



## Harry O'Neal McLeod Jr.

February 26, 1932 - August 9, 2022

Harry O'Neal McLeod, Jr., Ph.D., passed away at home the evening of Aug. 9, 2022, at the age of 90. Harry was born Feb. 26, 1932, in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the first child of Harry (Sr.) and Odelle McLeod. The family lived in the small rural community of Oil City, Louisiana, until 1943 when they moved to Longview, Texas, where he graduated from Longview High School in 1949. He attended the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, and graduated with a degree in petroleum engineering in 1953.

After college, he worked briefly for Phillips Petroleum before joining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the end of the Korean War as an active and reserve commissioned officer (1953-1961). During his reserve status, he pursued graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma, while working for Phillips Petroleum Co. in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma. He eventually would receive his master's and Ph.D. in petroleum engineering. During his time at OU, he met and married Sandra Lou Mahaffey McLeod in 1959. The couple raised two children (Kathleen Odelle McLeod Megehee and Bryan O'Neal McLeod), and were guardians to Stephen Andrew Mahaffey, Sandra's youngest brother.

He was accomplished in his field and devoted his professional career to evaluating oil well behavior and making continuous improvements to project technology. He made an impact on artificial-lift and hydraulic fracturing

systems and developed a formation analysis technique for evaluating wells. In 2009, he was named one of eight Legends of Production and Operations by the Society for Petroleum Engineers, for his pioneering work in advancing technology and technical literature in petroleum engineering.

He retired from Conoco in 1997, and devoted much of his later years to traveling with Sandra, supporting his church by singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school, and extending the church's ministry through Methodist Men of Action group activities, as well as joining his dear friend and colleague Lou Powers in the Prison Ministry.

Those who knew him frequently remember his kindness more than his many accomplishments.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry O'Neal McLeod, Sr., Odelle Crow McLeod; his brother Jerry R. McLeod of San Francisco, California; and brother-in-law Patrick Mahaffey of Houston, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sandra Lou Mahaffey McLeod; his sister B. Dianne McLeod of Las Cruces, New Mexico; his daughter Kathleen McLeod Megehee and her husband Mark Megehee of Decatur, Alabama; son Bryan O'Neal McLeod and his wife Lesa Cowart McLeod of Houston, Texas; brother Stephen Mahaffey and wife Marie Mahaffey of Katy, Texas; three grandchildren, Holly Skye McLeod, Matthew Megehee, Paul Megehee; nephews Steve McLeod and Mark McLeod of Tulsa, Oklahoma; nephews Andrew Mahaffey and Michael Mahaffey of Houston, Texas; sister-in-law Janna Mahaffey of Charlottesville, Virginia and niece Brittain Mahaffey of Queens, New York.

A memorial service at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church will be held Friday, Aug. 26 at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church  
12955 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX  
<http://www.mdumc.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harry O'Neal McLeod Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Harry O'Neal McLeod Jr.*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Harry O'Neal McLeod Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Harry O'Neal McLeod Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *I just learned of Harry's passing today. Harry was my mentor when I was a young Petroleum Engineer with Conoco in Ventura, California. One of the highlights of my career was when Harry and I traveled to Conoco's facility on the North Slope of Alaska to teach an acid stimulation class. My deepest sympathy to the McLeod family.*

*Kerby Zozula  
Ventura, CA*

**Kerby Zozula** - December 01, 2022 at 09:17 PM

PS

“ I attended Tuesday Night Bible Studies which Harry led from about 2014 to 2017. Harry was an excellent teacher and it was a time of tremendous spiritual growth for me. I was always grateful that he taught this class. I am sure it was also a time of growth for the other participants. I attended Men of Action with Harry and often we sat together during breakfast. I always enjoyed our visits. He was such a humble man that, although I spent a lot of time with Harry, he never mentioned his extraordinary professional accomplishments which I was unaware of until I read his obituary. His work in the prison ministry with Lou Powers showed great dedication to sharing the gospel and helping others. I am sure that the lives of many who were incarnated were greatly impacted. His life was a blessing to many people and he will be missed. My condolences his family. I will keep them in my prayers during this difficult time. Paul Smith

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**Paul Smith** - August 20, 2022 at 03:04 PM

DS

“ My sincere condolences to the McLeod family. I was lucky enough to work with Harry both as a colleague and a supervisor during the glory years of PES. You posted the perfect picture of Harry. That smile jumped out at me and brought back sweet memories of a great friend and teammate.

*David Schwartz*

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**David Schwartz** - August 18, 2022 at 05:24 PM

GS

*Well said, David. Harry was a gem.*

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**Gary Smith** - August 23, 2022 at 03:24 PM

GS

“ Harry made a positive impact on me early in my career as an engineer with Conoco in the late 70’s and early 80’s when I was privileged to be a student in company training courses that he taught. Harry was a tremendous teacher and role model for engineers all over the world. Harry shared his vast technical knowledge unselfishly and he did so with patience and a warm smile. It was obvious that Harry cared about people. Those of us in the operations offices used to laugh sarcastically about visitors from headquarters who said, “I’m from Houston and I’m here to help.” But in Harry’s case, it was true and he was always welcome in the field. The value of Harry’s contributions to Conoco and the industry is immeasurable. My condolences to his family.

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**Gary Smith** - August 14, 2022 at 04:58 PM

BM

Gary,  
Thank you for your fond memories of Harry, and heartfelt condolences. We appreciate you sharing this.  
Bryan McLeod

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**Bryan McLeod** - August 16, 2022 at 08:04 AM

KG

Bryan I was so sorry to hear of your dad’s passing. What a remarkable man! My parents always enjoyed your time with your parents. Sending my love. Katy Bouffard Guerre

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**katy Guerre** - August 16, 2022 at 06:11 PM