

Obituary

Russell Norman Taylor **Abilene, TX**

Russell Norman Taylor, 91, of Abilene, passed away peacefully on Tuesday October 24, 2017 with his wife at his side. He was born to the late Lillian and William Taylor December 14th, 1925, in Cuba, New York. Russell graduated from Cuba Rushford High School in 1944.



After High school Russell attend Colgate University where he obtained a BS Degree in Geology while also competing as long-distance runner for the track and field team, competing in such events as the 2 mile (10:10 time!). Furthering his education, he obtained a masters in geology from Lehigh University in 1950. Upon graduation from Lehigh University, he moved to Texas where he started his career as a surface geologist with Standland Oil & Gas in Wichita Falls. Shortly after he made the bold choice to be a wildcatter. In 1957, He went independent and formed the roots of Nordan Oil & Gas Corp., which he ran out of his office in Abilene up to the months before he passed.

Russell was a very prominent member of the E&P industry as a leader and a teacher. In 1973, he was president of the Abilene Geological Society, where he was awarded an Honorary Life Member. In 1975 - 1985 he founded Big Country Geophysical a High-Resolution Data Gathering Co. From 1983-1985 he served as president of WeCTOGA (Now Texas Alliance of Energy Producers). During this time, he also served McMurry University as Head of the Geology Department for 24 years mentoring young minds with his passion for geology and the oil and gas industry.



Russell was known to hold his students to higher standards than most. He cared for his students and wanted them to succeed beyond his classroom. He knew what was required of young geologists to succeed in the industry, and structured his class accordingly. He obtained a reputation as the teacher that would determine if a student was really cut-out to be a geologist. It was often that the students who made the cut would contact him later in life to iterate their appreciation of his class. He received the TIPRO 2015 Texas Top Producers Award for Best CEOs-Small Companies as CEO of Nordan Oil & Gas (65 years in to his career!). Throughout his life he remained a prominent member of the industry. He made his daily commute to his office right up to the days before having health issues this year.

His passion for teaching and work transcended into his several hobbies. He was a skilled carpenter, crafting such things as a 20-room colonial style birdhouse, turquoise inlaid cedar tables/counters, and angelic wine holders. Gifts received from him were generally handmade

and sui generis, yet always useful. Come around his house at 5:30pm and you would most likely find him in his shop working on his next project. There was little in life that would slow him down. Even at the prime age of 88, he would still head up to Snowmass, Colorado for an elk or mule deer hunt. Russell was not afraid of change and embraced new technologies. His most recent pursuit was flying his drone and learning aerial photography.

Russell always had a lot of irons in the fire, but he always made time for his family. In the recent years before he passed you could find him and his loving wife of 26 years Ginger at the country club having dinner every Wednesday night. He loved to take her dancing and show her off at various social events of Abilene. He was a loving father and grandfather, always making a point to attend various sporting events, ceremonies, etc. A man who was always willing to help and give advice. His passion for life and advice will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents Lillian and William Taylor, his daughter Eileen Taylor Massey, two sons Patrick Russell Taylor, and Thomas Joseph Taylor, and their mother Kathleen Crowley Taylor.

He is survived by his loving wife Virginia (Ginger) Womack Taylor, her four sons: David Womack, Doug Womack and his wife Marijon, Don Womack and his wife Deb, Dan Womack and his wife Cathy, along with 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; his son William (Billy) Thomas Taylor and his wife Jackie, his 6 grandchildren Jennifer Massey Peterson and husband William, Jon Massey, Sarah Kate Taylor Jones and husband Zach, Grace Taylor Edsel and husband Philip, Lillyan Taylor, Luke Taylor, and two great grandsons.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Friday in North's Memorial Chapel, 242 Orange St. A funeral service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday October 28, 2017 at North's Memorial Chapel, 242 Orange St. with Father Luke Back officiating.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Hendricks Home for Children 2758 Jeanette St, Abilene, TX, 79602

Written by: Luke Taylor