Gerald M. Friedman 1921–2011

James W. LaMoreaux · Robert Doe

Published online: 18 February 2012
© Springer-Verlag 2012

Gerald M. Friedman, founder and long-time editor of *Carbonates and Evaporites*, died 20 December 2011 after a brief illness.

In his 90 years, he taught numerous students about both geology and life; mentored hundreds of fledging geologists; served as an editor or managing editor for 10 scientific journals; traveled extensively; wrote much, including his co-authored famous textbook, *Principles of Sedimentology*; and together with Sue, his beloved wife of 63 years, raised a loving family of five children, 18 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Friedman's love of teaching was evident in the diligence and care he took to make sure that graduate students who placed themselves under his guidance were challenged to develop their best possible research. He taught for 20 years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as well as the City University of New York's Brooklyn College.

He is considered one of the founders of the study of modern sedimentology, and presented numerous professional short courses and workshops on topics related to the sedimentology and petroleum exploration. The nonprofit educational center he founded and directed, the Northeastern Science Foundation, was instrumental in furthering modern sedimentological research.

His work as a scientific author is legendary. Dr. Friedman published over 500 papers and 19 books, and organized more than 50 professional conferences, many with published proceedings.

His early personal life was marked by difficulties. Dr. Friedman and his family left their beloved Germany shortly before World War II, and he lived as a refugee in England for several years. During this difficult time, Dr. Friedman still managed to continue his academic work, and eventually he immigrated to the United States, where he completed his advanced studies at Columbia University. In later years, Dr. Friedman was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Heidelberg, which he accepted with great delight.

Dr. Friedman was also recognized by the receipt of a second honorary doctorate from the University of London. He was awarded the Kapitsa Gold Medal of Honor from the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and the Sidney Powers Medal from the American Association of Petroleum Scientists, among other awards.

Dr. Friedman's great body of personal research stands as its own testimony to his lifetime of dedication to excellence in science. He will be greatly missed.

J. W. LaMoreaux (✉)
Tuscaloosa, AL, USA
e-mail: jlamoreaux@pela.com

R. Doe
Van Godewijkstraat 30, 3311 GX Dordrecht, The Netherlands