



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

Donald Parker Elston, '44

June 27, 1926 - February 14, 2006



One year cadet, Private "D" Company.

"Snort," one of our happy-go-lucky new cadets, can always be counted on for a laugh at any time. His great success here at A.M.A. was making many friends. If he continues this it will take him anywhere in life. So-long, "Snort," and good luck.

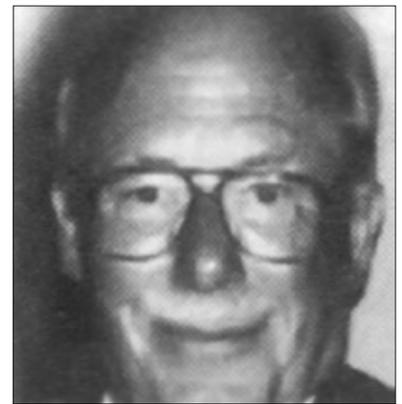
Donald Parker Elston, formerly of Flagstaff, died Feb. 14, 2006, in Tucson.

He was born June 17, 1926, in Chicago to the late Joseph Parker and Helene Quif) Elston. He graduated from Augusta Military Academy, Staunton, Va., in 1944 and enlisted in the Army.

After spending 18 months in France and Germany, he was discharged in 1946. He was married to Shirley (Lefebvre) on Sept. 2, 1947. He attended Syracuse University and received his bachelor's degree in 1950 and his master's degree in science in 1951. He was recalled to active duty as an officer in June 1951 and spent six months in Korea before being relieved in October 1952.

His career as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey began in May 1953. He spent five years as a member of the Colorado Plateau Uranium Project in Grand Junction, Colo., before being transferred to the fuels branch in Denver. He joined the Astrogeologic Studies Group (forerunner to the Branch of Astrogeology), Menlo Park, Calif., in February 1962 and moved with the branch to Flagstaff in July 1963.

In Flagstaff, Mr. Elston trained the Apollo astronauts in geologic observations of the moon. He attended the University of Arizona from 1965 to 1968, receiving his PhD in 1968. After the Apollo program ended, he spent time in many branches of the USGS



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and had geologic projects in the Grand Canyon, including 20-plus research river trips and other times when he rowed the Colorado River in either a 22-foot "snout" boat or a 15-foot inflatable.

He traveled to Montana, Idaho and other western states and had cooperative foreign projects in Puerto Rico, Hungary, Poland, the former U.S.S.R. and Siberia, China, Africa and an NSF project in Antarctica.

He also held a private pilot's license.

He retired from the USGS in 1991, but continued geologic studies until his death. Upon retiring, he observed that he had spent almost 40 years doing something he loved and actually got paid for it.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; four children, Geoffrey (Elizabeth), Jay (Cheryl), Janet and Karen (Stanley) Davis; three grandchildren; and his sister Mary Riter.

A celebration of life will be June 17 at 2 p.m. in the conference room of Building No. 3 at the USGS compound, Gemini Drive, Flagstaff. All friends and colleagues are invited to attend.

An interview published in a USGS publication can be found at

https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1190/of2005-1190_appendix_a.pdf

Beginning on page 95, Don highlights much of his time in the US Army during the Korean War.