

Joseph E. Moreland, Jr.
1924 - 2010



The son of Joe and Monreen (Brown) Moreland, Joseph was born, September 15, 1924 at Oil Hill. He graduated from the El Dorado High School in 1942 and enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in December of 1942. He married Virginia Ruth Coffman in August of 1943. During WWII he served as a navigator on a B-17 with the 8th Air Force in England and flew 25 missions over Germany. Mr. Moreland began his oil career in 1948 when he graduated cum laude from Tulsa University with a double degree in Petroleum Engineering and Petroleum Geology. He received the Pat King award which was given to the top engineering student at T.U. He returned to Oil Hill in 1949 and worked for Cities Service.

Recalled to active duty during the Korean War, he was shot down over North Korea on July 3, 1952 and was a POW for 14 months. He and the crew that survived were released in 1953. He was a decorated war veteran receiving two Purple Hearts, Air Medal, Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He resumed his career with Cities Service in 1954 after the Korean War. (He retired as a Major from the AirForce Reserve in 1968.)

In 1955, he joined Petroleum, Inc. for nine years. Mr. Moreland eventually became the Kansas District Geologist. From 1964-1981, he worked for Rex & Morris Drilling Company in El Dorado as an Exploration Manager. Mr. Moreland joined Martin Oil and Exploration in 1981 where he worked until his retirement in 2002.

He was a member and past president of Kansas Oil and Gas Association, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and other state and national geological associations. Mr. Moreland is well noted for his dedication to staying on top of the latest innovations in the field of geology.

SOURCE: The Wichita Eagle. April 4, 2010.