



## Darrell Eugene Munson

January 18, 1933 - January 17, 2014

Darrell Eugene Munson was born January 18, 1933 at the General Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the height of the Great Depression. The son of Kirsten (Kate) Josefine (Nelson) and Goliath Johannes (Jack) Munson, joined three siblings: two sisters, Alma Jacqueline and Selma Maxine, and a half brother, Fred Nelson Oberg. Darrell graduated from Rapid City High School in 1950, at age 17, with honors. He received a Scholarship to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology where he completed his undergraduate work. He then attended Stanford University where he completed his doctorate work. Darrell has a PhD and MS in Physical Metallurgy (Materials Science) granted in 1960 from Stanford University and a BS granted in 1954 in Process Metallurgy by the South Dakota School of Mines. Darrell was an Assistant Professor of Metallurgy at Washington State University for two years before joining Sandia National Laboratories in 1961. He retired from Sandia in 2003 after nearly 42 years. Thereafter, he was in succession a consultant, employed by COMFORCE, and then Sandia Staffing Alliance in support of programs at Sandia. Darrell was a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Sandia National Labs. While at Sandia, Darrell has worked in two distinct areas: the latest based on mineral rock salt behavior and the earlier based on shock wave physics. The latest work involved extensive efforts as a part of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Program. In retirement, Darrell volunteered for several community entities, including the Museum of Natural History and Science. Darrell was a devoted father to Michael and his wife, Jennifer, of

Houston, TX, Geoffrey and his wife, Jennifer Giles, of Flower Mound, TX, and Michele McCormick of Albuquerque. He was a cherished grandfather of Cameron, Caden, Tyler McCormick, Colton, Brecken McCormick and Camille. Although Darrell had a special fondness for Albuquerque, his beloved home is and always will be Rapid City, South Dakota. He talked about the Black Hills and his childhood memories often. In lieu of flowers please donate to: New Mexico Natural History Museum <http://www.naturalhistoryfoundation.org/membership-donate/> or South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Foundation <http://foundation.sdsmt.edu/page.aspx?pid=288>

# Cemetery Details

## Mountain View Cemetery

Rapid City, SD

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 21. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

(505) 275-3500

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

## Celebration of Life

JAN 21. 1:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

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# Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Darrell Eugene Munson*



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**FRENCH Funerals & Cremations** - January 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *My deep felt condolences goes out the family of Darrell, He left a lasting impact on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and me with his magnificent ability to mathematically model salt dome oil storage cavities. He was my Sandia mentor when I came to work with the SPR. He even came to visit me in 1998 when I was hospitalized due to injuries resulting from a bicycle accident. Great sense of humor.*

*Robert Myers (SPR emeritus)*

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**Robert Myers** - January 23, 2014 at 08:43 AM

MA

“ *Darell's candor and wit will be missed. His passing will be a void in today's and tomorrow's world.*

*Mariano P. Apodaca*

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**Mariano Apodaca** - January 22, 2014 at 03:36 PM

RR

“ You will be missed greatly at Faith Lutheran Church. You were a good friend and a great human being. Love Ray & Teresa Richardson

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**Ray Richardson** - January 21, 2014 at 12:13 PM

CE

“ City Council Staff & Employees purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Darrell Eugene Munson.



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**City Council Staff & Employees** - January 21, 2014 at 09:10 AM

JT

“ My heart goes out to all of you in Darrell's family. I worked with Darrell for well over 30 years and always found him to be one of the most dedicated researchers I have ever known. He was a mentor and model for many of us at Sandia. His crowning achievements were in the international leadership and world-wide impact of his work in salt. No one in the world has ever done a better and more thorough job of testing and modeling the behavior of such a complex material. I personally believe that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant would have been delayed by at least 5 years if it had not been for the credibility that Darrell's work provided. His work is respected throughout the world. More importantly, he is also personally respected because he always transparently showed others exactly what he had done and sought their advice and opinions. I will always remember Darrell as a trusted friend, a guy always ready for a barbeque sandwich, and a frequent companion at high school state basketball championships. He was so proud of his children and spoke often of your achievements and the changes ongoing in your lives. I mourn the loss of a great friend. Blessings, Joe Tillerson

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**Joe Tillerson** - January 20, 2014 at 11:41 PM

TP

“ Our condolences to Darrell's family. It was our great privilege to know, socialize and work with Darrell. Our greatest respect for his intellect and humor.

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**tom and mary pfeifle** - January 20, 2014 at 07:00 PM

JA

“ *Darrell was a volunteer at the NM Museum of Natural History and Science. He helped the Museum and his many friends and colleagues there in so many ways. We will miss him greatly and remember him always.*

*Jayne Aubele, Educator and Geologist, NMMNHS*

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**Jayne Aubele** - January 20, 2014 at 11:57 AM

BE

“ *Brian E. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Darrell Eugene Munson.*



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**Brian E.** - January 20, 2014 at 10:51 AM



“ *Pink & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Darrell Eugene Munson.*



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January 19, 2014 at 09:16 AM

ES

“ *On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we express our deepest condolences.*

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**Eddie Sheffield** - January 18, 2014 at 02:13 PM