Memorial to Gus H. Goudarzi
1918–1996
C. ERVIN BROWN
10608 Good Spring Avenue, Great Falls, VA 22066
With Contributions from Olga Goudarzi, Eugene C. Robertson,
Donald A. Brobst, Frank G. Lesure, Nancy Lesure, and Mary Stricker

Gus Goudarzi died unexpectedly on May 29, 1996, at his home in Brooksville, Florida, at the age of 78. With his passing, the geologic profession lost a member with vast experience in mineral deposits of many parts of the world. He began his career as a miner and went on to do important geological research on four continents: Africa, Asia, and North and South America. Gus willingly undertook many responsibilities and served with skill and distinction. His management and leadership skills were well demonstrated in the domestic arena when he supervised the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mineral Resource Assessment Program of Wilderness Areas. He was a good friend to his colleagues and is sorely missed.

Gus Hossein Goudarzi was born in Tehran, Iran, on March 27, 1918. He attended the Montana School of Mines on a scholarship from the American University of Tehran, graduating in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science in mining engineering, followed in 1941 by a Master’s degree in geological engineering.

During his college days, he mined for the Anaconda Copper Company in Butte, Montana. Following graduation, he continued working for Anaconda as a sampler, then as a mining engineer, and, in 1949–1950, as an underground supervisor. While a sampler at the Anselmo mine he worked with two future colleagues at the USGS, Harold Kirkemo and Eugene Robertson. A close friendship kindled there between Harold and Gus, which continued throughout their lives.

An enlistment in the U.S. Navy interrupted his geologic work from 1944 to 1946, when he was an aerial photographer in the South Pacific war zone. While in the Navy, he met Olga Mae Crutchfield, a Navy WAVE, at a bowling alley in Pensacola, Florida. At a “Sailors vs. the WAVES” tournament, Gus told Olga he would teach her to bowl over 200. In September 1944 they were married, and Olga said that within a year they were both bowling over 200. Gus was a sailor who lived up to his line. He often said that his most significant achievement was marrying Olga, who successfully raised a family with him despite many moves and life in exotic places, at times under difficult circumstances.

Gus joined the USGS in 1951 and for many years was assigned to work on foreign programs. He served one year in Ghana, two years in Saudi Arabia, eight years in Libya, and two years in Bahia, Brazil, before completing his career in domestic programs. His work in Libya resulted in publication of USGS Professional Paper 660, Geology and Mineral Resources of Libya, which was used as the textbook for the geology of Libya by Libyan universities for many years. He was the first to note oil seeps in Libya in 1957, and his maps and reports with Louis Conant and J. P. Smith aided greatly in developing the Libyan oil fields. Gus also discovered a three-billion-ton iron deposit in Libya. His discussion of nonmetallic mineral resources of Libya...
in Professional Paper 660 was selected for publication in the Benchmark Papers in Geology in 1975. His foreign work resulted in the discovery and delineation of other mineral deposits, including a major low-grade gold deposit in Ghana, and deposits of silver, copper, lead, and zinc in Saudi Arabia. Gus was internationally recognized as an administrator for his work with the governments and geological communities of Brazil, Ghana, Libya, and Saudi Arabia.

Gus did research not only in the international geological arena, but also in the United States. From 1963 to 1968, he mapped and published seven 7-1/2’ quadrangles in the Western Kentucky coal basin. As a USGS representative to the Office of Minerals Policy, he helped to produce the Department of the Interior 1971–1972 Mineral Policy Report. From 1973 to 1978 he researched and compiled for publication a geologic map of South America at a scale of 1:15,000,000 and an accompanying series of six maps showing metallic mineral deposits of South America. He researched and published data on the supply of mineral raw materials for the U.S. energy industries and served on the Materials Advisory Board for the National Academy of Sciences. He also participated in Department of Defense workshops for strategic minerals.

As Deputy Chief, Office of Mineral Resources of the USGS, Gus managed, coordinated, and had the fiscal responsibility for a multimillion-dollar program to evaluate the mineral resource potential of about 50 million acres designated or considered for withdrawal as wilderness areas. Assessment activities included geological, geochemical, and geophysical surveys and publication of the results that are summarized in the two volumes of Professional Paper 1300. He was responsible for the management of these activities in the USGS and for coordination with related studies in the Bureau of Mines, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Gus briefed congressional delegates during the preparation of wilderness legislation and appeared as a technical expert at hearings.

Although his training and experience were mainly concerned with resources of metals, Gus developed a keen interest in industrial minerals. He attended several symposia on industrial minerals and helped organize some of them. It was at such a symposium in Albany, New York, that I became well acquainted with both Gus and Olga.

Gus was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of the Geological Society of Washington, D.C., the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (a member society of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers), the Kentucky Geological Society, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, and the Exploration Society of Libya.

Gus received the Superior Performance and Meritorious Service awards of the Department of the Interior in recognition of his loyal and capable service. In 1984 the Washington, D.C., section of the Society of Mining Engineers (SME) presented him with the Herbert Hoover Award, and in 1986 he was honored by the SME as a Distinguished Member. Probably his most cherished award was an honorary degree presented in 1980 by his alma mater, the Montana School of Mines.

After retirement from the USGS in March 1985, he enjoyed playing tennis and golf with Olga and friends and moved from Virginia to Florida so that he could enjoy these activities with other USGS retirees year-round. He was a member of the Glen Lakes Golf and Country Club. Gus and Olga annually traveled in their RV to visit friends and relatives, and in 1992 they drove to Alaska and returned with their RV by boat from Skagway.

Gus is survived by his wife Olga, and four children: Harold (of California), Lessly (of Virginia), Paul (of New Hampshire), and Dianne (of Ohio), and seven grandchildren. He has two brothers, Amir (of Maryland) and Saeed (of England), and two sisters, Poori Tolooee (of Texas) and Sakhi Zahedi (of Iran).
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF G. H. GOUDARZI

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