

Dewey Follett Bartlett, Sr., was born in Marietta, Ohio, in 1919 to David and Jessie Bartlett. Dewey graduated from Princeton University in 1942 with a degree in geological engineering. While at Princeton, Dewey played varsity basketball for three years and was class president. Fittingly for the future of the family business, his senior thesis was "Water-Flooding an Oil Formation".

Upon graduating from Princeton, he served in the Marine Corps during World War II as a dive-bomber pilot, where he conducted numerous raids on Japanese targets in the South Pacific, earning him an Air Medal award for outstanding combat duty. After the war Dewey moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to take over the reins of Keener Oil and Gas Company, the company his father had started in the early 1900s.

It seems that Dewey was destined to be an oilman, along with being involved with ranching, farming, and eventually politics. His father,

David A. Bartlett, had originally conducted operations in Titusville, Pennsylvania, but on a trip to Bartlesville and Tulsa in 1902 he recognized the opportunities of the new oil and gas frontier and eventually based Keener Oil and Gas Company in Tulsa. The company became heavily involved in oil and gas operations in Creek, Tulsa, and Washington Counties and grew from there. Dewey spent his college summers of 1940 and 1941 roughnecking in the Oklahoma oil fields around Bartlesville. Under Dewey's leadership, Keener Oil Company's successful discovery in the Simpson 2nd

Wilcox formation in Seminole County, Oklahoma, during the 1960s and 1970s set off a mini-boom of exploration activity in that area. Today Keener Oil and Gas Company is owned and run by Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr., and Dewey F. Bartlett, III, thus continuing the Bartlett legacy of oil and gas exploration and production in Oklahoma. Keener's exploration philosophy remains utilizing consistent and sensible geology based upon sound principles without undue risk.

Dewey F. Bartlett, Sr., was indeed much more than an oilman. In 1960 Dewey became interested in politics and was elected to the Oklahoma Senate from Tulsa County in 1962. In 1966 he was elected the 19th Governor of Oklahoma, serving one term from 1967-1971 with a focus on jobs creation and education. Dewey ran the state in a business-like manner, believing that running a state government was like running his own company.



DEWEY F. BARTLETT, SR.

HISTORICAL LEGEND
(1919 - 1979)



In 1972 Dewey successfully ran for the United States Senate, where he served for six years. He adamantly promoted the virtues of the free-market system and was a brilliant spokesman for America's oil and gas industry. As a successful oilman, Dewey used every opportunity to champion free enterprise in the oil industry. He chided the federal government for too closely controlling America's oil production.

Dewey Bartlett, Sr., married Ann Smith in 1945, and they had three children: Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr., Michael and Joanie. Son Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr., served as mayor of Tulsa from 2009-2016 and continues to run Keener Oil and Gas Company with his son Dewey Bartlett III.

Dewey Bartlett, Sr., was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1978, the Oklahoma Air Space Hall of Fame in 1986, the Oklahoma CareerTech Hall of Fame in 1990, and in 2006 Congress passed a bill renaming the U. S. Post Office in Tulsa in his honor. In 1976 Dewey began having health problems, was diagnosed with lung cancer, left the Senate in October 1978, and passed away in March 1979, but his legacy lives on.

For his outstanding career in oil and gas exploration, and his many years of dedicated service to the people of Oklahoma, it is with great pleasure that the Directors of the Oklahoma Geological Foundation present Dewey F. Bartlett, Sr., as a Historical Legend for 2021.

A CAMPAIGN QUOTE FROM DEWEY
WAS: "A LEADER IS A MAN WHO
KNOWS WHAT NEEDS TO BE
DONE, AND THEN GETS IT DONE."

