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Editor's Letter



Joseph W. Berg Jr., a long-time member of the Science Service Board of Trustees, died on November 14. His lengthy career in geophysics included research, teaching, and directing the Office of Earth Sciences (now the Board on Earth Sciences) of the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council.

“Joe served Science Service with energy and dedication for 22 years as a trustee,” says Thomas Peter Bennett, president of Science Service. “Joe had the respect and admiration of all the trustees. His cheerful disposition and ‘get it done’ attitude were an inspiration to all of us.”

During his career, Berg taught at universities including the

University of Utah and Oregon State University. He was also a geophysicist with the Institute for Defense Analyses, a consultant to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Geological Survey, and a lecturer for the American Geophysical Union.

His research activities included exploration geophysics, earthquake and explosion seismology, earth crustal and mantle structure, and marine geophysics.

Berg served as president of the Seismological Society of America and of the Potomac Geophysical Society and as chairman of the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Geophysical Union. He was also a fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

Berg received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics in 1947 from the University of Georgia and a master's degree and doctorate in geophysics in 1952 and 1954 from Pennsylvania State University. “He will be greatly missed by all,” Bennett says.

—Julie Ann Miller