



William D. Armstrong

Founder
Armstrong Oil & Gas

In 1985, from the attic of his 100-year-old garage/barn, Bill Armstrong founded Armstrong Oil & Gas in Denver, CO. Bill had recently graduated from Southern Methodist University with a B.S. degree in Geology, a Phi Beta Kappa key, and a wife that he met in Geology 101.

After spending his first years as a one-man shop chasing oil and gas deals in Kansas, the DJ basin, the Permian, and other independent-friendly regions, Bill shifted his efforts to internally generating, assembling, and drilling large company-impact exploration opportunities. By seeking out top geologic, geophysical, land, and engineering talent and by pursuing big potential wildcats, Bill created a unique energy business model that proved successful for AOG and the companies with whom he worked and partnered. Armstrong discoveries in the early years occurred in the Williston Basin, Wyoming/Utah Overthrust Belt, Green River Basin, Michigan Basin, and San Joaquin Valley.

Bill headed up to the North Slope of Alaska in 2001 where AOG was the first independent to discover two 100+ million barrel fields, Oooguruk and Nikaitchuq. Armstrong then moved down to Alaska's Cook Inlet to find and develop a natural gas field and associated pipeline at the North Fork Field. In 2013, Bill returned to the North Slope and discovered the largest U.S. oil field to be found in the past forty years, the 3+ billion-barrel Pikka field followed by new wildcat discoveries at Horseshoe, Stirrup, and Mitquq/Quokka. East of Prudhoe Bay, AOG has two new wildcat discoveries, King Street and Sockeye, and to the west, Armstrong controls 1,600,000 acres in the NPRA for future exploration.

Bill recently founded Armstrong International to explore abroad. Armstrong is currently active in Latin and South America.





Venture Dallas

2026 Annual Conference

Bill has received numerous accolades and awards:

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
2020 Norman F. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award

Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists
2019 Michael S. Johnson Explorer of the Year

The Wall Street Journal, November 29, 2019, front page profile

"The Last Wildcatter: A Texas Wildcatter is Tempted by a Final Quest"

Western Energy Alliance
2021 Wildcatter of the Year

Hart Energy
2023 Hall of Fame

Energy Council
North American Energy Capital Assembly
2025 Explorer of the Year

Bill and his wife, Liz, are engaged in numerous business ventures, investments, and philanthropies. In 2004, they founded Epoch Estate Wines, an ultra-premium vineyard/winery operation located in Paso Robles, CA which is highly acclaimed by critics. Epoch regularly has its wines listed on annual Top 100 lists, and in 2018, Epoch's Winery/Tasting Room was chosen by Architectural Digest as #2 on their list of "The 19 Best Vineyard Designs around the World".

Bill is a member and past Chairman of the All-American Wildcatters, and he also sits on the National Petroleum Council. He currently serves on the Boards of Tourmaline Oil and Southern Methodist University; he is also Trustee Emeritus at Colorado Ballet. In 2021, Bill and Liz together received SMU's highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award. The Armstrongs live in Dallas and have three children and nine grandchildren.

