

A. Scott Ritchie

1932 – 2021



Scott was born in Wichita, Kansas on November 14, 1932 to Andrew and Ruth Ritchie. He graduated from Wichita East High School in 1950. He attended the University of Kansas, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Geology in 1954. From 1954-1955, he was employed by Marathon Oil Company and he married Carol L. Swanson on June 19, 1954. From 1955-1957, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he attained the rank of Captain.

Mr. Ritchie was employed by Rocket Drilling Company from 1957-1958. In 1958, he became a consulting geologist, and in 1963, started Ritchie Exploration, Inc – an oil and gas exploration and production company.

Mr. Ritchie had a number of business interests including Chairman of Ritchie Exploration, Inc., Chairman of the Board of Hallrich, Inc. – a Pizza Hut franchise in NE Ohio and West Virginia, Owner and Chairman of Lubbock Feeders, LP – a custom cattle feedlot in Lubbock, TX, and Owner and President of Highland Ranch Company in Olpe, KS.

He was very involved in the community as a member of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, Wichita Art Museum board member, Wichita Community Foundation, Wichita-KU School of Medicine board member, Tallgrass Ranchers founding member, and Phi Delta Theta Educational Foundation, where he was a trustee and chairman of the finance committee.

Scott served as a past president of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association (KIOGA), past president of the Kansas Geological Society, past national chairman of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientist (SIPES), a member of the KU Geological Associates Advisory Board and he was an Emeritus Trustee of the KU Endowment Board. He served on the steering committee of KU First, and was a member and past board chairman of IPHFHA.

Scott received the Erasmus Haworth Distinguished Alumni Honors in Geology in 1992 and the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2005, both distinguished University of Kansas awards. His hobbies included bird and deer hunting, fishing, and traveling.

SOURCE: The Wichita Eagle. December 15, 2021.