

# MARVIN LAMAR KEMPTON - AN NMT LIFE

## Family / Personal

**Marvin Lamar Kempton** was born September 5, 1920, in Lone Star, AZ. Inspired by his parents to mountaineer, Lamar had his own mine and tended to two cabins during his time off of work in the Magdalena mountains.

Lamar married Leva Gene Stewart in 1940; they had four children: Stuart (now deceased), Pamela, Brent, and Wes,

*Two of Brent's children attended NMT. **Nathan Kempton** attended prior to transferring to BYU Idaho in 2006 to finish his degree in Electrical Engineering. **Jared Kempton** earned a B.S. in Basic Science in 2006 and started his career in Chemical Engineering but became a teacher, earning a Master for Science Teachers in 2013. He is one of those teachers who makes a difference in his students' lives.*



*The Kempton family (1965 photo)*

In his free time, Lamar loved tending to his garden at home in Socorro (which included raspberries and cherry tomatoes) as well as his lawn and rock collection (see *photo previous page*).

Lamar befriended a roadrunner whose visits were rewarded with cheese; he trained the roadrunner to come through the kitchen door to quickly retrieve its snack.

## Education / Career

Lamar attended the University of Arizona, earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1942 and then was awarded an Honorary Master's in Engineering by U of AZ in 1958.

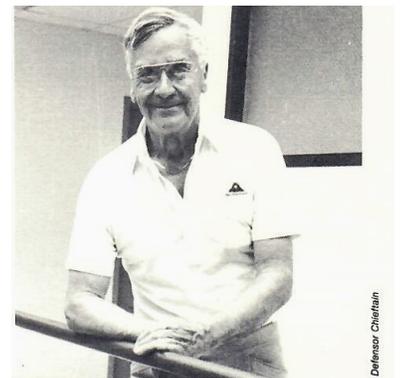


*Secretary of the Navy presents the Distinguished Public Service Award to Kempton, 1957*

In the early 1940's he worked for an aircraft manufacturing plant in Goodyear, AZ writing engineering specs, standards, and process control. In 1946 (or possibly 1949), at the invitation of then-NMT President Workman, Lamar began a robust 40-year career as Director of Terminal Effects Research and Analysis (TERA). A business card notes his job title was "Director of TERA, Director Industrial/Research Park, Senior Research Engineer." According to his TERA bio he was also internationally recognized as an authority in ordnance and weapon systems design, testing and evaluation.

He held a number of patents, for original ordnance components and was originator of many warhead design concepts, including rod-fragment controlled-motion warhead, selectively aimable warhead, and metallic-fuel-enhanced, focused-gas warhead.

In August, 1957 (*photo left*), the Secretary of the Navy granted him a Distinguished Public Service Award for his outstanding services to the Department of the Navy in the fields of scientific research and development of a new type of warhead of significantly improved lethality against aircraft, citing "the first real break-through in explosives warhead design since the conception of guided missiles."



*Lamar Kempton, 1986*

TERA is credited with bringing two major companies to the Institute's 1980's re-research park – Aerojet Ordnance Company and Honeywell, Inc.'s Defense Systems Division.

Lamar retired from TERA on June 30, 1987 and passed away on September 6, 1994.