



2010 New Horizons in Oil & Gas Conference



Harold Hamm Biography

In February 2009, *Forbes Magazine* called Harold Hamm “The Last American Wildcatter” because he is still finding oil in the U.S.

Harold Hamm was born in Oklahoma in 1945, the youngest of thirteen children to share crop farmers. After graduating from Enid High School, Harold worked for an oilfield service contractor and Champlin Petroleum Co. before taking up payments on a used tank-truck and borrowing \$1,000 on a cosigned note to start up a one-truck oilfield service business in Ringwood, Oklahoma. This provided him with his entry into the oil and gas industry.

In 1967, Harold incorporated Shelly Dean Oil Company (named after his two oldest daughters), which later became Continental Resources. Today, Continental is a successful independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company that operates in 20 states and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Presently, Harold serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Harold is also Chairman of the Boards of Hiland Holdings and Hiland Partners and is a member of the Board of Complete Production Services. He is past Chairman and presently a member of the Board of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association and served as a founding Board Member of the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board. He was President of the National Stripper Well Association and founder and Chairman of Save Domestic Oil, Inc. Recently, he co-founded the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance to preserve the domestic oil and gas markets for oil and gas produced domestically.

Harold has been honored with the regional Ernst and Young Master Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the National Ernst and Young award in the Energy, Chemicals and Mining category for his accomplishments in the oil industry over the past 40 years.

A leading advocate of education in Oklahoma, Harold has received numerous awards and recognition for his contributions. In 2009, the University of Oklahoma conferred its Doctor of Humane Letters Degree upon him. In 2008, Oklahoma State University benefited from Continental's generosity when the company donated \$1 million to create a petroleum engineering chair. In 1996, after playing a pivotal role in bringing branches of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Northern Oklahoma College to Enid, providing increased access to public higher education for students in the area, Harold received the first honorary master's degree ever given by Northwestern, a Masters of Letters of Law. According to Harold, "If it hadn't been for education, I would have never had a chance to break away from the poverty cycle my family and I were caught up in ever since the Depression years."

Among many other gifts, The Harold and Sue Ann Hamm Foundation, donated \$10 million as founding donors for the Harold Hamm Oklahoma Diabetes Center located on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. Harold is also a member of the Boards of the Oklahoma Research Foundation.

In 2007, Harold was named to the *Forbes Magazine's* list of the 400 wealthiest Americans. He is No. 39 on their latest list.