



**Curtis W. Mewbourne**  
**1935 –**  
**Inducted 2017**

Raised on a ranch outside of Shreveport, Louisiana, Curtis Mewbourne decided early on that he wanted to do something more exciting. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 1956 with a degree in petroleum engineering, he was called to duty as an officer in the U.S. Army. When he returned to Texas he worked for others for a few years but ultimately decided to be an independent oil man. In June of 1965, now married and with a family, he made the jump with his last paycheck and formed Mewbourne Oil Company in a one-room office in Dallas. But even in those early days, his focus was on re-investing his cash flow into further development of oil and gas properties. Within 50 years, Mewbourne Oil Company had drilled over 1000 wells in the Permian Basin and 1400 wells in the Anadarko Basin of western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle. Along the way, Curtis invested in another resource – education. His substantial support of the engineering and geosciences programs at the University of Oklahoma provided training that, as late as the 1980s, had come only from work experience with the major oil companies.