



**Wm. Lee Hanley, Jr.**  
**1940 - 2016**  
**Inducted 2015**

In 1893, William Lee Hanley's grandfather started the Hanley Company, a brick manufacturing firm. In order to find supplies of the fuel it needed to fire the kilns, a subsidiary company started the process that would pave the way for Hanley to enter the Permian Basin in the 1950s. The company began the accumulation, exploration, development, and operation of oil and gas properties, primarily in the Spraberry Trend. Lee assumed a leadership position in the company in 1964, eventually becoming chairman and CEO. At that point, he sold the brick manufacturing division and worked to expand the company's oil and gas production. Through numerous booms and busts, Hanley Petroleum has consistently been one of the best Spraberry operators. Hanley foresaw the technological changes that would re-shape the industry and worked to adapt the company's business model to prepare for them. His efforts as an advocate for the oil and gas industry, for the American free enterprise system, and for private property and entrepreneurial rights earned him advisory appointments during the Reagan administration.

