

George V. Chilingarian
(in honor of the 75th birthday)



Professor George V. Chilingarian was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1929. He finished high school with honors in Tehran, Iran. In the middle 1940s, the family of the future scientist immigrated to the United States of America. There, George enrolled at the University of Southern California. In 1949, he earned a BE degree in petroleum engineering, followed by an MS degree the next year, in the same field. In 1954, he received a PhD in geology with a minor in petroleum engineering.

George V. Chilingarian enlisted in the US Air Force and served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where he was Chief of the Petroleum and Chemical Laboratories. After his service in the Air Force, he returned to the University of Southern California as an Assistant Professor in petroleum engineering. Soon he became Professor and, in 1965, Chairman of the Petroleum Engineering Department. In 1990, he was invited by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to teach courses in the environmental engineering and petroleum engineering programs.

George V. Chilingarian much contributed to the geoscience of oil and gas. Of particular importance are his works in the field of geology of petroleum reservoirs, petrophysics, sedimentology, and petroleum engineering. His publications on geology of carbonate reservoirs of the Gulf and South American countries are well known in the world. He is the author of 53 books and 500 papers on problems of geology, ecology, and petroleum engineering. His works have been translated into many languages, including Russian and Chinese. At the verge of millenium, he co-operated with famous Russian oil geologist N.A. Eremenko to publish a wonderful monograph in the Russian, where he has analyzed achievements of petroleum geology in the 20th century and has predicted its progress in the 21st century.

George V. Chilingarian founded two scientific journals: *Energy Sources* and *Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering*. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Russian Geology and Geophysics*.

George V. Chilingarian was following the progress of Russian geology very carefully. He contributed much to popularization of the most important achievements of Soviet and Russian geosciences in the USA and other western countries. On his initiative, many Russian works were translated into the English and issued in the USA. In particular, he promoted the publication of three volumes of *Principles of Lithogenesis* by N.M. Strakhov and

Petroleum Geology Handbook edited by N.A. Eremenko, which had won international recognition. Noteworthy, he acted under conditions of cold war, and his sympathy for Soviet science was often disapproved by the regime.

George V. Chilingarian was the first American petroleum geologist elected to the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is also a member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences and the International Academy of Engineering. Also, he is President of the US branches of the Armenian Academy of Engineering and the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

George V. Chilingarian never stopped collaborating with the US Air Force. He has recruited for the Air Force Academy and USAF ROTC. He established the Chilingar Medal for outstanding USAF cadets and instructors at USC.

George V. Chilingarian has been honored with over 100 awards and medals from various nations, including Iran, Thailand, Honduras, Armenia, etc. In his numerous travels around the world, including South America and Asia, he has been an international ambassador of goodwill for the University of Southern California and a champion of the American model of higher education.

He has been the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Honduras for 20 years and has endowed fellowships for Honduras students in environmental engineering at USC.

Professor Chilingarian and his wife Yelba have three children. They are proud of a daughter, Eleanor, and two sons, Modesto and Mark.

We cordially wish George V. Chilingarian many happy returns of the day.

*N.L. Dobretsov, A.E. Kontorovich, N.P. Laverov, D.V. Rundkvist, N.V. Sobolev,
M.D. Belonin, N.P. Zapivalov, and S.G. Neruchev*