

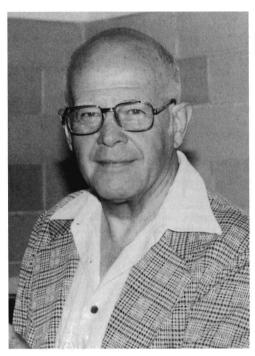
# IN MEMORIAL

# THE SCIENTIFIC LEGACY of WILLIAM FRANCIS TANNER, JR. February 4, 1917–April 9, 2000

Dr. William "Bill" Francis Tanner, Jr., a native of Milledgeville, Georgia, had resided in Tallahassee, Florida, since 1954. He is survived by his wife Julia (Rigby) Tanner, three children, William F. III, Bruce R., Julianne (Talley), and seven grandchildren. Ben Tanner, a grandson, studying at the University of Maine has intentions to follow in his grandfather's footsteps.

W. F. Tanner received his BA in geology from Baylor University in 1937, his MA from Texas Technical College in 1939, and his PhD in geology from the University of Oklahoma in 1953. He worked as an assistant geologist at Baylor University from 1935 to 1937 and at Texas Tech from 1937 to 1939, was the oil editor at the Amarillo Times from 1939 to 1941 and from 1945 to 1946, with the outbreak of WWII he joined the U. S. Navy and was trained as a meteorologist serving with the Navy's meteorological team in Britain where he remained until Allied victory of the European campaign, assistant professor of geology and journalism at Oklahoma Baptist University from 1946 to 1951, special instructor at the University of Oklahoma from 1951 to 1954, and a geologist with Shell Oil Company in 1954. He came to Florida State University in 1954 where he served as visiting lecturer in geology from 1954 to 1956, Associate Professor from 1956 to 1974, and as Regents Professor in Geology from 1974 until he retired in 1994. Even after retiring, he continued to teach at Florida State University as Regents Professor Emeritus, a task to which he was devoted throughout his career, and one in which he had the reputation for being organized, fair, thorough, thought-provoking, and inspiring. In 1997, while continuing his association with the Department of Geological Sciences at Florida State University, he joined the staff of the Florida Geological Survey as resident Visiting Senior Research Scientist where he remained conducting research until his death.

Bill Tanner was a Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Geological Society of America (GSA), Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (SEPM), International Association of Sedimentology (IAS), and the American Geophysical Union (AGU). He was chairman of the 1963 SEPM interdisciplinary Inter-Society Grain Size Study Committee which established sedimentologic standards that today remain the basis for granulometry. He was not content with merely describing characteristics of sediments, but with discovering the forces (e.g., eolian and hydraulic) which define the transporting mechanisms and depositional conditions. These he applied to ancient sedimentologic deposits, often contrasting with existing



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description of their actual geologic history. His transpo-depositional discoveries were based on a data base of some 1,100 sediment samples from many transpo-depositional environments analyzed over the years. He thereby developed a concerted interest in complicated wave and current coastal and fluvial processes, and also correlated such considerations to Holocene sea level changes from beach ridge granulometric results. He was particularly proud of William F. Tanner on Environmental Clastic Granulometry, a 1995 compilation published by the Florida Geological Survey. Sedimentology, as shall be evident, was but one teaching and research interest. He was the recipient of a multitude of lecturing accolades. From 1972 to 1990 he organized, hosted and published nine Symposia on Coastal Sedimentology totaling some 2,500 pages of research results, and founded and was Editor-in-Chief of Coastal Research, a quarterly mini-journal, from 1962 until his eyesight was impaired in 1998. Even with such impairment he continued to conduct research. On October 19, 1999 he suffered a stroke and was confined to bed under hospital care. Even so he continued dictating work for publication during his last several months. He is listed in World Who's Who in Science and American Men and Women of Science.

During his 62-year professional career he taught courses including sedimentology, stratigraphy, field methods and field camp, structural geology, aerial photographic interpre-

tation, modelling theory, coastal geology, glaciology and climate change, subsurface geological methods, and was proficiently conversant in German and Spanish and translated from Greek, Russian, and French to English. He instructed many hundreds of undergraduate students, supervised as major professor and was mentor to over 50 Masters and Doctoral students, and served on countless graduate committees. He amassed over 400 professional publications, and was an accomplished computer programmer assembling many analytical tools and numerical models. His research interests overwhelm even the accomplished professional.

W. F. Tanner conducted and published research on a wide variety of subjects including: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC IN-TERPRETATION—general applications, strike and dip, sinkholes: GEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE— Noah's flood, Exodus from Egypt, Indian mounds, etc.; CLI-MATOLOGY—atmospheric change, glaciology, Holocene sea level changes, hurricanes, Little Ice Age, morphologic changes, wave climates; COASTAL GEOLOGY-ABC numerical model, ancient shorelines and wave environments, beach ridges and beach ridge plains, beachrock, barrier islands, breaking waves, cheniers, coastal classification, corals, equilibrium profiles, dating, erosion, gravel beaches, hurricane impacts, inlets, lagoons, Langmuir cells, littoral cells, longterm beach changes and mapping shorelines, offshore wave characteristics, origin of the Gulf of Mexico, perched barriers, ripple marks, Sabellarids, SCUBA field methods, sea level rise, sediment transport, springs, storm ridges, the surf break, terraces, transverse bars, wave refraction, wave energy, zero-energy coasts, etc.; DRILLING-subsurface methods and oil prospects; FLUVIAL GEOLOGY-bed roughness, friction factors, equilibrium profiles, helicoidal flow, hydrology, oxbows, spiral flow, etc.; HYDROLOGY-Froude and Reynolds number studies, Langmuir circulation, micro-velocity meter, spiral and surge flow, shear velocity, von Karman vortex trails, etc.; GEOLOGICAL TEACHING METHODS: GLACIOLOGY—causes, climate change, moraines, post-glacial emergence, etc.; GEOMORPHOLOGY AND PALEOGE-OGRAPHY-hydraulics, lagoons, reefs, seamounts, slope retreat, terraces, etc.; SEDIMENTOLOGY—analytical methods, bed load transport, composite statistics, cross-bedding, deltas, dunes, eolian ripple marks and deposits, facies changes, filtering, fluvial sediments, granulometry, heavy minerals, gravels, lacustrine environments, pediments, moment measures, ripple marks, sieving vs settling, sorting, splitting error, suite statistics, truncation, etc.; SOILS; PLANETARY GEOLOGY; STRATIGRAPHY, FORMATION AND LITHO-LOGIC STUDIES—many field studies, desilification, gypsum, limestone, sandstone, unconsolidated sediments, time record, etc. STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND TECTONICS continental drift, crushed pebbles and conglomerates, diapirs, deep sea trenches, earthquakes, faulting, geosynclines, geothermal exploration, grabens, island arcs, plasticity, rheology, strike and dip, synclines, tension, etc. His studies were conducted in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands, Asia, and many ocean basins.

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