



Dr. Philip E. LaMoreaux, Sr., age 88, died at home on June 23, 2008.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Bunnie LaMoreaux; brother, David of Cleveland, Ohio; children, Philip E. LaMoreaux, Jr. (Rebecca), James W. LaMoreaux (Nicole), and Karen LaMoreaux Bryan (Hobson); grandchildren, Philip E. LaMoreaux, III, (Mary Morgan) of Memphis, Tenn., Thomas LaMoreaux, Helen Schadt of Birmingham, Ala., Elizabeth Gordon (Grant), Nicole LaMoreaux of New York, N.Y., Susan LaMoreaux, Rebecca Searcy, Sara Munro Pasquier (Guillaume) of Paris, France, and Hobson Bryan III; and great grandchild, Rooksby Gordon.

LaMoreaux was born in Chardon, Ohio, May 12, 1920. He graduated from Denison University (B.A., 1943); University of Alabama (M.S., 1949); Honorary Doctor of Science from Denison University (D.Sc., 1972). He occupied a central role in the development of hydrogeology and environmental geology, one of the most dynamic and sought-after disciplines in geology in the world.

He began his career in hydrogeology with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1943. From 1945 to 1958, he was District Geologist of the USGS's Ground Water Office in Alabama. During this time, he became a strong advocate of the Coop Program and developed grass-roots support for Survey activities. LaMoreaux' successes led to an increase in the Alabama's Coop Program from a few thousand dollars to five million annually within 15 years.

In 1954, LaMoreaux provided the Government of Thailand and US AID/Bangkok with recommendations for organizing and training a ground water staff and for expanding ground water exploration and development in the Khorat Plateau of northeastern Thailand. At the request of US AID/Bangkok, LaMoreaux visited the Khorat Plateau in 1961 to review the results of his 1954 recommendations.

In 1958, LaMoreaux was appointed Division Hydrologist in charge of water resources programs in the 14-state mid-continent area, and a year later, became Chief of the Ground Water Branch of the USGS in Washington, D.C. In that capacity he strengthened and improved project management procedures. During his tenure as Branch Chief, he identified hydrologists who showed exceptional promise as leaders, and new procedures, and provided a reservoir of names and information on dates of project completion and, hence, available to each project chief. LaMoreaux, by personal experience and academic training, was acutely aware of the training needed in hydrogeology, and became a leader and active participant in early Ground Water Branch short courses.

In 1961, he was appointed Alabama State Geologist and Oil and Gas Supervisor through the encouragement of Dr. Frank Rose, President of the U of A and Alabama Governor John Patterson. During his 15-year tenure as state geologist, the Alabama State Survey grew to become one of the leading state surveys in the nation. The Survey produced topographic, geologic, minerals, and water resources reports for all the counties in the state. From 1945 to 1983, he also served as adjunct professor in the U of A Geology Department.

In 1959, the United Arab Republic (UAR) created the General Desert Development Authority (GDDA) and requested LaMoreaux' assistance through the USGS and U.S. State Department to design a program of ground water investigations in an area encompassing Kharga, Dakhla, Bahariya, and Farafra Oases, collectively designated as the New Valley of the Western Desert of Egypt.

LaMoreaux was certified as a professional geologist in 14 states and nationally with the American Institute of Professional Geologists; American Institute of Hydrogeologists; the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; and a Senior Fellow of the Geological Societies of London, Thailand, and the Geological Society of America (GSA). He has served as a hydrologist in 31 foreign countries.

In 1976, LaMoreaux incorporated the consulting firm of P.E. LaMoreaux and Associates, Inc. (PELA), serving as President (1970-1987), Chairman of the Board (1987-1990), and Senior Hydrogeologist (1991-2008). In 1983, at the request of the U of A, he accepted the position as Director of the Environmental Institute for Waste Management Studies (EIWMS) and continued in that position until 1989. He obtained

finances and developed and managed the EIWMS, bringing together a "think tank" of leading scientists from ten major universities in the USA. This group produced a series of papers and guidelines that were used as a basis for environmental actions during the early part of the environmental movement in the USA. He also obtained funds to create the Chair of Hydrogeology at the U of A.

In 1986, LaMoreaux was presented the Award for Distinguished Service in Hydrogeology by GSA; in 1990, he was the recipient of the Ian Campbell Award of the American Geological Institute (AGI), given in recognition of singular performance in and contribution to the profession of geology. In 1989, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineers. He received the "Commanders Medal" of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the William B. Heroy Award of AGI, and a gold medal from the Russian Academy of Science. He served as the United States Delegate to the International Hydrogeological Map Commission of the International Union of Geophysics in Ireland, Greece, and France. During 2006, he received the Pillars of West Alabama and the Governor of Alabama's International Trade Excellence Award.

He was an Ex Officio member Alabama Water Improvement Commission now Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Scout Master of Troop 2, Deacon First Presbyterian Church, and long time member of the Black Warrior Boy Scout Council Advisory Board. He was extremely proud to have been the first Boy Scout in America to attain all ranks in scouting from Cub to Eagle. He was a member of the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club and avid promoter of Alabama and the southeast USA, giving hundreds of speeches to civic, social, educational, and religious groups on the importance of geoscience to society, and water, mineral, and energy resources of Alabama and the southeast.

Phil and wife, Bunnie, maintained a rather rigorous travel schedule to conferences around the world. They traveled by elephants in Thailand, camels in Egypt, 4x4, airplane, and boat in America, Asia, and the Middle East. One recent trip of 2000 kilometers circumnavigated the Western Desert of Egypt, the hottest and driest place on earth, to review a large ground water project – bringing artesian water to those who live in this area. Over the years, he has written over 150 technical reports and books. Two recent books include Exodus: Myth, Legend, History and Famous Springs and Bottled Waters of the World. He also co-authored Field Methods for Geologists and Hydrogeologists and Environmental Hydrogeology.

He continued his professional career after retiring as State Geologist, as Editor-in-Chief of the international journal, Environmental Geology, with an international staff from nineteen countries. The journal is published twelve times a year and distributed worldwide to scientists and libraries by Springer-Verlag in Heidelberg, Germany

Nationally and internationally, LaMoreaux contributed to the profession of geology through involvement with major geological societies as President: of AGI, American Association of State Geologists, and IAH; as Chairman of the GSA's Hydrogeology Division and American Geophysical Union's Hydrology Division, Chairman of the Commissions on Karst and on Mineral and Thermal Waters of IAH. He was also Chairman of the Environmental Awareness Committee of AGI and is included in American Men of Science, Who's Who in the Southeast, U.S.A., and Who's Who in America.