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Texas

**Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

TIPRO SAYS FAREWELL TO LONGTIME EXPLORER L. FRANK PITTS

The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association announces the passing of an industry giant, L. Frank Pitts. Mr. Pitts died peacefully at his Dallas home on March 16, 2009 with members of his family by his side. He was 98.

Recognized for his leadership of Pitts Oil Company for almost seven decades, his commitment to the oil and gas industry is unparalleled. Mr. Pitts' sense of the industry and America was important and his appreciation was evident. He has said, "I love this industry and the people in it. I love being in a business where a man's word is his bond. The independents are a great group of people who are finding and producing a product that consumers want because energy is important to this nation."

An independent oil and natural gas producer for almost seven decades, Pitts participated in the drilling of more than 3,000 wells in exploration for oil and natural gas. "His contribution to this industry and nation cannot be measured in barrels of oil or MCF of natural gas. It is much larger and will last much longer," said Adam P. Haynes, TIPRO's Executive Vice President.

Pitts was actively involved in a wide range of industry associations and political action groups. He served two terms as President of Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO). He was a member of the National Petroleum Council, an advisory group to the Secretary of the Department of Energy, and served under every Secretary since the inception of the Department in 1977. He served on the Natural Gas Committee of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). He was the 1978-1979 Chairman of the Industry Forum of the American Petroleum Institute. In 1984, Texas Governor Mark White appointed Pitts to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, an organization headed by the governors of 29 oil and gas producing states, and continuously served under appointment of all the subsequent Texas Governors.

The many honors awarded him by industry associates include the 1989 Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners' highest honor, the Mr. TIPRO Award. In addition to TIPRO, Mr. Pitts' contributions were recognized by other entities including, the Chief Roughneck Award presented at the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) Annual Meeting in 1979; the 2001 Pioneer of the Year Award presented by the Texas Railroad Commission, to recognize outstanding Texans who have contributed to the oil and gas industry; the 1993 IPAA Karney Cochran Award to honor a lifetime of distinguished service to community, industry, and country; the American Association of Petroleum Landmen has honored him with both its Distinguished Service Award and its Special Award for Industry Leadership; and in 1996 The Southwestern Legal Foundation recognized his extraordinary civic and professional contributions to the oil and gas industry with its prestigious John Rogers Award. In 2006, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission presented him with the Warwick Downing Award for exemplary service and dedication. In April he will be honored with the 2009 Hero of Industry Award presented by the National Stripper Well Association.



Farewell from page 1

As a dynamic spokesman for the energy industry in the United States, Pitts was a frequent expert witness and conferee in Washington with members of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and Executive leadership concerned with oil and natural gas policy. He was especially active with state government leaders in Austin. In 2003, he was recognized by Governor Rick Perry who said, "You are a Texan second to none. Just as the Texans of days gone by, who worked tirelessly to build a foundation of excellence, you have served with distinction, displaying always the characteristic energy, entrepreneurship and vision that have defined a legacy that will live on for the generations to come."



**TIPRO EVP Adam P. Haynes
with L. Frank Pitts at the
January 27, 2009 Dallas
TIPRO Tuesday Luncheon**

While he was an activist in his industry, Pitts also made time for involvement in a significant number of community organizations. He helped found the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth and went on to serve as Chairman of the Board and Chairman Emeritus. In 1994 he received the Council's H. Neil Mallon Award for Distinguished Civic Service. He also helped in the formation of the Dallas Opera, serving on various committees and remained a Trustee. He worked with the Baylor University Medical Foundation, serving as Chairman of the Board and a member of the Executive Committee. Pitts was a member and past President of Park Cities Rotary Club, a member of Dallas Citizens Council and a lifetime Deacon of Park Cities

Baptist Church, where he was a member for 60 years.

At SMU, where he was a member of the Board of Advisors of the Maguire Energy Institute, he established four endowed Presidential Scholarships, a Scholars Fund and an endowed lecture series in oil and gas.

Mr. Pitts is survived by his daughter, Linda, and her husband, William A. Custard, three grandchildren: W. Allen Custard III and his wife, Mason, Martha E. Custard, Laura Custard Hurt and her husband, G. Ellison Hurt III, and four great-grandchildren, all of Dallas; a brother, Troy N. Pitts of Wesson, Mississippi, a sister-in-law, Ida M. Olson of Alexandria, Virginia, a cousin, Dr. Charles L. Lloyd, Jr. and his wife, Sandy, of Dallas and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary Martha, young son, Lloyd Franklin Pitts, Jr., his great-grandson, Elijah Christian Noel Hurt, and his brother, Shelby D. Pitts, of Dallas.

The family will receive visitors at Sparkman/Hillcrest, 7405 W. Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas 75225 on Thursday, March 19, 2009 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Following a private burial, a memorial service will be held at Park Cities Baptist Church, 3933 Northwest Parkway, Dallas, Texas 75225 on Friday, March 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary. A reception will be held in the Church Parlor immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial to the Maguire Energy Institute, SMU - Cox School of Business, P. O. Box 750333, Dallas, Texas 75275, World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, 325 North St. Paul Street, Suite 2200, Dallas, Texas 75201, Baylor Health Care System Foundation, 3600 Gaston Avenue, Barnett Tower - Suite 100, Dallas, Texas 75246, or a charity of your choice.