



## Merwin H. McConnell

March 9, 1928 - December 25, 2014

Merwin Hoyt McConnell, age 86, passed peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 25th, 2014. In loving faith, he has now been reunited with his wife of 61 years, Janilyn whom he has missed so much since her passing in 2013.

Merwin was born on March 9th, 1928. He excelled in athletics and earned a degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He joined the Air Force in 1948 and was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. As Lieutenant Merwin H. McConnell, he married Janilyn S. Webber on July 5th, 1952. He worked for Phillips Petroleum for nearly 40 years in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Odessa, Texas before they moved overseas; first to London, England where he was a vice-president of the company. In 1980 Merwin and Janilyn moved to Stavanger, Norway for 12 years where he served as President and Managing Director of Phillips Petroleum Company Norway until his retirement. Moving back to the U.S., they settled in a home on Torch Lake where friends and family often gathered (Kewadin, near Traverse City, Michigan), and wintered in central Texas. They travelled extensively all over the world.

Merwin and Janilyn were always active in the United Methodist Church and most recently were members of Kewadin United Methodist Church where Janilyn served as Deacon and Musical Director. Merwin always enjoyed singing, games of all types and especially outdoor pursuits such as golf, gardening, fishing, camping and boating.

Merwin was known as a man of integrity, kindness, generosity and humility. He was deeply committed to his family and will be lovingly remembered by: his children Paul (Heather) McConnell, Richard McConnell, Cheryl (Clive) Gissing and his grandchildren Chad McConnell, Dillon McConnell, Joshua (Clare) Gissing, Christian Gissing and his great-grandchildren Tabitha Gissing and Casper Gissing. He is also survived by his three siblings: Margaret (Jere) Sutton, Janice Gore and John (Carol) McConnell, as well as Janilyn's sister and her husband, Beverly and Ed Moses.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Please feel free to share your memories

with Merwin's family at [www.reynolds-jonkoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkoff.com)

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkoff Funeral home and Cremation Services.

Merwin "Mac" McConnell 1928-2014

# Comments

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“ Dear Family after Mac (and Janilyn)

I had the pleasure of working for Phillips Norway in Stavanger when Mac came over from London. Our first encounter was after the Alexander Kielland disaster March 27 1980, when we lost 123 to the sea, but also rescued 89. Mac came out to relieve our offshore manager. I will never forget his kindness and strength in that difficult situation. He became my hero, and for a long period he acted as my chief mentor. Mac helped build a strong positive relationship among all the Phillips Norway employees|. The good relations, also to the many labor unions, were needed when we later had to downsize the Company. Mac's legacy and good work on the basics helped us, years after he had retired!

He and Janilyn included all of us in the leader group, and our spouses, in the extended "family". When we went on to install the huge Ekofisk waterflood, 12 billion dollars, and later at the same time handle the subsidence of Ekofisk, another 10-12 billion dollars project, Mac was the tower to lean on when the going got tough, inside or outside the company.

He is the best leader I have. Demanding and tough, but supportive to the bitter end if you did your best with the resources available. His personal integrity was outstanding.

He got me a job for Phillips in Lafayette after we finished the waterflood, the jacking of platforms 6.5 meters and the setting of the giant concrete wall around the Ekofisk Tank in 1989. I needed a job where I could spend more time with my wife and 3 children. We returned to Norway after he and Janilyn had retired, so Mette and I went to visit them at Torch Lake. I also got to see them several times in Texas. I tried to set off time to go for a visit when I had bussiness in the US. Also after I left Phillips and joined the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate in 1997. We enjoyed their visits back to Stavanger too.

Jan and Mac were important people in our lives. They also left an impression on our three children from the many family encounters. We were privileged to share some of the experencies of life with them during their stay in Norway.

We miss them!

Mette and Rolf Wiborg (Aase, Espen and Guro)

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