



## Charles Lee "Charlie" Blackburn

January 9, 1928 - June 23, 2016

Charles Lee "Charlie" Blackburn passed away peacefully at home in Sarasota, Florida on June 23, 2016 surrounded by family and friends, all of whom he loved very much.

Born in Cushing, Oklahoma on January 9, 1928, Charlie grew up moving around the oil and gas fields of Oklahoma. After graduating from Pauls Valley High School, Charlie spent two years in the Army before attending the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics, with Distinction. He was always proud that he took 44 hours of college level physics with only the use of a slide rule. Later in life, Charlie was named a Distinguished Graduate of the College of Engineering at Oklahoma and he established the Charles L. Blackburn Chair in Engineering Physics.

Charlie spent 34 years with Shell Oil Company. During his last 10 years at Shell, he held the position of Executive Vice President in charge of Shell's exploration and production activities. After retiring from Shell, in 1987 Charlie became the Chairman and CEO of Maxus Energy Corporation until the company was sold in 1995. In 2003 Charlie was named Chairman of Range Resources Corporation, a position he held for several years before retiring from the Board in 2013. During his illustrious career Charlie also held Board positions at Anderson, Clayton and Company, Penrod Drilling Company, Lone

Star Steel Company and The King Ranch. He was very active in the All American Wildcatters Association and was a founding member of the National Ocean Industries Association.

Charlie loved life and lived it to the fullest. His passions were hunting, fishing, traveling, wine collecting and especially following University of Oklahoma football. He could spend hours telling you which past teams were the best, the projected two deep for the upcoming season or the status of the potential recruits. Charlie continued to purchase wine up until his final days, reflecting a continued optimism that he would be able to enjoy wines that were not to be consumed for years. Before moving to Sarasota in 2010, Charlie spent many summers at Old Baldy Club in Saratoga, Wyoming. While affording him the opportunity to escape the Texas heat and enjoy his passion for fly fishing, Charlie loved gathering with family and taking long morning walks with his beloved red Lab Buster.

Charlie is survived and will be sorely missed by his wife Nancy Blackburn, his son Kern Andrew Blackburn and his wife Mary Sue, his son Alan Jeffrey Blackburn and his wife Pamela, his son Charles Lee Blackburn II, his son Derek Ray Blackburn, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Charlie was preceded in death by his parents Sam and Lillian Beall Blackburn, his younger brothers James Sexton Blackburn and Paul Robert Blackburn and many beloved friends.

Services for Charlie will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Charlie was a person who commanded the utmost of respect and admiration. It was a privilege for me to work with and for him at times during my career with Shell. Judy and I especially remember the the time we spent together at a Presidential Inauguration. Our sincerest condolences to you, Nancy, and the family. We know he will he sorely missed and long remembered. Jim and Judy Street

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**Jim Street** - September 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ For a while I had an office next to Charlie's office on the 49th floor of One Shell Square in New Orleans. He was a great leader of Shell.

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**Cleon Dunham** - July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Dear Blackburn Family: I am saddened to learn of Charlie's death, but proud of the contributions he made to his profession, the University of Oklahoma, and the Engineering Physics Program - in which I worked for 36 years. He will be missed by all who knew and worked with him. I had the pleasure of working with Charlie when he served on the Engineering Physics Board of Advisors, where his expertise and wise counsel were essential in guiding the program, as well as, his generous establishment of the Charles L. Blackburn Chair in Engineering Physics. It gave me both pleasure and pride to serve on the committee that selected him as a Distinguished Graduate of the College of Engineering. He will be greatly missed by all knew him. I know he will be greatly missed by his family, as well as, friends and colleagues. Stu (Stewart) Ryan P.S. I too share with Charlies' pride in the exclusive use of a slide rule to pass all my undergraduate and graduate physics courses!

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**Stewart Ryan, David Ross Boyd Professor, Emeritus** - June 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Blackburn Family, I am saddened to hear that Charlie has passed away. I will always be grateful for his devotion to the University of Oklahoma. As the Charles L. Blackburn Chair in Engineering Physics, I have benefited immensely from Charlie's generosity. Charlie was rightly proud to have majored in Engineering Physics, which is still considered to be one of OU's toughest majors. He will be remembered for many years to come. -  
Mike Santos

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**Michael Santos** - June 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ I always enjoyed working for Charlie.

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**Lloyd Otteman** - June 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ Our family thought the world of Charlie. He was a wonderful individual who always made everyone feel good about themselves. God Bless, Wendy & Bill

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**Wendy & Bill Chiles** - June 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Dear Alan and Pam: I am very sorry for the loss of your dad. He seemed like a very smart, interesting and accomplished man and I know that you will miss him dearly. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family during this sad time. Alice Timmins

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**Alice Timmins** - June 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM