



## Stuart Hanson

March 22, 1945 - June 3, 2018

Stuart “Stu” Hanson, 73, passed away on Sunday, June 3, 2018. Born in Minneapolis, MN, to Donald and Bonnie Hanson nee’ Murphy, he was the oldest of five children. They moved to the Chicago, IL, area before the birth of his siblings. He graduated from Maine Township High School East in 1967, having lettered in wrestling. He graduated from Michigan State with his bachelor’s degree in Geology. He enlisted in the US Army upon graduation and served in Vietnam, where he earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Upon his return, Stu went back to Michigan State and earned his master’s degree in Geology. He moved to Roswell, NM, with his wife at the time, Mary, in 1972, and had 2 children, Christian and Caroline. He started his own consulting Geologist business and went on to jointly form Siete Oil & Gas, followed by Olympic Oil & Gas. He worked for the State of New Mexico before his retirement.

Stu had many different hobbies and interests over the years. He enjoyed welding, metalworking, hunting, fishing, cooking, crossword puzzles, and beating Jeopardy every chance he got. He was an active member of the Elks Lodge 969 and a Shriner. He was a voracious reader and loved to learn constantly. He had a quick wit, a dry sense of humor, and a giving nature. Those closest to him knew he would offer the shirt off his back. He firmly believed the maxim that if you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.

Preceding Stuart in death are his parents, Donald and Bonnie Hanson; his

brother, Scott Hanson; his sister, Laurie Hanson-Cook; and his beloved dog, Norb the Norbrador. He is survived by his son, Christian Hanson of Albuquerque, NM; his daughter, Caroline Taylor and son-in-law, Sean Taylor both of Brentwood, CA; his grandson, Alex Taylor; his granddaughter, Evelyn Taylor; his brother, Grant Hanson and sister-in-law, Jennifer Hanson; his brother, Bruce Hanson and sister-in-law, Lisa Gillard; his nephew, Brian Hanson; his nephew, Timothy Hanson; his niece, Kristen Sheehan, and his niece, Sara Mahoney.

Stuart will be interred at General Douglas McBride Veteran's Cemetery on Monday, June, 11, 2018, at 11:00 AM. Celebrate Stuart's life by visiting [www.andersonbethany.com](http://www.andersonbethany.com) to offer a favorite memory or expression of sympathy for his family.

This Obituary Tribute was lovingly written by Stu's family.

"The time has come," the Walrus said,

"To talk of many things:

Of shoes- and ships- and sealing wax-

Of cabbages- and kings-

And why the sea is boiling hot-

And whether pigs have wings."

-Lewis Carroll

# Tribute Wall

PC

“Stuart was one of a kind. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, despite having a Bachelor's Degree in Geology, at the time. He served as a Staff Sergeant (E-6) in Vietnam, during the 1960s. Stuart later, earned a Master's Degree in Geology. He was one of the smartest people, I have ever known. I enjoyed watching Jeopardy with Stu, at the Roswell Elks Lodge. RIP Good Friend.

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**Patrick Colligan** - May 09, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“Stuart Hanson

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December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM

GH

“It is with great sadness that I learned of Stu's passing. I consider him as both a good friend and a close associate. It was very satisfying to me to be associated with Stu in several geological ventures. I treasure his astute insight and his vast knowledge of our shared profession. His legacy as a Geologist will be truly appreciated for some time.

