



Tor Brekke (1934-2009)

Tor L. Brekke, renowned tunnelling expert and U.C. Berkeley professor emeritus, passed away on March 6, 2009, at his home in Berkeley, Calif.

Born March 3, 1934, this Norwegian immigrant exemplified the American dream. A Bohemian Club member, he enjoyed life to the fullest and showered those around him with love and respect.

As a professional engineer, Dr. Brekke influenced projects in many countries of the world and most major tunnelling projects in the United States, impacting on hydropower plants, dams, highways, railroads, and mining projects. As an educator, he considered his greatest achievement to be the accomplishments of his students.

A past chairman of the US. National Committee of Tunnelling Technology, Tor was a member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He authored or co-authored more than 85 publications and in 2008, was recipient of the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award presented by the U.S. Underground Construction Association.

His professional success was only surpassed by his kindness as a husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Joyce, sons Tor and Gunnar, daughter-in-law Carolina, and grandchildren Naomi and Monica, all of whom adored him.

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