

National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office
P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, NV 89193 • 702-295-3521 • fax: 702-295-0154

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Tyler Patterson
702-302-1317
PatterTK@nv.doe.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 19, 2022

Remembering Troy Wade

Las Vegas – Troy Ernest Wade II, a longtime national security champion and career employee with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), passed away Jan. 16, 2022. He was 87.



Wade was born in 1934 in Cripple Creek, Colo. He attended the University of Colorado and left school prior to completing his engineering degree to mine uranium in the Western Slope of Colorado. Wade's career began with DOE at the Nevada Test Site, now known as the Nevada National Security Site, in 1958, as a mining supervisor for Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company. His other roles at the Site were a high explosives technician for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a nuclear safety officer for the Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada Operations Office (now the Nevada Field Office), and increasing leadership roles that included director of quality assurance, director of test systems and deputy manager.

In 1981, Wade accepted the role of DOE's principal deputy assistant secretary for defense programs in Washington, D.C. Two years later, he was selected to manage the Idaho National Laboratory, overseeing its diverse reactor research and operations activities. He returned to Washington, D.C., in 1987 as the assistant secretary for defense programs, providing primary leadership and managing a budget of more than \$10 billion for the nuclear weapons complex. He provided key guidance in negotiating the Joint Verification Treaty with the Soviet Union that was signed in 1988. Wade also was a founding member of the Nuclear Emergency Search Team, one of DOE's radiological response teams.

"One of the challenges of being his son was there were many things he couldn't talk about," said Scott Wade, a senior advisor for the oversight of Environmental Management activities at the Site. He said his father always expressed pride in his work as "one of many who served their country in roles that helped promote peace for many decades."

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While Wade did not have a college degree, he once told Scott that he always found this interesting as he was often surrounded by engineers and nuclear scientists with advanced degrees. Scott attributed his father's success to his natural leadership abilities.

Wade retired from DOE in 1990 but continued to provide consulting support to various national security, non-proliferation, disarmament and environmental cleanup initiatives, including advising Ambassador Linton Brooks on the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration. He was a member of the Nevada Governor's Homeland Security Committee in the early 2010s and also advised the Air Force on the Nevada Test and Training Range.



“Troy Wade was a legend in the nuclear weapons program for decades, effectively working with the best nuclear experts, thousands of workers, and political leaders,” said Kathy Carlson, former manager of the Nevada Field Office. “His compassion, common sense, devotion to our country, and intelligence were so appreciated. Troy was dedicated also to his family and was a mentor to many of us. Troy’s passion, humor and spirit are greatly missed.”

Wade also made an impact in the Las Vegas community by helping establish the National Atomic Testing Museum, which opened in 2005. He and other former Site managers secured donations and support during its development phase and oversaw its design and construction. Wade also served as the museum board of trustee’s chair for several years.

In addition to his son Scott, Wade is survived by his son Terry and daughter Sherri McKenzie; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

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The NNSS and its related facilities help ensure the security of the United States and its allies by: supporting the stewardship of the nation’s nuclear deterrent; providing nuclear and radiological emergency response capabilities and training; contributing to key nonproliferation and arms control initiatives; executing national-level experiments in support of the National Laboratories; working with national security customers and other federal agencies on important national security activities; and providing long-term environmental stewardship of the NNSS’s Cold War legacy.

The NNSS is managed and operated by Mission Support and Test Services LLC (MSTS). MSTS is a limited liability company consisting of Honeywell International Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., and HII Nuclear. The NNSS falls under the jurisdiction of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. The Site’s operations are government-controlled and contractor-operated, and are overseen by NNSA’s Nevada Field Office, headquartered in North Las Vegas.

For more information on the NNSS, visit www.nnss.gov.

NR-22-0001