

IN MEMORIUM

Past President & Honorary Member Professor Terry R. West (1936 -2025)



The Association is deeply saddened to post the news that that Professor Terry Ronald West, P.E., P.G., passed away March 6, 2025, at the age of 88.

Dr. West graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, MO receiving two undergraduate degrees and a Master's degree. He received a second Master's degree (MSCE) and his Ph.D. (in 1966) from Purdue University in Civil Engineering and Engineering Geology. It is to be noted that remarkably all of Dr. West's university education leading to five degrees was completed by the time he was age 30!

Dr. West was a Professor at Purdue University, a past president of AEG, and the recipient of many awards including Honorary Membership, our Association's highest honor. He mentored and served as served as major professor to 88 graduate students during his 61 years teaching at Purdue University's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, retiring at age 85. Terry leaves an extensive legacy in the many students that he inspired. Another of Dr. West's proudest moments was authoring a key textbook titled "Engineering Geology". Terry cherished the sports he followed and was a multi-sport season ticket holder enjoying everything about his beloved Purdue Boilermakers. Dr. West was honored as a "Sagamore of the Wabash" by Governor Frank O'Bannon in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education a Purdue University and the State of Indiana. Terry was a proud Rotarian who contributed to the Lafayette Club well into his 80's.

Terry West was a long-standing member and tireless advocate for AEG. He held the President post and convinced his wife Shirley of 67 years to travel with him to countless Association Annual meetings and field trips. Shirley is as well known within our AEG membership community as is Terry. Whenever the opportunity presented itself, Dr. West travelled all over the country to give technical presentations to AEG Chapters, GSA meetings and many other professional societies.

He received the Medallion Award of the Highway Geology Symposium (HGS), was selected as Fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science, presented with an AEG Special Award from the Northcentral section for encouraging students to attend AEG meetings, selected as Fellow of the Geological Society of America (GSA), and was bestowed with the Distinguished Practice Award by the Indiana Board of Professional Geologists.

In collaboration with his extremely close AEG colleague Richard Gray, the two established the West–Gray Scholarship that provides funding for students in the environmental and engineering geology fields in the eastern portion of the United States to further their studies. Both Terry and Dick Gray have sustained this important AEG Foundation Scholarship for many years and numerous college and university students have benefitted from it.

A Celebration of Life will be held later this spring in Lafayette, Indiana. Terry West will be certainly missed by those in our Association, his former students, and many other professional societies.