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American Association of Professional Landmen  
800 Fournier Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
Attention: Mr. Richard Hines, CPL

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mr. Haroldson Lafayette Hunt, Jr. (February 17, 1889 to November 29, 1974), more commonly known as Mr. H. L. Hunt, to be the recipient of this year's AAPL Pioneer Award. The definition of "Pioneer" is "an innovator" or "one who ventures into unknown or unclaimed territory". H. L. Hunt is usually the first name to be mentioned when people talk about pioneers and innovators in the land profession.

Being the youngest of eight children born and raised on a 500-acre farm near Ramsey, Illinois, he quit grade school at an early age and struck out on his own to make his fortune. He worked as a farm hand, dish washer, cowboy, lumberjack, mule skinner, sheep herder and river boat gambler.

He bought a cotton plantation near Lake Valley, Arkansas with his \$6,000 inheritance in 1911. By 1920, he had accumulated 15,000 acres of farmland in Arkansas and Louisiana. Unfortunately, the cotton market collapsed after World War I. He moved to El Dorado, Arkansas in 1921.

Utilizing his river boat gambling skills, Mr. Hunt borrowed \$50 and began flipping oil and gas leases near El Dorado. During the 1920's, he drilled and completed over 100 producing oil wells in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Mr. Hunt excelled as a lease hound in Arkansas, but most people remember him as being the landman that purchased Dad Joiner's leasehold interest under 4,000 acres in Rusk County, Texas for \$30,000 cash and \$1.2M in future production payments in November 1930. This acreage proved to be extremely productive in the East Texas oil field.

Hunt Oil Company was incorporated on December 18, 1934 and became the largest independent oil producer in the United States. The East Texas oil field was instrumental in the success of the U. S. and its allies during World War II.

H. L. Hunt believed that over drilling would kill oil fields prematurely. He supported the foundation of the East Texas Salt Water Disposal Company for the purpose of injecting salt water into a reservoir so that oil pressure could be maintained.

H. L. Hunt discovered the first commercial oil well in Alabama in 1944. The Eugene Island Block 77 Field in the Gulf of Mexico was discovered by Hunt Oil Company in 1958 and is one of Hunt's most successful ventures in the Gulf of Mexico.

Hunt Oil Company played a major role in the development of the Fairway Field in East Texas in 1960.

Mr. Hunt's wealth was estimated to have been somewhere between \$2B and \$3B at the time of his death in 1974.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Beavers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J".

Jay Beavers, CPL