

### **From the AEG St. Louis Chapter: In Memory of Bob Berri**

Robert (Bob) Berri, Jr. passed away on December 17, 2020. An obituary for Bob can be found [here](#), and you may leave condolences or tributes for his family. The funeral will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am, and will be livestreamed to allow virtual attendance. The rite of Christian burial will be held at 10:00am. The link to view the funeral will be provided to our membership when it is available.

Bob was a very active member of the St. Louis Chapter of AEG. I first met Bob when I attended meetings as a student. Bob did not hesitate to start conversation and helped me to feel welcome in the group. He shared presentations with the group from his wide breadth and depth of local knowledge. He was always willing to provide friendly conversation and knowledge, and he will be sorely missed.

The officers of the St. Louis Chapter have decided to name the student educational award in memory of Bob. It will be known as the Robert Berri, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The Chapter also plans to make a donation of \$500 in memory of Bob to the AEG Foundation, and we encourage our members to consider making memorial donations as well.

A few of our St. Louis Chapter members provided the below memorials for Bob.

Marilyn and I are so terribly sorry to learn of Bob's death. We would always look for him at meetings. In years past if we were flying to the meeting location Bob would ask if we needed transportation to and from the airport to the meeting location. He knew for a long time we likely would need that pick up. His AIPG 2009 Igneous Geology meeting field trip one of the best, if not the best in the sense of his sole effort putting it together and leading it with the highest of professionalism.

Bob stood alone, not a member of any supporting private or government organization to assist, bolster if help was needed, he was on his own. A truly admirable career as a professional geologist. He was there when others were not. I am thinking of legislature bill being heard in the Senate, had passed the House, that would have completely done away with the professional geologist registration law. State, MSPE, and National, NSPE, were there to testify in support. Only Bob and I were there to oppose. They lost, we won. The Committee chair chastised both State and National. Clean up that bill, the original intent was simply to change some wording that fit current language, not male only, for example. MSPE did do that, sent me the revision for comment before sending the revised version to the chair and asked if OK. Revised version than easily passed. Bob's presence was recognized. Also, it seemed to me through the years following MSPE was much less combative.

-Marilyn and Jim Williams

I first met Bob Berri in the mid-1980s, when we both worked for John Mathes & Associates in Columbia, Ill. (since bought out and name-changed several times). He was in the drilling group, and I didn't really cross paths with him too much, but we did occasionally chat mostly about geology-related things. Then I lost track of him for about 15 years, until we reconnected at a local St. Louis AEG meeting around 2000. I knew Bob to be a geologist's geologist who really understood both the Big Picture as well as local details of the geology and structure of southeast Missouri and southwest Illinois. He could always come up with

probing questions for continuing discussions at AEG meetings. We did really lose a 'walking library' of regional geology with his passing.

-Phyllis Steckel

My association with Bob Berri relates the research work on the Precambrian of the St. Francois Mountains (SFM) for my Doctorate the 1970s. For years after my work there our family lived outside of Missouri, which disconnected me from the Missouri geological community. Eventually we returned "home" to Missouri and in 2009 I learned that the Association of Missouri Geologists (AMG) was sponsoring a field trip to the SFM. It would be led by someone called Berri, who I had never met. This seemed like a "can't miss" event so in 2009 I joined AMG and met Bob for the first time. Bob turned out to be very knowledgeable about the SFM and I saw some places I had not seen before, such as Hughes Mountain. We became friends from that point on. When it was my turn to run the AMG field trip in 2017, Bob volunteered many hours of his time to make trips with me to the SFM to assist with developing that field trip and meeting.

Bob had a great deal of knowledge about Missouri geology (soft rock AND hard rock) through his many years of geologic core logging, mapping, and other activities. This knowledge was based on his many years of supporting the Missouri and Illinois mining and quarrying industries. Bob's enthusiasm for geology also resulted in other smaller field trips. He facilitated a number of one-day field trips to interesting geologic areas for a small group of friends (you know who you are), fortunately including me. These were to interesting geological areas for rock and mineral collecting or other just plain geo-fun. Bob, your knowledge and enthusiasm for geology will be missed. In my case and for others, many fun geo-memories and your influence on our community will remain.

-J. Ronald (Ron) Sides, Ph.D., R.G.