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MUESSIG, Siegfried J.

January 19, 1922 – May 24, 2018

Siegfried J. Muessig (Sig), exploration geologist, died peacefully at age 96 in Claremont, CA on May 24, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary Catherine (Kit), sons Hans (Sarah Dennett) and Philipp (Laura), and grandchildren Anna, Christopher, and Will. His brother Eckehard Muessig and sister Sieglinde (Weber) Williams preceded him in death.

Sig was born to Philipp and Irma (Schoenig) Muessig in Freiburg, Germany on January 19, 1922, and in 1927 the family immigrated to Sylvania, Ohio. Sig enlisted in the Army during World War II, flying B-29s as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Air Corps. Following the war, he earned BS and PhD degrees in geology from The Ohio State University, subsequently working first for the U.S. Geological Survey and then the US Borax Company, becoming an expert on borate deposits around the world. In 1966 the Getty Oil Company asked him to lead their new minerals exploration group. Under Sig's oversight, Getty Mining became highly successful, responsible for the discovery of a large uranium deposit in Australia and the world's largest copper deposit in Chile.

Sig served as president of the Society of Economic Geologists, was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, served on the Committee on Geology of the National Academy of Sciences, and was singled out for several prestigious professional awards.

Long-time resident of Pasadena, he approached life with gusto, explored the world with energy and curiosity, and never shied from spirited conversation with friends, family, and colleagues.

A private memorial service has been held. Burial will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis on June 12, 2018. Gifts in Sig's memory may be made to The Ohio State University Foundation, 1480 Lane Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43221, for their Edmund M. Spieker Memorial Scholarship Fund or the School of Earth Sciences Field Experience Travel Fund.

