

In Memoriam

Otis W. Templer



Otis W. Templer Jr., 84, passed away on May 8, 2018 at Carillon House. He was born in Crystal City, Texas, and had lived in Lubbock for the past 49 years. He married Josephine Parks in Dallas. She preceded him in death. His survivors include a brother, a son and four daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was a member of First United Methodist Church.

He was valedictorian of his high school class and an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Texas A&M

University in 1954, and then served as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army.

In 1959, he received a J.D. degree from the University of Texas, School of Law and practiced law for several years in Central Texas. He returned to graduate school at Southern Methodist University, earning a master's degree in 1964, and later a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1969.

He was the first permanent professor of Geography hired at Texas Tech and was among the founders of the Department of Geography. He came to Texas Tech as an Assistant Professor of Geography in 1968, and was promoted through the ranks to Professor in 1978, and he taught at the university for over 45 years. He served as chairman of the Department of Geography for 15 years until 1994. He retired from full-time teaching in 2001 and continued teaching part-time until 2015. Almost everyone with a Bachelor's degree in Geography from Texas Tech has had a class with Dr. Templer.

If you would like to remember Dr. Templer and acknowledge his many contributions to the geography program, the department and the university, his family suggests memorial contributions to the [Otis and Josephine Templer Geography Scholarship Endowment](#).