



## **In Memoriam**

### **John W. Pritchett (1942-2020)**

John Wilson Pritchett, a pioneer geothermal scientist, passed away on January 16, 2020 after a brief hospitalization for cancer. He is survived by his wife Bonnie Dixon and two siblings, Marnie Elaine Pritchett Berendsen and David Pritchett.

He was born on June 12, 1942 in Corvallis, Oregon. His father, Wilson Stanley Pritchett, designed and developed radar systems. Elaine Handsaker Pritchett, John's mother, was a social worker who started a local organization that later became part of the Epilepsy Society.

John graduated with a BS in physics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1964. He then joined the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (USNRDL), where he worked on modeling underwater explosions. Following the closure of USNRDL in 1969, he joined a couple of his colleagues in starting a new company, Information Research Associates in Berkeley. The company was acquired in 1972 by Systems Science and Software (S-CUBED) located in La Jolla, California. His lifelong friend and colleague, Sabodh Garg, met John shortly after his move to S-CUBED, and started a collaboration that lasted over several company mergers and moves (Maxwell Technologies, SAIC, Leidos, Geologica Geothermal Group) until his death.

John authored the first multi-phase geothermal reservoir simulator in late 1974, and co-authored a paper presented at the 2nd United Nations Geothermal Symposium in 1975 in San Francisco, California. Over the next 45 years, he continued to make significant contributions to the art and science of geothermal reservoir engineering. Together with Dr. Tsuneo Ishido of the Geological Survey of Japan, AIST, Tsukuba, Japan, John worked to advance the use of geophysical methods for reservoir monitoring and lab-scale stimulation characterization.

He had the unusual gift of being able to analyze any problem in its entirety, and to illuminate fundamental issues. John was also a great communicator, and conducted numerous workshops and seminars on geothermal reservoir engineering and simulation, both in the United States and overseas. He was an outstanding and amazing lecturer because he could make extremely complex technical concepts understandable to those of us who were not as gifted as himself.

In addition to geothermal energy, John did pioneering work in several other fields such as underwater explosions, fluidized beds, and natural gas hydrates. He was a recipient

of the U.S. Navy Radiological Defense Laboratory Gold Medal for Scientific Achievement (1968), the Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) Special Achievement Award (2000), the GRC Pioneer Award (2010), and the GRC Henry J. Ramey Jr. Geothermal Reservoir Engineering Award (2016).

John was also an important contributor to geothermal professional organizations. He was a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Geothermal Energy Association, and of the Board of Editors of Geothermics. He also chaired the Technical Program Committee for the 2006 GRC Annual Meeting.

We shall greatly miss John Pritchett, both as a good friend and as a scientific collaborator in pursuit of efficient and widespread geothermal energy development.

– Prepared by Sabodh Garg, Ahmad Ghassemi, Tsuneo Ishido, Jim Combs, and Ted Clutter



## **Constance "Connie" Parks-Karl (1939-2020)**

Constance "Connie" Parks-Karl, 80, of Fairbanks, passed away peacefully, in her home with her husband by her side on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, at 3 a.m.

Constance Mae Parks was born on April 13, 1939, in Andover, Connecticut, to George and Helen (Purinton) Parks. She married Bernard "Bernie" Karl, in North Pole on May 10, 1975. She is survived by her husband Bernie, their daughter, Amber, Connie's favorite son-in-law, Douglas, her two beautiful granddaughters, Ava and Sara, her very special niece and caregiver, Joann Caudill and her loyal dog, Miss Piggy. She is also survived by two brothers, Roger Parks and Walter Parks and too many other special relatives to name. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Donald and Robert Parks.

To say that Connie had an adventurous spirit is an understatement. She loved to take pictures and was always in for a good celebration. She was passionate about travel and explored the country alone in her 20s and ended up in Alaska in the early 1970s working on the pipeline. She was a woman with a "can do" attitude and was a pioneer for women's rights. Connie was the first woman on a remote construction project where she earned the respect of her male counterparts with her work ethic. Connie worked in the office for Goodyear where only men were allowed to change big equipment tires and Connie didn't think that was right. So, she audited the class to learn how to do what men did and became only the second woman on the pipeline to change big equipment tires.

She held many jobs in Alaska including working at Clear Sky Lodge, selling advertising for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, waiting tables at Ranch Dinner House and selling real estate for Realty Inc. Among Connie's accomplishments, she was a Sunday school teacher, a Girl Scout Leader and a small airplane pilot. Connie was a member of the QUOTA club and first President of Alaska Women in Mining.

Together, Connie and Bernie lived an incredible Alaskan life. They always worked, hand in hand, no matter the job. They mined for gold, started K&K Recycling, turned Chena Hot Springs into a world-class resort and have enjoyed many other business ventures. Connie had a heart of gold, big enough to match the Golden Heart City. She was one of the most benevolent people you will ever meet, always giving to both her community and her family.

Above all of her incredible accomplishments over the years, her biggest accomplishment was her dedication to her husband and her family. Connie quietly and humbly always took care of those around her, never asking for anything in return. She finished her life, the picture of strength, as she endured a yearlong battle with ALS that left her completely dependent but still with an incredible zest for life. Connie never missed a day of work, right up to the very last day of her life and brought her beautiful blue eyes and wonderful smile to share with those around her. She was a woman of quiet courage and strength.

Her memory will live on through her family and friends, of which she had so many. Her presence is sorely missed but we are all thankful for the gift of her life. She will be remembered as one of the kindest, most generous women in Alaska.

Ice Alaska will be dedicating the Enchanted Forest in her name at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds Ice Alaska Sculpture Park. There will be a celebration of life to honor Connie at noon on Aug. 15, 2020, at Chena Hot Springs Resort with lunch and Connie's favorite dessert provided, followed by the Chena Hot Springs Annual Energy Fair on Aug. 16, 2020.

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