



Kenneth N. Weaver
State Geologist and Director
Maryland Geological Survey
1927 - 2010

Kenneth Weaver was born on January 16, 1927 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and was the first member of his family to attend college, where he was first exposed to the field of geology. As he later said, finding geology opened a new world to him, one that was to be studied and discovered and in which he could begin to explore the dynamics of the earth's creation and evolution. This fascination led to a fulfilling career in geology marked by many achievements, recognitions and awards.

Ken earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Franklin and Marshall College in 1950, and a Master's and Doctorate degrees in geology from The Johns Hopkins University in 1952 and 1954, respectively. During his graduate education period he gained experience as a geologist working for Bethlehem Steel and the Chesapeake Bay Institute, but his career advancement was interrupted when he was conscripted into the Army for two years upon completion of his graduate studies. Returning to the world of geology Ken worked for the Medusa Corporation from 1956 until 1963 where he served as geologist and manager of the Geology and Quarry Department.

In 1963 Ken moved his family, wife Mary and children Wendy and Matt, to Baltimore to accept the job of State Geologist and Director of the Maryland Geological Survey. The Survey had just recently become independent of, but was still located on, the campus of The Johns Hopkins University, amid a growing recognition that the Survey focus on the needs of the State. Ken immediately set about to diligently plan and implement a vision for the future which ultimately divested the Survey of its regulatory functions while expanding its role and areas of scientific expertise. Ken served as Director for 29 years, until his retirement from state service in 1992, longer than any previous State Geologist. During that time the Survey grew from a staff of two geologists, a clerk and administrator when Ken arrived to over 60 at its peak.

Under his leadership the Survey developed into a respected service unit of the Department of Natural Resources providing the scientific basis for informed decisions regarding ground and surface waters, mineral and aggregate resources, and sediment transport among other issues. He guided the development of strong programs in environmental geology, mineral resources, geohydrology, coastal and estuarine geology, and archeology. Ken was very proud of the people in the Survey and the excellent work they produced, and those feelings were returned by his co-workers. In recognition of his 29 years of dedicated service to the people of the state, The Maryland Board of Public Works renamed Bennett Hall, the home of the Maryland Geological Survey, the Kenneth N. Weaver Building on September 28, 1994.

Ken was also well known and widely respected in the larger geosciences community and was the recipient of numerous national honors and awards. He was an active member of the Geological Society of America, the Association of American State Geologists, the American Association for the

Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, the Geological Society of Washington and the American Water Resources Association. He frequently chaired or generously gave his time and efforts to over thirty different committees, task forces, boards and commissions on both the state and national level. In the AASG he served on a number of committees as well as being elected Vice-President and President. In all of his work on committees and with various state, regional and federal groups he exhibited outstanding diplomacy, a cooperative spirit, and achieved significant results. He was held in high by all who knew and worked with him.

In recognition of his service to the geologic community, Ken received numerous awards during his career. These included the Ian Campbell Medal for Superlative Service to the Geosciences from the American Geological Institute; the Cohee Public Service Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Presidential Certificate of Merit and the Martin Van Couvering Award from the American Institute of Professional Geologists, and the John Wesley Powell Award, U.S. Geological Survey.

Ken retired as Director of the Maryland Geological Survey in 1992 having left behind a lasting legacy and memory amongst his co-workers, fellow geologists, and many associates within and outside of the geologic community.