA in 2005.

The son and grandson of Presbyterian ministers, John was an active member of various congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), where he was a teacher and church officer, including First and Highland (Tyler), Memorial Drive (Houston), First (of Santa Fe) and Menlo Park Presbyterian Churches. In Santa Fe, he was also a member of The Church of the Holy Faith and was a founding volunteer of Mentoring, Santa Fe.

John will be remembered for his passion for petroleum exploration, sports, people he admired and his family and the gentle, thoughtful way he dealt with those around him.

His life was celebrated in a service at Classic Residence by Hyatt in Palo Alto, CA on December 4, 2009. His remains and those of Mary Margaret will be interred at 11AM on December 28, 2009, in a service at Memorial Oaks Cemetery in Houston, TX. A reception will follow at the Houstonian at noon. For those inclined, the family recommends that memorial contributions be made to the A.I. Levorsen Research Fellowship, School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University.