

David Brindley MacKenzie

5/01/1927 - 5/13/2019

David MacKenzie died at age 92 in Denver.

He was born in Victoria British Columbia. His mother, Kathleen Brindley, emigrated from the English midlands to Victoria before WWI. His father's family came from Scotland to Prince Edward Island. When Dave's father, Goldie MacKenzie, moved west to British Columbia, he met and married Dave's mother.

Dave was a promising student and his Canadian teachers recommended that he apply to the California Institute of Technology. Without knowing Caltech's reputation as one of the toughest schools in the U.S., Dave moved to Pasadena. One of his professors, Linus Pauling, convinced Dave that his future was in the sciences, and Dave earned a B.S. in geology. Three years later Dave emerged from Princeton with both a Ph.D. in geology and a wife, Mary Janet Dunn, who was raised in Pittsburgh.

Dave's job as an exploration geologist at Amoseas took them to Libya, Turkey, France, and Spain, where their two daughters were born. In 1957 Dave joined Ohio - now Marathon - Oil Company in Littleton, Colorado. Over the next 30 years with Marathon, he worked successively in research, mineral exploration, and oil exploration. Apart from a three-year stint managing North Sea exploration from London in the 1980s, Dave and Jan have lived in Colorado since 1957. Dave was a past president of the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists and a member of the Geological Society of America and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He also served a term on the Littleton School Board. For decades, Dave was a keen hiker and skier with a group of pals. He shared his love of the Colorado mountains with his children, whom he led on many backpacking and skiing adventures. He was a liberal and an atheist right to the end.

Dave is survived by his wife, Jan; four children Kathleen (Joe Drexler), Juanita, and Tom (Trang Le-MacKenzie), all of Denver; and Ian (Lori Campbell) of New York City; and seven grandchildren, Cassandra, Ian Santiago, Beau, Charlie Coco, Miles, Caden, and Quynh.