



**Memoriam**  
**John E. Moylan**

Syed E. Hasan<sup>1</sup> and Julie WestHoff<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Missouri-Kansas City, <sup>2</sup>Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

One of founding members of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists' (AEG), Kansas City/Omaha (KC/O) Section, John Moylan, passed away June 29, 2015 after a brief illness. The KC/O Section and the broader Kansas City geologic and engineering community will truly miss him. John was an active member of the KC/O Section since 1967.

In the early 1960s, when three groups of applied geologists in Kansas and Missouri became interested in the new and growing California Association of Engineering Geologists (forerunner of AEG)<sup>1</sup>, John played a major role in the establishment of the KC/O Section in January 1967. Not only was John one of the founding members but he served as the section chair twice—first for the 1969-70 term and another for the 2002-2004. The KC/O Section has been active for the past 13 years due mainly to John's involvement in reviving it.

John was a highly respected engineering geologist and hydrogeologist with over 55 years of experience in the engineering and environmental fields. He started his professional career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, when he conducted geologic design investigations and studies for 8 of the 18 dam projects completed in the Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers. Later he was involved in providing engineering geological and hydrogeological support for conventional civil and military projects. He directed hydrogeological investigations and studies which focused not only on the degree and extent of contamination but also on the site characterization needs for effective remedial design and remedial action. John, more times than not, would stress the importance of good site characterization and sound interpretation of the data. More recently, Mr. Moylan assisted project design teams on large remediation projects worldwide in both the public and private sector as well as serving as a peer reviewer and groundwater expert on numerous projects for various consulting firms in the area.

John received a BS degree in Geology in 1958 from the University of Kansas, and completed a special Corps of Engineers Geological Engineering Program at the University of Minnesota in

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<sup>1</sup> Moylan, J., and Hasan, S.E., 2007. Kansas City Omaha Section's First 40 years (1976-2007). Poster presented at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of Engineering Geologists, Los Angeles, California, September 24-29, 2007.

1974. He worked as a geologist for the U. S. Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District for 33 years. He retired as Chief of the Geotechnical Branch in 1991.

He was an Adjunct Instructor in Geology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) from 1979-1985 where he taught graduate courses in Hydrogeology and Geology for Engineers. Following his "retirement" from the Corps of Engineers, he worked for Woodward-Clyde Consultants/URS for 10 years as a Senior Consulting Geologist and then as an independent consulting geologist up until the time of his death. John was also a member of the Geological Society of America (GSA) and the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers.

John was selected as the AEG-GSA Jahns Memorial Lecturer for the year 2006-07. During the year, he travelled across the country, visiting dozens of universities and AEG sections, presenting lectures on: (1) Strength reduction in shales: causes, effect on stability, case histories, and recognition; (2) Site characterization for the design of effective groundwater remediation projects; (3) Geologic influences on selected Mid-continent dams; and (4) Effects of geologic factors on the design and performance of permeable reactive barriers.

John's many awards included AEG 2007 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 2000 Distinguished Civilian Service Award, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1991 Department of the Army Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1990 Commanders Award for Civilian Service.

During his career, John authored over 30 papers and regularly presented his papers at local section meetings and the Kansas Hydrology Conference held in Topeka, Kansas, and nationally at the AEG and GSA annual meetings.

John was born October 15, 1936 to Anna Gunner and John Stephen Moylan in Kansas City, KS. He was a lifelong resident of the Roeland Park and Mission area attending St. Agnes grade and high school. John and his wife of 56 years, Annette, raised five children together; Mark, Margaret, Paul, Mary, and Kathleen, and have 10 grandchildren.

John was an exceptional individual and mentored *hundreds* of professional geologists, engineers, and hydrogeologist throughout his career. He always had time to discuss geotechnical features of a project and reviewed reports for those working with him and for his professional colleagues both in the industry and the academia.

One of the latest professional engagements of John was to serve as a co-expert in a legal case, along with Paul Hilpman (Professor Emeritus, Geology, UMKC and Geotechnical Consultant), involving conflicts over dredging in the Missouri River alluvium. When asked by the attorney to find a replacement for him, Paul replied: "There really isn't anyone." This is so very true because there is no one of John's stature locally, regionally and perhaps nationally. Indeed with the sad demise of John we have lost a considerate colleague, a caring mentor and, above all, a compassionate and superb human being.

The Kansas City/Omaha Section has made a donation to the AEG Jahns Lecturer Fund in Memoriam for John that will place him on the AEG Foundation Honor Roll.

We are also establishing a fund to honor John's life-long commitment to support and mentor young geologists. If interested, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the "John Moylan Fund". Please contact the AEG Foundation, 17926 Dixie Highway, Suite B, Homewood, Illinois 60430: Phone: (312) 403-0846; Email: [staff@aegfoundation.org](mailto:staff@aegfoundation.org) for details.