MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
DONALD E. HATTIN
1928—2016

Donald E. Hattin, Professor Emeritus of Geology at Indiana University, beloved husband, cherished father, and valued colleague died at age eighty-seven on June 24, 2016, following an acute cerebral hemorrhage.

Don began his college studies in 1946 at the University of Massachusetts, where he soon discovered his love for geology. He graduated with a BS degree in 1950 and headed west to Lawrence, Kansas, where he studied stratigraphy and paleontology at the University of Kansas, earning a master’s degree and then a PhD in 1954 under the tutelage of his mentor, Raymond C. Moore.

Don joined the faculty of Indiana University as an Assistant Professor of Geology in 1954, when the Geology Department was housed in Owen Hall. He taught for one year before being called to active duty during the Korean conflict. He returned to Indiana University in 1957, was named Associate Professor of Geology in 1960, and received tenure and became Professor of Geology in 1967. He continued teaching at IUB until his retirement in 1995. As Professor Emeritus, Don continued to visit his office weekly, collaborated on papers, and maintained a “Rock of the Month” display in the Department of Geological Sciences.

During his career at Indiana University, Don authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications on numerous topics ranging widely across his fields of study. His knowledge of chalk deposits in Cretaceous strata around the world led him to be affectionately known as “Dr. Chalk.” Don was involved in the naming of a fossil genus and thirteen species during his career, and he also had a genus and five species named after him.

He was the recipient of numerous teaching awards, and his students will always remember Don for his irrepressible enthusiasm for geology, which he shared in the lecture hall and while leading adventurous and challenging field courses throughout Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, the Florida Keys, and the Bahamas. Don was especially proud of the establishment of the Donald and Marjorie Hattin Special Field Course Fund. This fund subsidizes students taking non-required geology field courses, and geology students used these funds in 2016 to study in the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania.

Don’s interests were many and his energy legendary. He was a thirty-year volunteer on the French Lick West Baden and Southern Railroad, where he was the fireman on steam locomotive #97, which he lovingly helped to restore. As an active member of The Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants and an avid genealogist, Don was very proud that both he and his wife Margie were Mayflower descendants. Don was also proud of Margie’s Macy ancestry, and published a biography of her grandfather, W. Ferdinand Macy, a notable painter of Nantucket seascapes.

Don’s incredible zest for life touched all who knew him, from his favorite bank tellers and waiters, whose names he always knew, to the legions of former students, colleagues, and lifelong friends he leaves behind. It was frequently said that “Don Hattin could make friends with a fence post.” He was a role model and mentor to all who knew him—a man whose cup was never half full; it was always overflowing. Don’s outlook on life is exemplified by the title of his forthcoming book, “Living the American Dream.”

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