Gerri Harrington

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**Gerald E. Harrington** - June 12, 2018 at 04:43 PM

KH

“ *I only knew Stu a few short years, but I feel as if I have known him for a lifetime. Stu was one of the smartest, finest and loyal person I have been privileged to know. He is also the only person I have known who could do the New York Times Crossword Puzzle in ink. We could talk geology or come up with oddball stories and jokes. Simply put. Stu was my friend and he will be missed.*

*Vita mutatur, non tollitur---Life is altered, not taken*

*Ken Hodgson  
Roswell, New Mexico*

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**ken hodgson** - June 10, 2018 at 12:30 PM

“*Stu was named for my mother’s brother, Stuart Murphy, and our father, Donald Hanson. He was father to two great children, Christian and Caroline, and grandfather to two more, Alexander and Evelyn. His loss is mourned by his family and friends alike, and the memory of him and example he set will never fade from the hearts of those who were lucky enough to know him.*

*I guess the circumstances of his and my relationship were uncommon. He was the oldest of our parents’ five children, and I am the youngest; we were born 19 years apart. Because of that fact, we never truly lived in the same house: when I was born, he was already off at college, and on to the start of his adult life. While he and I eventually shared many likes and personality traits, and got along quite well when our disparate lives allowed us the chance to interact, we were also in many ways strangers to each other. It has often been difficult to reconcile this, or explain it to others. He once said to me in a quiet moment at a family gathering a few years ago, “you and I just kind of missed one another.” But that was just the way it was for us, and we did the best we could.*

*Upon completing his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University in 1967, he enlisted in the United States Army for duty in Vietnam. His rationale was threefold:*

*(1) Patriotism — The Vietnam War was not yet generally regarded by the American public as what it would eventually be recognized as, and Stu saw this war as his war to fight for his country, just as World War II was our father’s war to fight.*

*(2) Self-determination — at the time, no able-bodied young man of our family’s socioeconomic level could expect to escape being drafted. Stu wanted to serve at the time of his own choosing, rather than that of the government’s, be done with it, and continue on with his education and life.*

*(3) Brotherly love — Stu had two brothers close in age to him, Scott*

*and Grant, both of whom were or would soon be of draft-eligible age. Stu reasoned that his service in active combat might spare his younger brothers the same fate.*

*While serving in Vietnam, Stu was exposed to Agent Orange, the chemical defoliant used by United States forces against the North Vietnamese which was known even at the time of its use by its manufacturer (though hidden from public knowledge) to be the direct cause of serious health problems to anyone exposed to it. This exposure and its ensuing detriments — which were acknowledged by the US government long after the fact — contributed to myriad health problems throughout the rest of his life. He bore these problems with stoicism, nevertheless remaining rightfully proud in his service to his country.*

*And so much of his life was great. He resided in a part of the country replete with a natural splendor he loved. He was a highly-regarded geologist, recognized worldwide to be an expert in his field. He was intellectually gifted and curious, finding truth and beauty in science and art. And you wish you could complete a crossword puzzle as quickly as he could.*

*He had the opportunity in his later years to spend much quality time with his two grandchildren, whom he adored and who adored him. He had great dogs in his life — to hear him talk about Windy or Norb was to hear a man who recognized that the best souls come to us in canine form. He had a devilishly dry sense of humor, and could quote Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons verbatim. He would call me on holidays, and, when an awkwardness would occasionally stymie the conversation, he would simply say to me, “love you, brother.”*

*No one is perfect, and life is often hard. But whether it's rest or oblivion that follows, whatever is to come comes, and with it, the hope that pain recedes and profound connection abides.*

*Love you, brother.*

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**Bruce Hanson** - June 09, 2018 at 03:11 AM

YM

“ *Yolanda Mendiola lit a candle in memory of Stuart Hanson*



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**Yolanda Mendiola** - June 07, 2018 at 01:39 PM

GH

“ *Stu, we are all going to miss you. Your knowledge was amazing! Anyone that would do the crossword puzzles in pen was one of a kind. Enjoy your time with others as smart as you, if there are any!*

*Most of all, thank you for your service to our country. God speed my friend!*

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**Gina Gruben Hornbeck** - June 06, 2018 at 05:37 PM

KH

“ *My Friend you were a one of a Kind I will miss you dearly, god speed, my friend, A true friend has passed and the world will never be the same.*



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**Kenny Holdeman** - June 05, 2018 at 04:19 PM